



CURTIS E. LEMAY CENTER FOR DOCTRINE DEVELOPMENT AND EDUCATION



ANNEX 3-13 INFORMATION OPERATIONS

POLICY AND LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR INFORMATION OPERATIONS

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As in all military operations, the [law of armed conflict](#) applies to information operations (IO). Questions may arise about the legality of [targeting](#) systems with dual-use functionality that support an adversary's military and civilian populace. Likewise, targeting military systems without consideration to collateral effects may result in legally or politically unacceptable indirect effects on the civilian population. Similarly, [rules of engagement](#) (ROE) in a [given area of responsibility](#) may further constrain the integrated employment of IRCs. Commanders, in coordination with legal advisors, should request mission-specific ROE from the appropriate senior authority (e.g., [combatant commanders](#), Secretary of Defense etc.) as required. However, due to the sensitive nature of targeting anything prior to hostilities, commanders may not want to risk inadvertent escalation. Since the operational complexity of applying IRCs is furthered by diverse legal concerns, legal advisors should be included in IO planning.

See Annex 1-04, [Legal Support to Commanders](#) for additional information.