

FID OPERATIONS

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[Foreign internal defense](#) (FID) operations are divided into three major categories—[indirect support](#), [direct support \(not involving combat\)](#), and [combat operations](#). Although various capabilities, programs, and activities within these categories may occur simultaneously, the categories themselves represent significantly different levels of Air Force involvement. They also indicate the range of Air Force FID options available within a given situation.

Airpower functions as a force multiplier in countering [subversion, lawlessness, and insurgency \(including terrorism\)](#) by increasing the survivability and effectiveness of internal security activities. However, government success is not directly related to the variable of time. A government that can provide adequate services and is slowly reducing violence may succeed, while a government that achieves a quick military victory, but fails to make fundamental reforms to address the sources of an insurgency may fail over the long term. Nonetheless, early Air Force activities to develop or improve [host nation](#) (HN) capabilities also reduce the need for higher forms of direct support or intervention.

CHARACTERISTICS OF AIR FORCE FID OPERATIONS

Air Force FID operations support US response measures that, according to the principles of international and domestic law, affirm the right of states to assist one another in maintaining internal order against insurgency and other forms of internal violence. Article 51 of the United Nations (UN) Charter and international law support the host government's inherent right of self-defense. The UN charter also recognizes, through the right of collective self-defense, that targets of aggression may request assistance, to include armed assistance, from other states.

FID operations take place within the larger context of US strategies for shaping and influencing the operational environment. Normally, the Air Force will conduct FID operations when the President or Secretary of State honors a HN request for military assistance and Air Force forces have been directed to do so by appropriate legal authorities. The decision to conduct FID operations is based on US and international

laws, however, the culture and norms of the affected nation influence how the operation is conducted. The US may assist HNs and, in some cases, may directly intervene. Operations should be tied to specific objectives and may be conducted over extended periods. All stability operations, regardless of context, require an exit strategy that leaves a legitimate government in place with sufficient capacity to address insurgency and other internal threats.

Integrated Interagency Objectives

The first requirement for Air Force FID operations is to ensure that commanders clearly articulate military objectives based on HN and US objectives. Air Force FID activities should be sensitive to HN needs while integrating with plans and operations of other participating departments, executive agencies, and US government organizations. Commanders should structure the FID effort to fit the requirements of the operation. FID efforts need to function together coherently within the FID continuum.

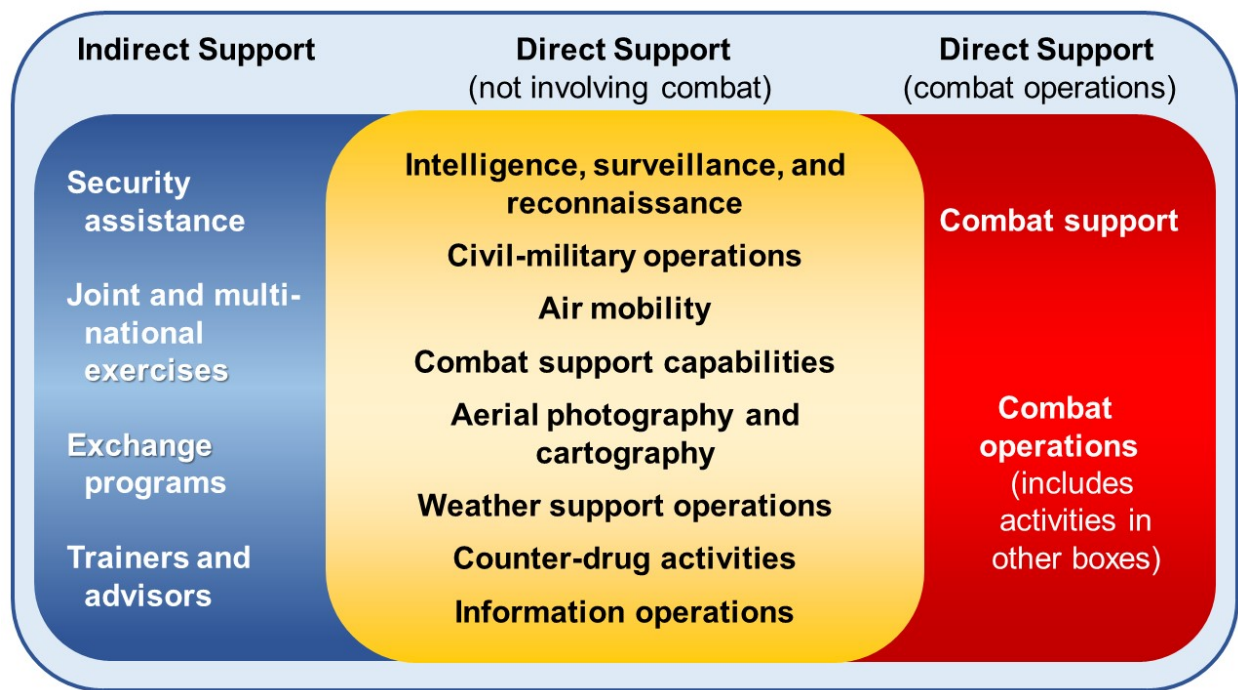
Commanders should ensure that Air Force FID-related security assistance efforts and direct support operations function as integrated elements of the overall US FID effort. **Air Force commanders and their assigned or attached forces should be prepared to function as part of a joint-interagency team with mutually supporting programs and objectives.** Relationships should be clearly defined between various command agencies. Air Force FID activities will often fall under the purview of non-Department of Defense (DOD) agencies.

Implementing FID involves a wide range of responses by various agencies, departments, and independent establishments of the US Government plus many [non-governmental organizations](#). These multi-agency operations involve all instruments of national power as well as participation with the international humanitarian and reconstruction community, to support major combat actions if necessary; establish internal security; facilitate reconciliation among local adversaries; help establish political, social, and economic infrastructures; and facilitate HN defense initiatives.

THE FID CONTINUUM

The objective of Air Force FID operations is to encourage and support host-nation solutions to subversion, insurgency, lawlessness, and terrorism, in order to reduce the possibility of direct US military involvement. Air Force support is usually applied [indirectly](#) through security assistance training, advisory engagements, and logistics support.

The Air Force can provide certain forms of [direct support that do not commit US forces to combat](#). The Air Force can engage in combat to meet US and HN objectives. **Air Force FID operations do not automatically transition from indirect to direct forms of assistance based on any precondition or sequence of events. The transition is based on policy decisions made by the appropriate, legally empowered authorities.**



The Continuum of Air Force FID

If direct support is required, the level and type of assistance should be appropriate to the situation and should preserve or increase HN strength and responsibility for self-defense. Direct support should be withdrawn as soon as possible, consistent with HN needs and capabilities. Tailored Air Force teams can assess, train, advise, assist, and integrate (into multinational or joint operations) HN aviation forces in employment and sustainment at all three levels of US support.

The Air Force FID capabilities help commanders develop appropriate options to support US objectives and tailor to HN airpower needs and capabilities. The air component may be simultaneously operating in all phases of FID. These capabilities fall under the three main FID categories—indirect support, direct support (not involving combat), and combat operations—as illustrated in the “Continuum of Air Force FID” figure, above.

Indirect Support

Indirect support emphasizes Air Force efforts to develop and sustain HN self-sufficiency and is often associated with steady-state shaping strategies. [Security assistance](#), supplemented by joint and multinational exercises and other joint initiatives, constitutes the primary Air Force contribution to indirect support FID operations.

The [Air Force Global Partnership Strategy](#) defines Air Force security cooperation efforts, and security assistance is one of the tools available for FID operations. The principal objective of security assistance in FID is to establish secure environments in which foreign governments can pursue social, economic, and political initiatives to

relieve tensions in their nations and to prevent insurgent or terrorist organizations from establishing a safe haven. Although security assistance encompasses more than FID, it is a component inherent in other FID operations such as logistics, training, and advisory support.

Air Force security assistance efforts should focus on defense equipment and services that reduce foreign security force dependency on in-country supervision and support by the United States. Recipient nations' personnel should be trained to operate and maintain the systems provided. In some cases, they should also be shown how to employ these systems for specific operations. As HN proficiency in air operations improves, developing internal training capabilities within host-aviation units can reduce dependence on in-country Air Force assistance. To overcome sustainability problems inherent in maintaining older generation aircraft and systems, Air Force security assistance operations may also include administration and logistics support of nonstandard items.

The Department of State has the overall responsibility for military and economic security assistance. The DOD administers the military assistance portion, under the direction of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security Affairs. The Air Force is responsible, as an implementing agency, for those security assistance programs assigned by the Defense Security Cooperation Agency (DSCA). Of the several security assistance programs involving the Air Force, the main programs typically include mobile training teams, foreign military financing, and international military education and training. See the [Air Force Global Partnership Strategy](#) for types of security assistance.

Direct Support Not Involving Combat

When it is impractical for the host air force to develop self-sufficiency in time to counter a threat, the Air Force may be tasked to provide direct support that does not commit US personnel to combat. Such support encompasses service-funded activities that improve host air force effectiveness without duplicating or replacing security assistance efforts to create or maintain HN capabilities. Air Force activities at this level normally focus on civil-military operations (CMO) support, intelligence collection and analysis, counterintelligence activities, logistics support, and other "stand-off" support functions.

Air Force intelligence resources, in conjunction with country team and theater programs and activities, can support host-nation [internal defense and development](#) (IDAD) planning through long-range strategic collection and analysis. At the tactical level, Air Force technical capabilities can complement and augment host-nation collection programs. Intelligence sharing involves providing intelligence products. It does not mean transferring collection methods, sources, or technology to the HN; however, counterintelligence and law enforcement activities are typical contributions to HN IDAD.

Air Force ground, airborne, and space-based communications resources can support HN security forces by providing critical [command and control](#) (C2) capabilities. The Air Force can also provide missile warning, environmental monitoring, positioning,

navigation, and timing support where HN resources are lacking. Such support may include HN use of US communication assets, but it does not involve the transfer of communications systems or technology to the HN. The Air Force maintains control of systems employed in the direct support role and ensures protection of classified communications and computer technology.

Air Force forces and capabilities can support CMO. CMO are a broad area addressing the relationship between military forces, civilian authorities, and the population and are employed to develop favorable emotions, attitudes, or behavior in neutral, friendly, or hostile groups. The three components of CMO include civil-military relations, enabling operations, and information management. Although the Air Force does not possess civil affairs (CA) units, Air Force resources can provide support to joint US civil affairs operations through air mobility and contingency response element support, communications backup, information broadcasting, and technical advice on airpower operations.

The effects of airpower to influence behavior can be employed to further FID objectives through shows of strength and overt demonstrations of support to friends and allies. Specific, stand-alone [military information support operations](#) (MISO) capabilities can be used to support the dissemination of host government informational programs. Aircraft can dispense leaflets or conduct MISO broadcasting over standard radio, television, short wave, and military communications bands.

With appropriate authorization and direction, the Air Force can undertake Humanitarian Assistance (HA) independent of joint or multinational exercises, or other military operations. Air Force capabilities for HA include personnel evacuation, air mobility, and medical support for disaster victims. Aerial platforms can also support relief activities by broadcasting evacuation instructions and other public information and by temporarily replacing or expanding coverage of existing ground transmitters.

Whereas HA focuses on emergency transportation support and other support to alleviate urgent host-nation needs caused by natural disasters and catastrophes, humanitarian and civil assistance (HCA) activities are planned in advance and carried out in conjunction with military operations and exercises. [Appendix B](#) contains more detailed information on HCA.

Military civic action (MCA) can be undertaken along with security assistance training or as part of traditional theater activities. MCA is essentially a US military-to-HN military program involving projects undertaken by primarily indigenous forces. Examples include construction, health care, and agriculture projects. Air Force support of MCA is generally limited to training and advisory assistance.

The Air Force provides critical ISR capabilities as part of direct support FID. Maps of developing nations often lack sufficient scale and definition for planning and executing exercises and tactical operations. Air Force capability in this area can also be used for testing and evaluating mutual intelligence analysis techniques and

procedures. A supply of photographs and maps for HN personnel in quantities larger than that consumed in exercises usually requires security assistance funding.

Air Force meteorological reporting, analysis, forecasting, and interpretation can be employed as part of the direct support effort to enhance HN IDAD initiatives. Interpretation of weather data for local effects (rainfall, flooding, wind, visibility, etc.) can be used in an MCA role or applied to host-military planning activities.

Air mobility is crucial to FID direct support operations. Air mobility can be used for delivery, recovery, and resupply of US defense equipment and services, returning items to the US for repair, transporting HN personnel to out-of-country training locations, and providing [aeromedical evacuation](#) from main operating bases in the HN.

Air Force resources may be used to support counterdrug activities in countries receiving FID assistance. Such activities may include intercept of aircraft, vessels, or vehicles for communications purposes, gathering and processing tactical intelligence from a variety of sources (including fixed and mobile surveillance assets), and intelligence sharing.

The Air Force may offer certain types of direct support to host-nation counterdrug personnel when authorized by DOD policy and legislative guidance. Air Force resources may also support US civilian law enforcement agencies and to the Department of State Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs in the conduct of counterdrug operations. Combatant commanders direct their components' execution of counterdrug activities within their geographic areas of responsibility.

Counterdrug activities, may involve Air Force capabilities like intelligence sharing; law enforcement and counterintelligence activities; meteorological services; aerial reconnaissance and mapping; air mobility of personnel, supplies and equipment; communications support; counterdrug training; upgrading and maintenance of equipment; and establishing and operating bases or training sites that facilitate counterdrug activities. US forces are prohibited from engaging in direct law enforcement activities without and Air Force nexus unless directed by the President of the United States or Secretary of Defense.

Combat Operations

Given appropriate authorities, Air Force personnel can conduct joint/multinational combat operations in the host country. Air Force assets can provide air mobility for both US and host-nation forces. [Intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance](#), attack, and forward air control assets provide capabilities in support of US and host ground and maritime forces. Air Force electromagnetic warfare platforms can also provide support, including communications jamming.