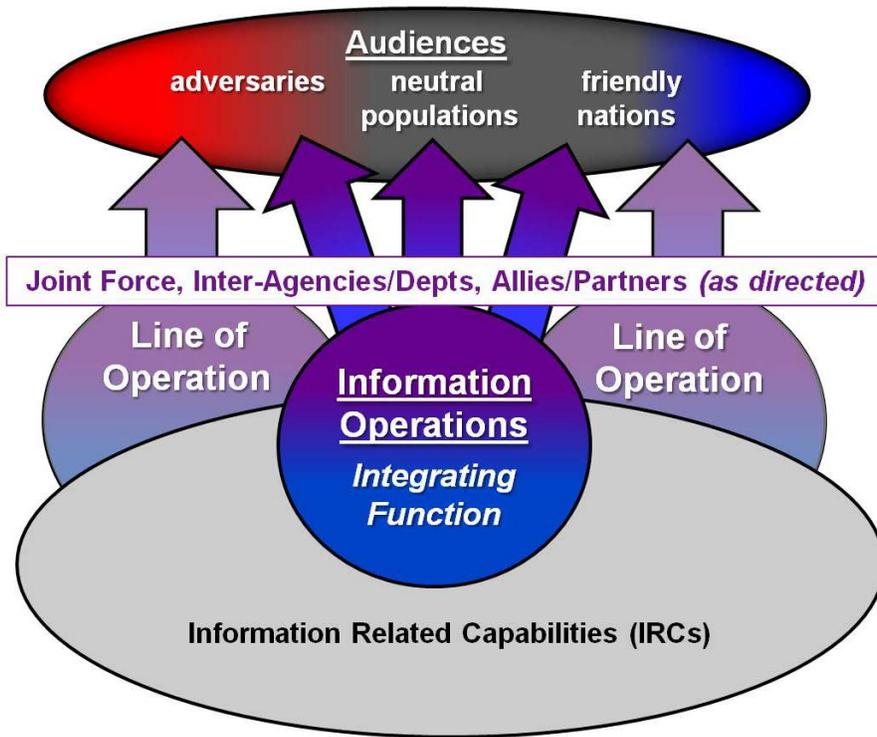


## INFORMATION-RELATED CAPABILITIES (IRCs)

Last Updated: 28 April 2016

In 2011, the definition of information operations (IO) was revised to eliminate references to specific capabilities and describe those generically as information-related capabilities (IRCs). As a result, the Air Force no longer distinguishes and categorizes IO capabilities with terms like “core capabilities”, “influence operations,” or “integrated control enablers.” The Air Force now references tools, techniques, and activities when used to affect the information environment.

The distinction of IO’s role as an integrating function merits emphasis. IO is not a capability in and of itself. IO does not “own” individual capabilities but rather plans and integrates the use of IRCs, tools, techniques, and activities in order to create a desired effect—to affect adversary, neutral, and friendly decision making, which contributes towards a specified set of behaviors. IRCs can be employed by themselves or in combination to conduct or support a wide range of missions. For example, IO planners should help ensure [electronic attack \(EA\)](#), offensive [space control](#), air attacks, and cyberspace operations are coordinated and deconflicted from the perspective of cognitive/behavioral effects. The coordination process should also strive to resolve conflict between actions and messages. Individually, IRCs have wider application than IO employment. What unites capabilities as IRCs is a common IO battlespace—the [information environment](#)—whether those capabilities operate in it or affect it. Numerous Air Force capabilities have potential to be employed for IO purposes. See figure on IO Employment of IRCs.



### IO Employment of IRCs

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