



## PRINCIPAL AIR FORCE FID ACTIVITIES

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Air Force [foreign internal defense](#) (FID) operations are primarily aimed at developing and improving host nation (HN) airpower capabilities. FID activities can take a variety of forms and should address the overall needs and capabilities of foreign airpower employment and sustainment.

A principal US instrument for conducting FID is the transfer of major items (weapon systems and related support capabilities) to selected HNs, primarily through the [security assistance program](#). The Air Force often facilitates such transfers through operational and strategic assessments, airpower studies, security assistance (SA)-funded aircraft refurbishment, airlift of SA-funded defense articles, training on specific weapon systems and support capabilities through SA-funded mobile training teams, and SA case management and oversight. Delivery of foreign military sales items can be performed in conjunction with multinational operations and contingencies and with other training programs conducted by the geographic combatant commander (GCC) and by various departments and agencies of the US Government.

Air Force training and advisory assistance may be employed to facilitate the availability, reliability, safety, and interoperability of foreign aviation forces engaged in [internal defense and development](#) (IDAD) operations and in joint or multinational contingencies and actions. Training and advisory operations may be a cost-effective means of helping HNs deal with internal problems before they assume regional or global dimensions. This assistance can also build enduring relationships with foreign officials who may provide or facilitate access to important resources and basing during crises or emerging contingencies. Bonds of trust between advisors and foreign military leaders, forged during FID activities, have often overcome critical access problems.

Air Force FID operations can establish a US presence, build rapport, achieve combined integration of forces, and build a foundation for future regional cooperation. If necessary, commanders can employ a greater range of capabilities and resources in more direct forms of FID support when HN aviation units are inadequately sized or structured to make necessary and timely contributions to their own defense effort. The "FID Activities" figure summarizes the principal Air Force FID activities to accomplish FID objectives.



### FID Activities

- ★ **Facilitate the transfer of US defense articles and services under the Security Assistance Program** to eligible foreign government aviation units engaged in IDAD operations.
- ★ **Assess foreign military aviation capabilities** and provide direction or recommendations towards improving host-nation airpower employment and sustainment methods. Aviation assessments are carried out primarily in support of GCC requirements and for other key agencies and departments of the US government. Assessments focus on foreign aviation capabilities and limitations, specifically aircrew capability and safety, aircraft airworthiness, critical resource availability, resource sustainability, and operational potential.
- ★ **Train foreign military forces** to operate, sustain, and improve indigenous airpower resources and capabilities. Training normally includes tactics, techniques, and procedures in such areas as command and control (C2); [combat search and rescue \(CSAR\)](#); communications systems support; air-space-ground interface; aerial insertion, extraction, and resupply; [intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance \(ISR\)](#); [close air support](#); [air interdiction](#); and [airdrop](#) operations. Appropriately funded training can be used to close specific gaps in foreign aviation operations and combat support skills and raise the level of competency where they can be advised on the proper employment of acquired capabilities. FID mission capabilities are tailored to the needs of the HN. Capabilities common to FID missions include training assistance in aviation and airfield topics as well as support and sustainment areas including aircraft maintenance; logistics; life support; medical; force protection; survival, evasion, resistance, and escape; personnel recovery; munitions; ground safety; and other capabilities supporting combat air operations and aviation

enterprise development.

- ★ **Advise foreign military forces and governmental agencies** on how to employ airpower in specific operational situations. Advisors inform GCCs on foreign airpower capabilities, limitations, potential roles supporting operations, and aviation enterprise development. Advising is conducted within the context of the operational environment. Advisory assistance addresses such areas as airpower doctrine (i.e., how to employ airpower as opposed to how to operate airplanes), mission planning, basing concepts, operational sustainment methods, tactical employment, communications capabilities, protection through approved cyberspace support , C2 development and employment, and the use of available space products for real-world operations and contingency actions. Along with training, Air Force advisory assistance helps foreign military forces and government agencies generate and sustain airpower supporting IDAD programs.
  
  - ★ **Assist foreign aviation forces in executing specific missions** or contingency operations. Assistance can take on many forms, but generally includes hands-on assistance in combat support capabilities such as aircraft maintenance, fuels, health services support, and aviation medicine. Assistance may also include operational capabilities like C2, intelligence exploitation, aircrew mission planning, use of available space products, protection of operational communications systems through approved cyberspace procedures and direct on-board advisory assistance in tactical operations. In the tactical realm, assistance can be applied to such functions as CSAR, airlift, personnel insertion and extraction, casualty evacuation, ISR, counterintelligence and/or law enforcement information, and air attack.
  
  - ★ **Facilitate force integration for multinational operations.** Air Force personnel bring all other key tasks (assessing, training, advising, and assisting) together in a coordinated effort to draw foreign aviation forces into joint or multinational operations.
  
  - ★ **Provide support to host countries** by using Air Force resources to provide intelligence, counterintelligence, law enforcement support, communications capability, logistics support, and airpower effects.
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