



## AIR FORCE FID

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The geopolitical environment and US force structure reductions have increased US reliance on [host nations](#)' (HNs') ability to defend themselves and function as viable coalition partners. There is increased emphasis by planners and joint force commanders on creating multinational as well as joint battlefields. That task, which involves facilitating the availability, reliability, safety, and interoperability of foreign forces, will fall to US military trainers and advisors.

The air advisor is the [joint force commander's](#) (JFC's) most immediate point of contact with foreign counterparts and coalition forces. Air Force training and advisory personnel most often represent the airpower component of this overall advisory effort.

The size and composition of US military training and advisory teams should be sufficient to address the major deficiencies that affect the host air force. Trainers and advisors should also be able to recognize potential airpower applications in a given internal conflict. Trainers and advisors should understand the various elements of [combat support](#) as well as their application and interdependence when conducting [foreign internal defense](#) (FID). They should understand the means and possible limitations of integrating airpower operations into the HN social, economic, psychological, political, and joint military initiatives.

Trainers and advisors exert a major influence on foreign counterpart forces. They help the JFC bring foreign forces into contingency planning as force multipliers and help keep coalitions connected at the tactical level by engaging foreign forces in tactical environments. This task includes advising foreign aviation units in both airpower applications and airpower sustainment methods supporting joint and multinational objectives.

The assess-train-advise-assist mission set can be performed at any level of FID: [indirect support](#), [direct support not including combat](#), and [combat operations](#). Air Force FID assistance to foreign governments conducting [counterinsurgency](#) (COIN) is referred to as "support for counterinsurgency."

Aviation FID operations primarily involve support to HN COIN, combating terrorism,

and counter-narcotics programs. Aviation FID nominally functions as a complement to other component operations involving ground, maritime, and riverine advisory assistance and training conducted with HN forces in various theaters of operation. In the case of FID, training and advisory operations can be employed to encourage and support HN solutions to the problems of internal [subversion, lawlessness, and insurgency](#), and should be conducted as shaping operations prior to the onset of crisis or war, thus supporting the strategic goals of conflict prevention and deterrence as well as regime and regional stability.

Commanders should anticipate the types and levels of training needed by HNs to succeed in military operations to counter terrorist groups or insurgents. As an example, foreign forces engaged in [counterterrorism](#) (CT) operations should train in specific tactical actions needed to accomplish the task. This training may require foreign air force units to shift their basic tactics. It is not simply a matter of what platform to use, but how to use that platform. Air support elements also have to work closely with their surface force counterparts to develop the tactics, techniques, and procedures required for combat operations against terrorist forces.

Major improvements in the air support capabilities of candidate foreign aviation forces may be required to achieve “mission-ready” COIN or CT status. Foreign forces need to be able to generate and apply detailed intelligence in the air support mission planning and execution processes. It also means transitioning from day or night, point-to-point visual flight rules navigation in relatively benign environments to night, low-level navigation into remote, hostile locations using night vision goggles.

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