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NUCLEAR OPERATIONS

DISSUASION

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Dissuasion, also closely related to [deterrence](#), consists of actions taken to demonstrate to an adversary that a particular course of action is too costly, or that the benefits are too meager to justify the cost. The intent is to dissuade potential adversaries from embarking on programs or activities that could threaten our vital interests, such as developing or acquiring nuclear capabilities. Dissuasion differs from deterrence in that it is a concept aimed at preventing the adversary from developing or acquiring nuclear capabilities. Dissuasion is most often conducted using [instruments of national power](#) in concert. Air Force nuclear forces may play an important role in this, most likely by providing a credible deterrent.

Operation IRAQI FREEDOM and Libyan Weapons of Mass Destruction

An unanticipated outcome of Operation IRAQI FREEDOM in 2003 was Libya's subsequent decision to divest itself of all weapons of mass destruction (WMD), including its investment in nuclear weapons technology.

The key rationale behind Operation IRAQI FREEDOM was to rid Iraq of its WMDs. This fact, coupled with the rapid, forceful take-down of Iraq in general, was not lost on Libyan leadership in their decision to shut down its WMD program.

For additional discussion on effects, see "[Practical Design: The Coercion Continuum](#)" in AFDP 3-0, [Operations and Planning](#).
