



## CURTIS E. LEMAY CENTER FOR DOCTRINE DEVELOPMENT AND EDUCATION



### ANNEX 3-22 FOREIGN INTERNAL DEFENSE

## INTRODUCTION TO FOREIGN INTERNAL DEFENSE

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Foreign internal defense (FID) is defined as **participation by civilian and military agencies of a government in any of the action programs taken by another government or other designated organization to free and protect its society from subversion, lawlessness, insurgency, terrorism, and other threats to its security.** The term FID was devised by the US Army in 1976 as a euphemism for “support for counterinsurgency.” In reality, FID is a very large domain encompassing the total political, economic, informational, and military support the US provides to enable other governments to field viable internal defense and development (IDAD) programs for counterinsurgency, combating terrorism, counter-narcotics, and other threats to its security. FID is a component of irregular warfare (IW), defined as a violent struggle among state and non-state actors for legitimacy and influence over relevant populations. For more information on IW, see Annex 3-2, Irregular Warfare.

The National Security Council provides planning guidance for FID at the strategic level. The Department of State (DOS) is normally designated the lead agency for execution, while the Department of Defense (DOD) provides personnel and equipment to help achieve military FID objectives. The strategic end state is a host nation capable of successfully integrating military force with other instruments of national power to eradicate terrorism, lawlessness, subversion, insurgency and other threats to its security. The goal of FID activities during Stability Operations is to preclude future major US combat involvement.

Incorporating all elements of national power, FID can be applied across the range of military operations. Moving across the thresholds that separate one level of engagement from the next carries serious legal and policy implications for the United States. Generally, the preferred methods of helping another country are through education and developmental assistance programs. **Most Air Force FID actions entail working by, with, and through foreign aviation forces to achieve US strategic and operational objectives.**

With Presidential direction, however, FID can entail the use of US combat units and advisors in roles aimed at stabilizing the security and survival of a host nation and vital institutions under siege by insurgents. FID includes military training and equipping, technical assistance, advisory support, and aviation enterprise development as well as tactical operations. When feasible, military assistance should be closely coordinated

with diplomatic, economic, and informational initiatives.

Air Force FID actions should be designed to support and reinforce [the host nation's formal or informal internal defense and development \(IDAD\) strategy](#), its overarching strategy that focuses all instruments of national power on countering the internal problems of subversion, lawlessness, and insurgency, and other threats to its security. The Air Force provides FID assistance to the host nation's (HN) air forces, but it may provide assistance to other military Services and civil agencies, depending on how air support responsibilities are assigned within the host country and on the types of airpower assets employed.

Air Force FID incorporates a broad range of airpower. In most instances, FID operations are conducted jointly with other US Service components and government agencies and combined with the activities of foreign military forces in the host country. With proper authorization, the Air Force may conduct operations in support of nation-assistance programs or specific FID activities of other US Government agencies.

The Air Force uses [combat support](#) (CS) capabilities to create, prepare, deploy, employ, sustain, protect, and redeploy Air Forces to conduct FID operations as required by the joint force commander (JFC) to train, advise, and assist host nation forces. Failure to incorporate combat support early in any operation may result in the inability of the Air Force capabilities to bring the desired effects to bear in a given conflict. For more information, see Annex 4-0, [Combat Support](#).

Air Force FID operations fall under the broad category of nation assistance. Nation assistance is comprised of four separate but complementary programs: [humanitarian and civic assistance](#) (HCA), [security assistance](#) (SA), FID and [security force assistance](#) (SFA). Security assistance, though having much broader application than FID, can be integrated with FID strategies and operations. Security assistance may be designed to help select countries meet their internal defense needs to promote sustainable development and growth of responsive institutions. There is a clear distinction between personnel performing mission activities under the command and control of a combatant commander and personnel performing those activities under the laws, regulations, and funding applicable to Title 22, United States Code (U.S.C.), Security Assistance-funded Programs.

FID operations may be conducted in the HN, in other friendly foreign countries, or in the United States. Air Force regional area specialists proficient in foreign languages and cultures help geographic combatant commanders sustain coalitions, achieve regional stability, and contribute to multinational operations and FID efforts. Language capabilities and international skills are a force multiplier and essential to the Air Force's ability to operate globally.

Air Force FID has a strong potential to reinforce the host nation government's security, removing the threat, but it also has the potential to undermine the democratization sought in US policy. Further, airpower concentrates the use of force into a small number of government officials, who can use it to attack the civilian government or civil

society and reform organizations that promote democratization. AF FID efforts must always support the larger process of political reform necessary to address the underlying causes of insurgency.

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