



ANNEX 3-12 CYBERSPACE OPERATIONS

EXECUTION OF CYBERSPACE OPERATIONS

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During the execution stage, [cyberspace](#) operators within the [air operations center](#) (AOC) will integrate cyberspace effects into the [commander, Air Force forces](#) (COMAFFOR)/[joint force air component commander](#)'s (JFACC's) time-phased scheme of maneuver and fires based on commander's guidance, desired effects, friendly capabilities, and likely adversary courses of action. US Strategic Command (USSTRATCOM) cyberspace support may be obtained through the supported/supporting relationship and should be fully integrated into the COMAFFOR/JFACC's planning and execution.

Global Operations

The tasking cycle for cyberspace operations is the process the 624th Operations Center (624 OC) uses to translate commander US Cyber Command (CDRUSCYBERCOM) and theater JFC's objectives, priorities, and intent into a coherent, executable plan for Air Force cyberspace forces. The 624 OC's process is a derivative of the [Joint Operations Planning Process–Air](#) (JOPP-A). The Air Force [cyber tasking order](#) (CTO), a key product of the tasking cycle, is used to task and execute assigned and attached cyberspace forces. The cyber tasking order is analogous to an air tasking order. The cyber tasking cycle, which is based on the air tasking cycle, is an iterative process for planning, coordinating, apportioning, allocating, executing, and assessing the effectiveness of [cyberspace operations](#). The cycle can be lengthened or shortened to synchronize with the theater battle rhythm to support crisis. It includes continuous collection, correlation, and prioritization of many inputs to meet CDRUSCYBERCOM and theater JFC's intent and objectives.

The CTO is derived from CDRUSCYBERCOM orders and, when supported, JFC's orders. It tasks assigned and attached cyberspace forces, provides guidance for synchronization of global and theater joint air, space, and cyberspace operations, and provides special instructions for the period it covers. Every cyberspace operation during that period should be on the CTO for situational awareness and deconfliction purposes.

Theater Operations

The air and space tasking cycles are the processes the theater AOC uses to translate JFC objectives, priorities, and intent into a coherent, executable plan for assigned and attached Air Force forces. The air operations directive and the [air tasking order](#) (ATO) are key products of the air and space tasking cycle.

The joint air and space operations plan reflects the COMAFFOR/JFACC's integrated air, space, and cyberspace operations plan to support the JFC's campaign. It should include the tasking of all assigned or attached cyberspace forces and all requests for theater support from global cyberspace forces. Air Force cyberspace forces that are assigned or attached with specification of [operational control](#) (OPCON) or [tactical control](#) (TACON) to a theater COMAFFOR/JFACC are integrated into operations via the air tasking cycle and tasked via the ATO.

Integration and Synchronization of Theater and Global Operations

When the 624 OC is supporting a theater operation, the CTO is synchronized with the theater ATO throughout the tasking cycle, with theater operators working closely with those at the 624 OC. If supporting a single, primary theater, the tasking cycle is synchronized with that theater's tasking cycle to optimize cyberspace support to the theater. The 624 OC, using guidance from the COMAFFOR/JFACC, helps develop cyberspace courses of action in support of theater operations. During the planning phase, the 624 OC uses COMAFFOR/JFACC guidance, [rules of engagement](#) (ROE), the joint integrated prioritized target list, the target nomination list, and the approved master air attack plan (MAAP), to finalize the CTO. After the ATO is finalized, the theater AOC forwards it to all required users to include the 624 OC. During execution, cyberspace tasking can occur dynamically to meet supported commander's requests.
