



## PLANNING

Last Updated: 5 January 2020

Planning is required at each echelon of command and across the spectrum of [combat support core processes](#). Regardless of the type of planning being done (campaign support, contingency or crisis), the planning process is the same. The air component plans using the joint planning process for air as described in AFDP 3-0, [Operations and Planning](#), and Joint Publication 3-30, [Joint Air Operations](#). Anticipating requirements, coordinating with all the relevant participants, improving responsiveness posture, and rehearsing the execution plan are all important elements of planning. Combat support (CS) planners in the [air component commander's](#) staff should be involved in planning, from readying the force to reconstituting the force, to ensure feasibility of planned operations. Planners should gather, analyze, and disseminate information about the operational environment's support capabilities and constraints, and present it in an appropriate annex or appendix of an operation plan (OPLAN), operation order (OPORD), or campaign support plan.

In planning for CS requirements, the minimum possible footprint consistent with effective operations is desired and should be a planning consideration, especially while preparing the operational environment. Limiting the footprint frees resources for other requirements and reduces vulnerability to adversary attacks. Wherever possible, establishing processes and infrastructure with maximum [reachback](#) capability improves agility and efficiency.

### CAMPAIGN SUPPORT PLANNING

Combatant commanders (CCDRs) develop campaign plans for a broad range of activities based on requirements in the Guidance for Employment of the Force (GEF), Joint Strategic Campaign Plan (JSCP), or other planning directives. The CCDR campaign plan is the primary vehicle for organizing, integrating, and executing security cooperation activities. The air component commander's staff will conduct campaign support planning to describe the Service support to the CCDR campaign plan. CS forces deployed to conduct these types of engagements should be fully integrated into the planning process.

## CONTINGENCY PLANNING

[Contingency planning](#) prepares for potential military operations without a crisis at hand and contingency plans are best understood as branches to the overarching campaign plan. Contingency plans are based on strategic guidance provided in the *Unified Command Plan*, GEF, and the JSCP, as well as combatant commander guidance. Contingency plans are developed from the best available information, using forces and capabilities per the *Global Force Management Implementation Guidance*, quarterly *Global Force Management* apportionment tables, existing contracts, and task orders. Contingency planning addresses the most likely support scenarios for military operations in advance of possible future operations. In a crisis or time sensitive situation, contingency plans are reviewed for suitability and may be refined or adapted for OPOD development. Whether the specific preplanned OPLAN, some variation of the plan, or some entirely unanticipated operation is required, contingency planning is required in preparation for deploying and employing forces. CS forces should be integrated fully into the planning process.

## CRISIS PLANNING

Crisis planning uses the [same process](#) as all other contingency planning, but is usually accomplished in a time-constrained environment addressing emerging situations and emergencies using assigned and attached forces. Crisis planners follow procedures that parallel contingency planning, but are more flexible and responsive to changing events. Approved contingency plans with like scenarios are analyzed to determine if an existing plan applies. If an existing plan is appropriate, it can be executed through an OPOD. If a current contingency plan is not applicable, then Air Force planners use the [joint planning process for air](#) to develop appropriate orders. When developing potential courses of action (COAs), close coordination between CS and operations planners is essential to assure feasibility of those COAs. As a subset of this activity, logisticians should consider alternative logistics COAs to support and sustain operations. Because significant assets are committed in various steady-state contingencies, any new crisis planning considerations should include the impact of already committed assets in other theaters, and the potential necessity for using some of those assets to support higher priority commitments.

## OPERATIONS SECURITY

Every functional area has responsibility for operations security (OPSEC) since it is fundamental in the success of all military operations. OPSEC is a process of identifying, analyzing, and controlling critical information indicating friendly actions associated with military operations to reduce vulnerabilities of friendly actions to adversary exploitation. For more information on OPSEC, see Joint Publication 3-13.3, [Operations Security](#)<sup>1</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> Common access card required