



CURTIS E. LEMAY CENTER

FOR DOCTRINE DEVELOPMENT AND EDUCATION



ANNEX 2-0 GLOBAL INTEGRATED INTELLIGENCE, SURVEILLANCE & RECONNAISSANCE OPERATIONS

ISR SPECIAL RELATIONSHIPS

Last Reviewed: 29 Jan 2015

Global integrated [intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance](#) (ISR) operations ultimately contribute to commanders' decision making, and its execution is a responsibility of command across the range of military operations. The functions of [planning and direction; collection; processing and exploitation; analysis and production; and dissemination](#) (PCPAD) specifically enable the commander and those charged with executing operational plans (OPLANs) across domains and Service entities. However, some Air Force mission sets require that ISR operations emphasize the [tenets of airpower](#) according to particular mission sets. Special operations and nuclear operations are examples of mission sets where the global integrated ISR relationship is characterized by nuances in battle rhythms and time constraints.

SPECIAL OPERATIONS

Air Force Special Operations Forces (AFSOF) planning and execution are intelligence-intensive. Timely, detailed and global integrated ISR support is vital. In essence, intelligence requirements for AFSOF are similar to those of other air components, though the degree of detail is dramatically increased. Additionally, the nature of the objective may require tailored support. For instance, [special operations forces](#) (SOF) may require detailed global integrated ISR support in order to attack an objective (i.e., number of escape routes or time of day traffic analysis at objective). SOF global integrated ISR support tends to rely on organic assets, be less centralized and focused at the tactical level.

United States Special Operations Command (USSOCOM) has designated Air Force Special Operations Command (AFSOC) as the lead SOF component for remotely piloted aircraft (RPA) operations. AFSOC is also responsible for ISR processing, exploitation and dissemination (PED) operations supporting SOF and for oversight and tasking of conventional PED nodes when SOF PED requirements exceed organic capacity to satisfy.

Release of post-mission reports may be constrained by the sensitivity of many types of SOF missions. Depending on the sensitivity of the mission, commanders should report data either through special access or routine intelligence reporting channels, as appropriate.

NUCLEAR OPERATIONS

[Nuclear operations](#) require focused and detailed global integrated ISR during all stages of planning, execution, and assessment. ISR assets provide planners the data required to assess the threat environment, identify critical targets, determine appropriate weapons selection and provide essential post-strike assessments of both friendly and enemy situations. A key aspect of nuclear operations is the ability to survive in pre-, trans-, and post-strike environments associated with the unique nature of nuclear weapons. All-source ISR assets play a critical role in national decision-making by providing commanders the information to make timely decisions and enable civilian leaders to send timely and targeted deterrent signals to our adversaries and assurance to our allies.
