



# CURTIS E. LEMAY CENTER

FOR DOCTRINE DEVELOPMENT AND EDUCATION



## AIR FORCE DOCTRINE PUBLICATION (AFDP) 3-70 STRATEGIC ATTACK

### **THE ROLE OF AIRPOWER IN STRATEGIC ATTACK**

Last Updated: 12 July 2019

Strategic attack (SA) capabilities are founded on the characteristics of the air, space, and cyberspace domains and the resources used in them. These characteristics (range, speed, precision, flexibility and lethality) enable a joint force commander (JFC) to access adversary's long range centers of gravity (COGs) where land and maritime forces cannot easily reach. Airpower used in SA comprises the JFC's maneuver elements that can operate in three dimensions and time. Through cyberspace, the commander has access to the cognitive and information dimensions that can give an asymmetric advantage and unprecedented access to an adversary's decision-making cycle. Through the employment of airpower, JFCs are not limited to two-dimensional warfare as they were historically, using surface forces in a series of tactical battles to position maneuver elements that threaten an adversary's COGs. The application of airpower, integrated with information operations (IO), could create effects more rapidly than surface forces alone, thereby accessing the psychological and cognitive aspects of warfare directly. Properly employed, SA can be the Air Force's most decisive warfighting capability for the joint force.