

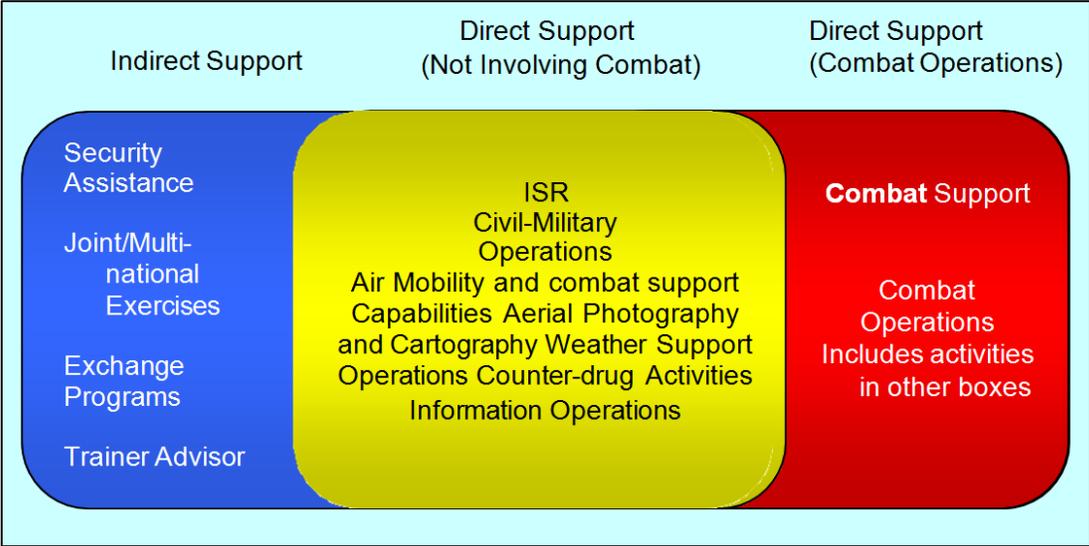


THE FID CONTINUUM

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The principal thrust of Air Force [foreign internal defense](#) (FID) operations is to encourage and support host-nation solutions to their problems of [subversion](#), [lawlessness](#), and [insurgency](#) to reduce the possibility of direct US military involvement. Accordingly, Air Force support is usually applied [indirectly](#) through security assistance training, advisory help, and logistics support.

Additionally, the Air Force can provide certain forms of [direct support that do not commit US forces to combat](#). If the United States decides to use force, the Air Force has the capability to engage in combat to meet US and [host nation](#) (HN) objectives. **Air Force FID operations do not automatically transition from indirect to direct forms of assistance based on any precondition or sequence of events. The transition, if required, is based on policy decisions made by the appropriate, legally empowered, authorities.**



The Continuum of Air Force FID

If direct support is required, the level and type of assistance should be appropriate to the situation and should preserve or increase HN strength and responsibility for self-

defense. Direct support should be withdrawn as soon as possible, consistent with HN needs and capabilities. Tailored Air Force teams can assess, train, advise, assist, and integrate (into multinational or joint operations) HN aviation forces in employment and sustainment at all three levels of US support.

The Air Force FID capabilities help commanders develop appropriate options to support US objectives and are specifically tailored to HN airpower needs and capabilities. The air component may be simultaneously operating in all phases of FID. These capabilities fall under the three main FID categories—[indirect support](#), [direct support \(not involving combat\)](#), and [combat operations](#)—as illustrated in the Continuum of Air Force FID figure above.
