



CURTIS E. LEMAY CENTER

FOR DOCTRINE DEVELOPMENT AND EDUCATION



ANNEX 3-60 TARGETING

DYNAMIC TARGETING RISKS

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Understanding the level of acceptable risk is critical to successful targeting during execution. With compression of the decision cycle comes increased risk due to insufficient time for the more detailed coordination and deconfliction that takes place during deliberate targeting. Commanders should assess risk early, determine what constitutes acceptable risk, and communicate their intent. JFC guidance may stipulate acceptable risk when engaging TSTs, if not, then the COMAFFOR should seek to obtain it. When new targets are acquired, Airmen in the AOC and in the field should rely on commanders' guidance, ROE, and their own experience to assess acceptable risk.

Particular targets may be determined to be such a threat to the force or to mission accomplishment that the COMAFFOR may accept a higher level of risk in order to attack the target immediately upon detection. Items to be considered in the risk assessment include:

- ✦ Risk of potential fratricide, risk to non-combatants, and collateral damage potential.
- ✦ LOAC and ROE compliance.
- ✦ Increased risk to attacking forces due to accelerated planning and coordination.
- ✦ Redundant attacks and wasting limited resources.
- ✦ Accepted use of non-optimum capabilities and potentially limited effects.
- ✦ Opportunity costs of diverting assets from their planned missions.

These considerations should be balanced against the risk of not attacking the target in time and thus risking mission failure, harm to friendly forces, or losing the opportunity to strike the target. More commonly, the risk associated with dynamic targeting involves the trade-off of diverting ISR and strike assets from already-scheduled missions to emerging targets. This should only be done when commanders' priority given to the new target exceeds that of the old. However, proper planning for on-call assets can mitigate much of this opportunity cost.