

## INTERNAL DEFENSE AND DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

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Internal defense and development (IDAD) is defined as “the full range of measures taken by a nation to promote its growth and to protect itself from subversion, lawlessness, and insurgency. It focuses on building viable institutions (political, economic, social, and military) that respond to the needs of society.”<sup>1</sup> Airpower resources should help the host nation (HN) government administer and create synergies among various defense and development initiatives.

These roles are principally [combat support](#) capabilities such as aircraft maintenance, parts supply, fuels, and communications efforts to establish government influence and control in contested areas of the country. Mobile, space-based [command and control](#) (C2), for example, allows HN forces to operate with a non-intrusive footprint in contested areas. Using airpower in these roles enhances the host government’s ability to focus on political and economic solutions to a crisis. Airpower’s flexibility can help government forces achieve rapid concentration of effort from great distances and overcome restrictive terrain.

US and foreign commanders, as well as Air Force advisors, planners, and analysts, should carefully weigh the likely consequences of applying airpower in an environment where the critical [center of gravity](#) is not always the defeat and destruction of opposing forces but generally political mobilization and credibility.

**IDAD Strategy:  
Basic Functions**

- ✦ **Develop balanced social, economic, and political institutions.**
- ✦ **Mobilize manpower and materiel.**
- ✦ **Secure the population and natural resources.**
- ✦ **Neutralize hostile elements.**

### IDAD Strategy

<sup>1</sup> Joint Publication 3-22, [Foreign Internal Defense](#).

Where a negative impact on the civilian population provides further legitimacy to the insurgent movement, assigning correct airpower priorities may mean the difference between success and failure. Where friendly lives and property are at risk from insurgent attack, for instance, air combat power should function as a component of coordinated joint security and neutralization actions aimed at creating a safe environment for developmental programs that in turn promote and sustain political mobilization and credibility.

## **DEVELOPMENT AND MOBILIZATION**

The US role in development and mobilization is especially useful, where ground lines of communication are untenable because of terrain or enemy presence. Aerial logistics and communications networks establish critical links between the government and the population by carrying information, supplies, and services to civilians. Initiatives such as health care infrastructure development contribute to regional stability and government legitimacy while improving rapport with and understanding of HN populations.

## **SECURITY AND NEUTRALIZATION**

A government defending itself and the population against insurgent attack must be able to exercise two additional critical functions—security and neutralization. Security entails specific government actions to protect vital human and institutional resources and, create a permissive environment for balanced development and mobilization. Neutralization employs civil law enforcement and military forces in to physically and psychologically separate insurgents from the population. Tools for neutralization range from information operations to combat engagement.

Airpower can contribute most effectively to security and neutralization when it functions as an integrated, joint component of the overall internal defense effort. It is least effective when employed unilaterally as a substitute for ground maneuver or long-range artillery. In many instances, airpower can be exploited to greatest advantage by emphasizing [intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance](#), C2, and logistics mobility.

Typically, insurgents are unwilling to concentrate their forces and are integrated within the civilian population, presenting difficult and contentious targets for attack. The application of ground firepower, an errant bomb, loss of civilian life, or damage to civilian property during neutralization operations can be used against the government and encourage support for the insurgents. In some cases, it may be more appropriate to use airpower primarily to deploy, sustain, and reinforce military surface forces and civil law enforcement agencies. Properly employed airpower can demonstrate to the population that a legitimate government is in control.

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