



ANNEX 3-40 COUNTER WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION (WMD) OPERATIONS

COUNTER-WMD PLANNING

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Air Force planners should integrate counter [weapons of mass destruction](#) (CWMD)-specific knowledge, experience, and capabilities into all planning efforts. Plans should include [steady-state](#) and [contingencies](#). Air Force planners also need to understand the implications and requirements of CWMD-related tasks assigned to the Service component by the [combatant command](#) (CCMD). Operations and missions with CWMD objectives (e.g., destroying a WMD target) require specific CWMD plans and are integrated into broader joint force planning efforts. Consequently, CWMD planning considerations should be integrated into strategies and plans throughout the adaptive planning and execution system and the [joint operational planning process](#).

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE AND JOINT CWMD PLANNING

The Department of Defense (DOD) Strategy for CWMD provides the overarching construct for CWMD planning, with additional strategic planning guidance coming from the [Unified Command Plan, Global Employment of the Force](#), the [Joint Strategic Capabilities Plan](#), as well as other strategic guidance documents. This guidance is operationalized in the [Global Campaign Plan for Combating WMD](#) (GCP-CWMD). The DOD GCP-CWMD provides a framework for the CCMDs, Services, and combat support agencies to develop and execute operations through theater campaign and contingency plans. Geographic CCMDs either develop regional CWMD campaign plans or integrate CWMD planning directly into their [theater campaign plans](#) (TCPs).

The GCP-CWMD is a comprehensive [campaign plan](#) focused on steady-state activities to prevent WMD crises and to achieve CWMD objectives. However, campaign plans should also include branches for contingency operations to respond to WMD crises, such as WMD aggression. Contingency plans under TCPs or regional plans may integrate CWMD activities and tasks or they can focus on a specific CWMD mission.

INTEGRATION OF CWMD INTO JOINT AND AIR FORCE PLANS

The Air Force integrates CWMD activities as part of its own planning efforts. The Air Force uses the [joint operational planning process for air](#) (JOPPA) to address how to effectively employ [airpower](#) and create the [joint air operation plan](#) (that drives [air operations directives](#), the [area air defense plan](#), and others) and [operation orders](#). At each of the seven stages in developing the JOPPA, Air Force planners should consider, and where appropriate, address WMD issues. Normally, the initiation of a plan involving WMD occurs at the strategic level in response to a potential or actual crisis and initiates strategy development and operational design. It is important for the Air Force to become involved as early as possible to fully understand the [commander, Air Force](#)

[force's](#) (COMAFFOR's) [design](#) concept and ensure the COMAFFOR and component commanders appreciate the capabilities and limitations of airpower in CBRN-contaminated operating environments or in strikes against WMD targets.

During the mission analysis phase, an "[air-minded](#)" review is imperative, particularly as it applies to CWMD related military end states. Again, Air Force planners should realistically consider limitations relative to CWMD targeting and operations involving CBRN hazards. Understanding as much as possible about the operational environment with regard to location, types of WMD and delivery systems, adversary concepts of employment, weather patterns, and other factors is critical. Legal guidance might also be required to advise on issues such as [rules of engagement](#) regarding collateral effects resulting from WMD defeat operations. In addition, Air Force [intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance](#) assets may be called upon to support the [joint intelligence preparation of the operational environment](#) effort to support the mission analysis.

For any plan with a WMD element, CWMD specialists should be included as part of course of action development, analysis, comparison, and approval processes. Due to the complexity of WMD-related operations, assessing feasibility and operational risk is particularly difficult. Determining mitigation strategies for WMD release following an airstrike, for example, requires detailed knowledge of agents, weapons, adversary capabilities, environmental conditions, and other factors that should be part of the decision calculus.

Finally, in both steady-state and contingency planning, planners should clearly articulate the WMD objective and/or the impact of CBRN-related threats on mission accomplishment along with airpower vulnerabilities. The plan or order should address both operational and tactical effects. Effective planning also takes into account the need to work closely with allies and partners to accomplish mission objectives.

(For more information on Air Force planning, see [Annex 3-0, Operations and Planning](#).)

ILLUSTRATION: CWMD ACTIVITIES DURING PHASES OF AN OPERATION

The CWMD military activities (reference **Table 1**) can be accomplished during any phase of an operation. However, the level-of-effort associated with the execution of CWMD activities varies depending on the required operations and missions in each phase, as notionally illustrated in **Figure 2**. For example, operations involving the disposal of adversary WMD and related program components will most likely occur in Phases IV and V (stabilize and enable civil authorities)¹ when the joint force is operating in uncertain or permissive environments, whereas missions involving WMD defeat or safeguarding the force from fielded WMD threats will be emphasized in Phases II and III (seize the initiative and dominate).

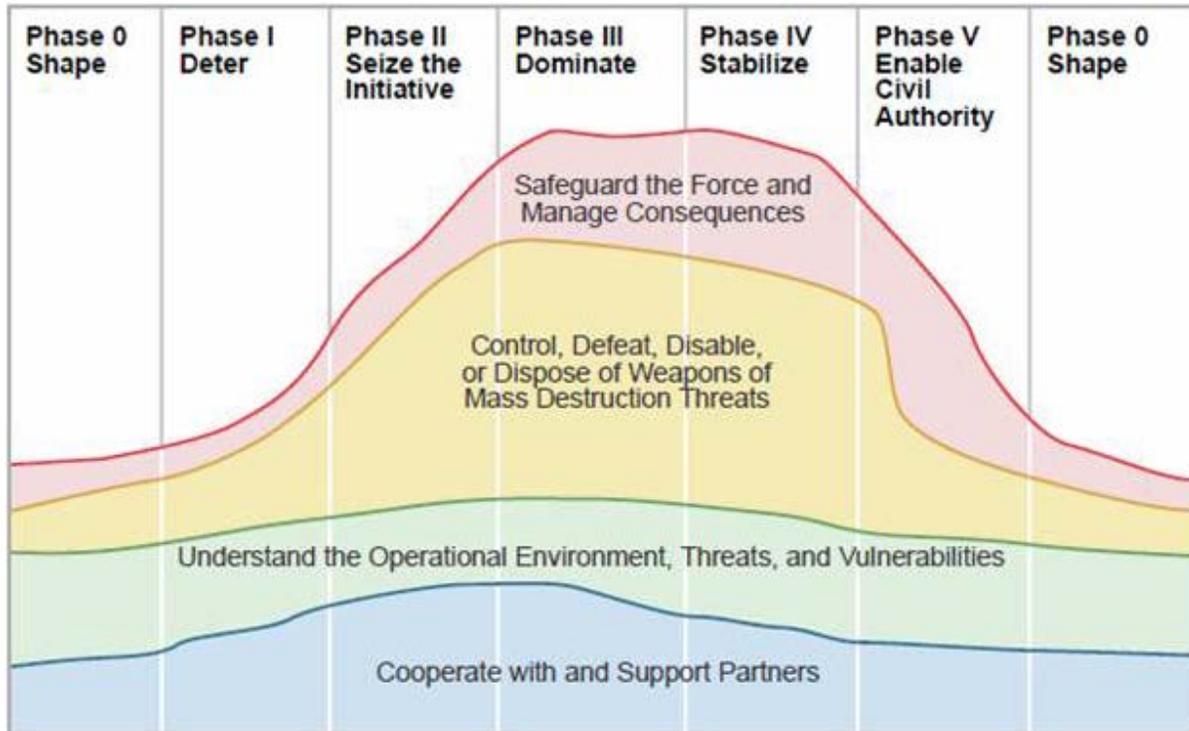


Figure 2: CWMD Activity Level-of-Effort across the Operational Planning Phases (Excerpted from JP 3-40)

¹ Using the notional phases contained in the joint phasing construct described in [Joint Publication 5-0, Joint Operation Planning](#).