



CURTIS E. LEMAY CENTER FOR DOCTRINE DEVELOPMENT AND EDUCATION



ANNEX 3-22 FOREIGN INTERNAL DEFENSE

CHARACTERISTICS OF AIR FORCE FID OPERATIONS

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Air Force [foreign internal defense](#) (FID) operations support US response measures that, according to the principles of international and domestic law, affirm the inherent right of states to assist one another in maintaining internal order against insurgency and other forms of internal violence. This is based on the host government's inherent right of self-defense, recognized in Article 51 of the United Nations (UN) charter and international law. The UN charter also recognizes, through the right of collective self-defense, that targets of aggression may request assistance, to include armed assistance, from other states.

FID operations take place within the larger context of US strategies for shaping, influencing, and dominating the operational environment. Normally, the Air Force will conduct FID operations when the President or Secretary of State honors a [host nation](#) request for military assistance and Air Force forces have been directed to do so by appropriate legal authorities. The decision to conduct FID operations is based on US and international laws, however, the culture and norms of the affected nation influence how the operation is conducted. The US may assist host nations and, in some cases, may directly intervene. Commanders should understand that operations must be tied to specific objectives and may be conducted over extended periods. All stability operations, regardless of context, require an exit strategy that leaves a legitimate government in place with sufficient capacity to address the insurgency.