



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



### ANNEX 3-22 FOREIGN INTERNAL DEFENSE

## THE ROLE OF AIRPOWER IN FID

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Air Force [foreign internal defense](#) (FID) operations are founded on the basic tenets of [airpower](#). These tenets, which apply equally to US and [host nation](#) (HN) forces, include [centralized control and decentralized](#) execution, flexibility and versatility, synergistic effects, persistence, concentration, balance, and priority. Specific methods, applications, and expectations, however, may vary according to the nature, political imperatives, and location of the conflict. In counterinsurgency and combating terrorism, for instance, the number of air attacks against defended positions often indicates deterioration in security and stability.

**Airpower plays a critical role in supporting counterinsurgency and counterterrorism operations and entails supporting civil law-enforcement agencies and government administrative mechanisms, as well as military surface forces.** For additional discussions on support to counterinsurgency and counterterrorism see Annex 3-2, [Irregular Warfare](#). The most commonly employed airpower functions in FID include [air mobility](#), [intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance](#) (ISR), and [command and control](#) (C2).

In counterinsurgency, civilian security and stability are of utmost importance. Air strikes are significantly restricted in order to limit collateral damage—a factor that can alienate a population and increase sympathies for the insurgents, as well as weaken domestic and international political support. The lesser requirement for kinetic effects does not obviate the importance of armed aircraft. Close air support, for example, may prove critical in emergency situations with friendly troops in close contact with hostile forces. Air attacks may be required prior to launching operations against armed terrorist and insurgent targets. Armed aircraft can also accomplish route reconnaissance, defend convoys, and conduct searches for missing friendly forces. A major challenge for commanders is achieving a proper balance between lethal and non-lethal effects and assigning realistic priorities to the use of military force.

The host nation's [internal defense and development \(IDAD\) strategy](#) (its overarching defense strategy) provides the basis for determining appropriate airpower objectives. Accordingly, Air Force FID assistance should be designed to support and reinforce the host-nation's IDAD strategy. A typical IDAD strategy, illustrated in the [IDAD](#)

[Strategy figure](#), incorporates four basic functions designed to help prevent or counter internal threats. Airpower operations are most successful when their resources and methods support the total range of IDAD strategies.

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