



## EMPLOYMENT

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Air Force [foreign internal defense](#) (FID) primarily entails airpower enablement, i.e., helping foreign aviation forces employ, sustain, and defend their resources at required levels of capability. US and supported allied commanders practice the [principle](#) of [unity of command](#), create [economy of force](#), and use [maneuver](#) to achieve desired [objectives](#).

As with their US counterparts, allied and partner commanders should employ airpower forces as mutually supporting, integrated systems capable of functioning synergistically with surface operations. Air Force commanders should tailor their own FID efforts to specific conflict situations, objectives, and priorities. Direct and indirect efforts should be mutually supporting and integrated with defense and employment efforts on the ground.

Air Force units routinely conduct FID operations as an integral part of the overall military assistance effort the US extends to selected foreign governments. The delivery of US defense articles and services, in the form of major weapon systems, spare parts, maintenance support items, and training provided under security assistance are examples. Although the US aviation role can be extensive, the term "aviation FID" generally refers to Department of Defense programs for assessing, training, advising, and assisting [host nation](#) (HN) aviation forces in the sustained use of airpower to help their governments deal with internal threats.

Whether FID operations are conducted by [special operations forces](#), conventional forces, or both, is dependent on political sensitivity to the strategic environment and the needs of the particular HN. Protracted FID efforts may require forces to know how to operate by, with, and through indigenous forces to reach end goals. Operating by, with, and through the personnel and aviation resources of another air force is a crucial skill to meet the demands of the modern asymmetric battlefield.

During extended counterinsurgency operations, Air Force commanders should be prepared to play an important role in identifying and introducing to foreign aviation forces aircraft types and capabilities, as well as airpower operational functions, combat support resources, information, and technology specifically suited to the

needs and capabilities of a lesser-developed HN. Commanders may be required to help foreign aviation forces fly and maintain aircraft that are non-standard to the US Air Force inventory.

FID-provided training includes development of basic skills in flight operations; personnel recovery, including survival, evasion, resistance, and escape skills; logistics; force protection; intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance; weather; health services; and other support functions. More advanced specialized training should be used to provide foreign personnel a means of applying these basic skills to specific problems affecting internal security in their countries. Such training directly supports internal, HN solutions to the conflict, thus decreasing the likelihood of a larger US military role. Where practical, tactical and operational-level training should be conducted jointly. Joint training offers major advantages in developing common understandings among host-military services of requirements, capabilities, limitations, and procedures. Multinational participation lays the groundwork for future contacts between US and HN personnel by establishing mutual understanding of FID-[internal defense and development](#) requirements and objectives.

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