



PLANNING FOR FID OPERATIONS

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Where appropriate, [foreign internal defense](#) (FID) [planning](#) should be incorporated into theater security cooperation plans, strategies, theater campaign plans, and FID contingency actions. Moreover, FID planning should account for the Air Force Global Partnership Strategy. The FID plan defines objectives to be accomplished in pursuit of national strategy and provides subordinate commanders with general force employment guidance. A combatant commander bases this guidance on an assessment of employment opportunities and an analysis of the relative strengths and weaknesses of friendly and hostile forces.

FID plans provide joint forces a concept of operations and establish resource requirements, priorities, channels of communication, and basing modes. Plans for indirect and direct support are extensions of theater strategy, and contribute to theater goals and objectives, but vary in purpose and execution. FID operations can be planned and carried out independent of US military actions, performed in conjunction with major joint and multinational actions, or carried out following major campaigns aimed at securing specific military objectives.

Planning Indirect Support

The principal function of US military operations is to secure US strategic interests through indirect FID assistance, therefore planning should be directed at specific [combat support](#) capabilities like aircraft maintenance, fuels, and training; as well as advisory help to create and sustain [host nation](#) (HN) military capabilities. HN military commanders carry out force deployment, employment, and the orchestration of tactical events to accomplish objectives established in the HN [internal defense and development](#) (IDAD) plan.

Accordingly, joint planning for indirect FID assistance should guide US military commanders and other agencies charged with security assistance and joint-multinational exercise responsibilities. These plans for indirect FID assistance serve US strategic interests by supporting HN IDAD programs where such assistance is politically feasible, strategically sound, and logistically supportable.

Planning Direct Support

Direct-support planning for FID, whether it involves combat or not, primarily involves the employment and logistical support of US forces. Direct-support planning guides US military activities and, at the same time, complements and supports HN IDAD programs. Direct-support planning does not normally include training and equipment transfers to the HN, though it may include combat advisors to help HN forces execute tactical operations and keep them connected to multinational joint forces at the tactical level. Airpower priorities and tasks established in the plan involve the allocation and apportionment of Air Force aircraft, aircrews, and support resources. Planning may include mobility and employment considerations for allied foreign forces when multinational operations are involved.

Planning Requirements

Air Force FID [planning](#) requires a clear statement of airpower objectives in the host nation, specifically, what major role (or roles) airpower should play and what that role should accomplish in furthering the host nation's [IDAD strategy](#). These objectives, derived from priorities contained in the IDAD plan, should function as the basis for planning various forms of airpower support to the host government. Air Force planners need to be involved in the FID planning process in order to account for Air Force capabilities to create desired effects.

Operational-level airpower planning for FID generally requires extensive cooperation and coordination among a variety of agencies within the joint, multinational, and interagency arenas. In most cases, combatant commanders and their staffs function as focal points for coordinating indirect as well as direct forms of assistance. In many cases, the planning process requires the direct participation of the supported government and its military forces. Requirements for effective FID planning include, but are not necessarily limited to, the following list.

- ✦ Plans establishing guidance and objectives for all types of direct and indirect support should be compatible with host-government IDAD initiatives.
- ✦ Planning should determine airpower tools appropriate to the operational environment and local conditions, for example, transferring available air platforms to the HN that fit within the technological and financial resources of that nation.
- ✦ Air Force FID planning should be flexible. Periodic revisions may be necessary to accommodate alterations in HN planning, unanticipated restrictions on US assistance, and significant shifts in conflict intensity and levels of US support.
- ✦ Air Force FID planning should be conducted jointly, or, where appropriate, coordinated with joint US military components and with US civilian agencies exercising control, supervision, and oversight of FID activities in the recipient nation.

- ✦ All forms of [indirect](#) and [direct](#) FID support are coordinated with, and approved by, the supported nation. In most cases, the planning process requires direct participation by the supported government and its military forces. Joint-multinational planning gives participants a means to negotiate and agree on such issues as mission objectives, force levels, composition of forces, support arrangements, command and control relationships, and rules of engagement.

 - ✦ Air Force FID planning should be carried out according to US procurement and security assistance law. Allowable FID activities vary within the US government, the Department of Defense, and the Air Force. To ensure compliance with legislative constraints and funding procedures, FID planners should involve knowledgeable judge advocates early and often in the planning process.
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