STEPS	INPUTS	ACTIVITIES	RESULTS/OUTPUTS
1: Planning Initiation	 HHQ Direction to start planning Commander's recognition of planning requirement 	 Alert Staff Document relevant design elements Gather tools Make staff estimates Conduct initial assessment Issue Commander's guidance 	 Planning timeline Planning team Planning Guidance Identification of necessary design elements Issue of preparatory order
2: Mission Analysis	 Strategic Guidance HHQ Planning directive Commander's Initial planning guidance Description of the OE Definition of the Problem Operational or Air Component Guidance Commander's Intent 	 Review HHQ Planning Activities, Strategic Guidance and identify Chain of Command Review Commander's initial planning guidance Identify design elements Determine Facts Analyze Most Likely and Most Dangerous threat to mission success (Enemy COAs for JPP & JPPA) Develop initial assumptions Determine Constraints and Restraints Determine necessary elements of design to develop an operational approach or air component approach Analyze Friendly/Adversary COGs and Critical Factors (JPP/JPPA) Determine Rout Cause of Problem that requires further planning Identify Specified, Implied and Essential tasks Determine Decision points Develop a Proposed Mission Statement Conduct Initial Resource Review Develop Risk Assessment Determine Initial CCIRs Determine the problem, problem's route cause, and subordinate problem sets Develop Commander's Intent Statement Prepare/Update Staff Estimates Present a Commander's Mission Analysis Brief 	 Publish an air component approach (JPP/JPPA) Publish Commander's Refined Planning Guidance Identified Specified, Implied and Essential Tasks Component(s) of the problem that need to be addressed Staff estimates Mission Statement Updated Commander's intent statement List of initial CCIRs
3: COA Development	 HHQ Guidance Operational Approaches Air Component Approaches Mission Analysis Results 	 Brainstorm COAs Chart/Visualize COAs Prepare COA concept of operations statement, sketch, and task organization Brief Commander on COAs under consideration – COA Selection Brief Continue Staff Estimate process to enhance COAs Continue vertical and horizontal parallel planning 	 CONOPS COMREL Required capabilities Deployment and Sustainment Concept COA statement (narrative description) Valid COAs
4: COA Analysis and Wargaming	 Valid COAs Mission Analysis results Operations approaches Air component approaches COA evaluation criteria Selected wargaming method Planning guidance 	 Prepare for COA Analysis and Wargaming Conduct Analysis/Wargaming and record results Refine/Modify each COA Report results 	 Analysis and Wargaming results inform COA Comparison Advantages/disadvantages for each COA
5: COA Comparison	 Commander's evaluation criteria and definitions Weight considerations (if used) COA Analysis and Wargaming results Selected COA comparison method Associated guidance to the staff 	Compare COAs using selected COA comparison method	 Individual COA advantages and disadvantages COA discussion notes COA recommendation
6: COA Approval	 Individual COA Advantages and disadvantages COA Discussion Notes COA recommendation 	 Prepare COA Decision Briefing Present COA Decision Briefing Commander selects and/or Modifies COA Refine Selected COA (as required) Prepare briefing, message, or Commander's Estimate for HHQ Approval 	Selected COA
7: Plans and Orders Development	 COA Approval Decision Valid COA COA Analysis and wargaming results Mission analysis results Air component design Air component approach Operational approach HHQ guidance 	 Develop base paragraphs Publish base order/plan Develop appropriate annexes Publish annexes and supplemental guidance as FRAGORDS 	An order or plan to disseminate to subordinate forces