

	CURTIS E. LEMAY CENTER FOR DOCTRINE DEVELOPMENT AND EDUCATION	
	<u>ANNEX 3-03 COUNTERLAND OPERATIONS</u>	

COUNTERLAND OPERATIONS

Last Updated: 16 April 2014

[Airpower](#) has attributes that allow it to be employed in diverse and multiple operational tasks across the [joint operations area](#) (JOA). However, there is rarely enough airpower available to satisfy all demands. Effective [counterland operations](#) call for [centralized control](#) and [decentralized execution](#). The [commander, Air Force forces](#) optimizes the use of normally scarce airpower assets through centralized control. Centralized control also minimizes undue dissipation and fragmentation of effort and ensures coherence and focus on essential [joint force commander objectives](#). Because no single commander can personally direct all the detailed actions of a typical complement of assigned and available air and space forces, decentralized execution of air missions is necessary and is accomplished by delegating appropriate authority for detailed mission planning and execution. Decentralized execution ensures effective employment of limited assets, allows tactical adaptation, and accommodates the Services' different employment concepts and procedures.
