

FORCE PROTECTION PLANNING

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The essential goal of force protection (FP) is to counter [threats](#) against Air Force operations and assets. It is intended to conserve the force's fighting potential so it can be applied at the decisive time and place and incorporates the integrated and synchronized offensive and defensive measures to enable the effective employment of the force while degrading opportunities for the adversary.²⁶ Air Force personnel should identify threats, then determine ways to counter them to protect personnel and resources in order to enable mission accomplishment. The FP tools below are available for commanders to consider when preparing to counter threats. This begins with the [risk management](#) process and proceeds to FP countermeasure planning considerations.

Because threats to operations can come from a wide range of sources, the [Airman's perspective](#) requires Airmen to plan for FP in broad terms. For example, the threats to an active airfield may extend far beyond the surface area designated as a [base boundary](#). To address these threats, the Air Force uses the planning construct of the [base security zone](#) (BSZ) to ensure those ground threats that could impact operations are considered and planned for.

Base Security Zone

The multi-dimensional space around the base from which the enemy might impact air operations by launching an attack against approaching or departing aircraft or personnel and resources located on the base is critical to air base defense planning. To secure [airpower](#) assets and protect personnel and resources in this area, the Air Force uses a unique planning construct, referred to as the BSZ.²⁷ Focused [intelligence preparation of the battlespace](#) (IPB) efforts and integrated defense operations should operate in unison to support BSZ establishment. Security planners should first establish this planning construct through IPB and [commander's estimate](#), and then seek to align it with the negotiated base boundary—the area allocated to the base commander for protection. Should the derived area extend beyond the base boundary into the BSZ, and alignment with the base boundary is not possible, then Air Force security planners

²⁶ Information derived from Joint Publication (JP) 3-0, [Joint Operations](#).

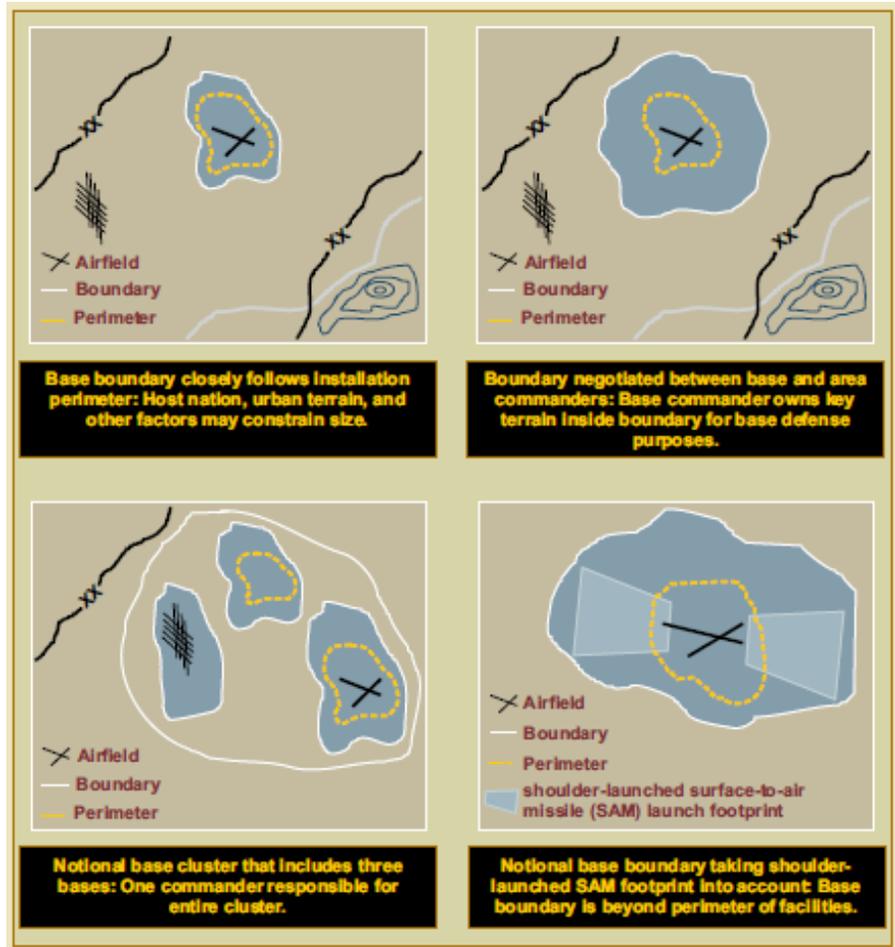
²⁷ See AFPD 31-1, *Integrated Defense*, and AFI 31-101, *Integrated Defense*, for information that establishes the BSZ as an Air Force construct.

should coordinate with battlespace owners to ensure the protection of airpower resources.

Base Boundary

JP 3-10, [Joint Security Operations in Theater](#), identifies the base boundary as a line that delineates the surface area of a base for the purpose of facilitating coordination and deconfliction of operations between adjacent units, formations, or areas. The base boundary, which is not necessarily the base perimeter, is negotiated on a case-by-case basis between the base commander and the area commander or host-nation authority.

The base boundary should be established based upon the factors of mission, enemy, terrain and weather, troops and support available, time available, and civil considerations, specifically balancing the need of the base defense forces to control key terrain with their ability to accomplish the mission. Whenever an Air Force commander is designated the base commander of a joint use base, he or she should use the base boundary construct in establishing base defense plans as it most readily translates to effective plans for the other Services present on the base. If the base boundary does not include all of the terrain of concern to the senior Air Force commander (if not the base commander), as identified by the BSZ, he or she should advise the base commander of the responsibility to either mitigate (through coordination with the area commander or the [host nation](#)) or accept the risks of enemy attack from the area outside the base boundary. The figure, *Base Boundary Considerations*, illustrates these considerations.



Base Boundary Considerations

(Information from JP 3-10, *Joint Security Operations in Theater*)