



EXECUTION PLANNING AND FORCE EXECUTION

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Purpose of the Phase. Execution planning includes the preparation necessary for combat units to accomplish the [decentralized execution](#) of the ATO. Force execution refers to the 24-hour period an ATO is executed by combat units, which generally includes 12 hours immediately prior to the start of a given day's execution period. The AOC aids both, preparing input for, supporting, and monitoring execution. **The COMAFFOR, as the Air Force's warfighting commander, directs execution of Air Force capabilities. If a JFACC is appointed, that commander directs execution of air component capabilities and forces made available for joint or combined operations.** It is normal, of course, for the COMAFFOR to also be the JFACC. Inherent in this is the authority to redirect joint or combined air assets made available for tasking. Under the Air Force tenet of [centralized control and decentralized execution](#), unit commanders are given the freedom and flexibility to plan missions and delivery tactics as long as they fall within timing requirements, ROE, and intent of effects. The COMAFFOR coordinates redirection of sorties that were previously allocated for support of component operations with affected component commanders. For targeting, this is the application of all previous steps of targeting and monitoring the execution in preparation for assessment. **During execution, the AOC is the central agency for revising the tasking of air forces, the JSpOC is the central agency for revising the tasking of Air Force space forces, and the 624th OC is the central agency for revising the tasking of Air Force cyberspace forces.** They are also responsible for coordinating and deconflicting any changes with appropriate agencies or components. These operations centers may or may not have authority to re-direct use of other capabilities supporting theater efforts, depending upon the asset.

Due to operational environment dynamics, the 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 allocated 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 commanders.** During execution, the COMAFFOR is also responsible for retargeting air assets to respond to emerging targets or changing priorities. The COMAFFOR may delegate the authority to re-direct missions made available for higher priority targets to C2 mission commanders as necessary. The AOC should be notified of all redirected

missions. This can have significant impact on the ISR and collection planning efforts and require significant oversight by targeting personnel within the AOC.

The COD supervises the detailed execution of the ATO. Targeteers monitor ATO execution and recommend alternate targets when necessary. Normally, targeting changes are needed due to adverse weather, assessment requirements, or modification of priorities. The ability to quickly recommend good alternate targets is very important to the flexibility of airpower. Combat operations targeteers should be aware of all significant information on the current ATO to include targets, desired effects and objectives, guidance, and ROEs, and weaponeering and collateral damage estimates.

The rational use of force relies on the capability to achieve [positive identification](#) (PID) and geolocation of adversary entities as a precursor to taking action against them. Conducting CID of **all** operational environment entities is thus a critical enabling capability in any use, or potential use, of military force. Identifying adversary or enemy entities is essential, of course, but so is identifying friendly and neutral entities. Blue force tracking (BFT) is a core function of [combat identification](#) (CID). BFT is the employment of techniques to identify and track US, allied, and coalition forces for the purpose of providing commander's enhanced situational awareness and reducing fratricide.
