



AIRPOWER ANALYSIS AND OPERATIONAL DESIGN

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Planning for [foreign internal defense](#) (FID) operations, as with all contingency actions, starts with an analysis of critical capabilities and vulnerabilities of both friendly and adversary forces. This allows planners to determine appropriate courses of action for employing airpower. Much of the [combat support](#) (CS) and deployment planning for FID operations can be undertaken using standard planning techniques and procedures. The failure to incorporate CS in planning future operations may result in the inability to adequately support and sustain selected courses of action. Employment planning for asymmetric engagement and certain types of foreign training and advisory actions, however, may require a different approach or operational design.

Mission analysis may indicate the most direct approach to meeting desired end states requires leveraging [host nation](#) (HN) civil and military capabilities. That determination may, in turn, lead to the conclusion that the desired course of action should achieve the end state through enabling HN forces to defend their own territory from internal threats. The air planner's operational design is then structured around achieving strategic aims by working with a HN's aviation forces.

The air planner should address key questions that lead to an understanding (or estimate) of airpower roles and missions as well as required organizational structures, command and control capabilities, training programs, tactical resources, etc. The primary focus of planning should focus on the internal threats to HN national security and how to counter those threats within that nation's financial and technological resources, specifically, what priorities are assigned to countering these threats.
