



# CURTIS E. LEMAY CENTER

FOR DOCTRINE DEVELOPMENT AND EDUCATION



## ANNEX 3-03 COUNTERLAND OPERATIONS

### EXECUTION PLANNING AND FORCE EXECUTION

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Execution planning includes the preparation necessary for combat units to accomplish the [decentralized execution](#) of the [air tasking order](#) (ATO). It generally consists of the 12 hours immediately prior to the start of a given day's ATO [execution period](#). Force execution refers to the 24-hour period in which a particular ATO is executed by combat units. The [air operations center](#) (AOC) assists in preparing input for, supporting, and monitoring execution.

During execution, the AOC is the central agency for revising the tasking of [airpower](#) forces. It is also responsible for coordinating and deconflicting any changes with appropriate agencies or components. Due to operating environment dynamics, the [commander, Air Force forces](#) (COMAFFOR) may be required to make changes to planned operations during execution. The AOC should be flexible and responsive to changes required during execution of the ATO. Forces not [apportioned](#) for joint or combined operations, but included on the ATO for coordination purposes, can be redirected only with the approval of the respective component or [allied](#) commander. During execution the COMAFFOR employs [centralized control](#) to reallocate air assets in response to dynamic targets or changing priorities.

[Dynamic targeting](#) includes the prosecution of targets that emerge during ATO execution that commanders deem worthy of prosecution. The dynamic targeting process is not separate from the [air tasking cycle](#) or planned targeting process and is time-sensitive to some degree. The combat operations division (COD) has overall responsibility for implementation of the dynamic targeting process.<sup>1</sup> Successful dynamic targeting, however, requires a great deal of prior planning and coordination with other divisions within the AOC and with other components. If dynamic targeting is to be done correctly, planners decide upon [concepts of operation](#) that make assets available to the COD prior to the start of execution. This can be done in a number of ways:

- ★ Preplanned target reference methods and [fire support coordination measures](#) such as [kill boxes](#).

<sup>1</sup> See [Air Force Instruction 13-1 AOC, Volume 3](#) for an expanded discussion on AOC divisions and teams.

- ✦ Pre-positioned or on-call [intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance](#) and strike packages for rapid response to emerging targets.
- ✦ Using [joint intelligence preparation of the operational environment](#) to determine the most probable areas where targets will emerge during execution.
- ✦ Coordination and [synchronization](#) of dynamic targeting operations by streamlining and developing procedures for rapid handover of the mission tasking to another component for mission execution if the air component cannot attack a target that emerges.

[Liaison](#) officers (LNOs) from other components or Services may be very helpful during the dynamic targeting process. LNOs—particularly the [special operations liaison element](#)—may be able to provide the COMAFFOR with additional options for dealing with emerging targets and may be able to provide locations and activities of [special operations forces](#) and other friendly forces to assist with the [find, fix, track, target, engage and assess](#) (F2T2EA) of counterland targets, or to at least assist in deconfliction.

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