



ANNEX 3-0 OPERATIONS AND PLANNING

INTRODUCTION TO OPERATIONS AND PLANNING

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Air Force Doctrine (AFD) Annex 3-0 is the Air Force's foundational doctrine publication on [strategy](#) and [operational design](#), planning, employment, and [assessment of airpower](#).¹ It presents the Air Force's most extensive explanation of the [effects-based approach to operations](#) (EBAO) and contains the Air Force's doctrinal discussion of operational design and [cross-domain integration](#)—emerging, but validated concepts that are integral to and fully complement EBAO. It establishes the framework for Air Force [components](#) to function and fight as part of a larger [joint](#) and [multinational](#) team. Specific guidance on particular types of Air Force operations can be found in other operational-level doctrine as well as [Air Force tactics, techniques, and procedures](#) (AFTTP) documents. This publication conveys basic understanding of key design and planning processes and how they are interrelated. It also educates [Airmen](#) in ways of thinking through these processes.

A note on terminology used in this annex: The Air Force plans and trains to employ through the [commander, Air Force forces](#) (COMAFFOR), the Air Force's Service component commander and its principal warfighting commander, who presents warfighting capabilities to the [joint force commander](#) (JFC). The COMAFFOR is normally also appointed as the [joint force air component commander](#) (JFACC).² To simplify nomenclature in this document, the term JFACC is used most frequently, since the text deals more extensively with the COMAFFOR's operational responsibilities in relation to the joint force once appointed as JFACC rather than to the COMAFFOR's responsibilities as Air Force Service component commander.³

¹ Airpower is defined as "the ability to project military power or influence through the control and exploitation of air, space, and cyberspace to achieve strategic, operational, or tactical objectives" (Air Force Doctrine (AFD) [Volume 1, Basic Doctrine](#)).

² When involved in operations with allied nations, the JFACC may also become a [combined force air component commander](#).

³ For more details concerning specific duties of the COMAFFOR and JFACC, as well specifics on the role of the [air operations center \(AOC\)](#), division of responsibility when the COMAFFOR is not the JFACC or there is no JFACC, and other issues related to presentation of Air Force forces, see AFD [Volume 1](#).