



CURTIS E. LEMAY CENTER

FOR DOCTRINE DEVELOPMENT AND EDUCATION



ANNEX 3-0 OPERATIONS AND PLANNING

FUNDAMENTALS OF AIR FORCE OPERATIONS

Last Updated: 09 November 2012

[Airmen](#) use a disciplined approach to [strategy](#) development that is key to maintaining continuing advantage. This chapter presents an introduction to strategy and some enduring insights that guide its implementation. This volume discusses how airpower is used across the [range of military operations](#) (ROMO) and describes the processes used to design, plan, execute, and assess Air Force operations.

Airpower commanders and strategists should not only design and plan strategy, they should *think strategically*—several “moves” ahead, beyond the current plan, focusing on the designated [end state](#).

Today, the United States faces many security challenges including an ongoing conflict against implacably hostile terrorists, engagement with regimes that support terrorists, and the need to support international partners. Against this backdrop, US military forces may be called upon to conduct a full range of operations in a variety of conflicts and security situations, including [major operations and campaigns](#), [irregular warfare](#) (IW), [homeland defense](#), [humanitarian assistance](#) and [disaster relief](#) efforts, and building partnerships with other nations.

The operational environments in which airpower operates will be characterized by simultaneous action by Air Force air, space, and cyberspace forces, against many adversaries—including near-peer and peer competitors—who will attempt to achieve [objectives](#) against US interests by using [asymmetric](#) advantages across all [instruments of power](#) (IOPs): diplomatic, informational, military, and economic. These conflicts may occur with little or no warning and will require the Air Force to provide support to the joint force, simultaneously integrating airpower against threats.
