



CURTIS E. LEMAY CENTER

FOR DOCTRINE DEVELOPMENT AND EDUCATION



ANNEX 3-70 STRATEGIC ATTACK

THE ROLE OF AIRPOWER IN STRATEGIC ATTACK

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Strategic attack (SA) capabilities are founded on the characteristics of the air, space, and cyberspace domains and the resources used in them. These characteristics (range, speed, precision, flexibility and lethality) enable a joint force commander (JFC) to access to the depths of adversary's centers of gravity (COGs) where land and maritime forces cannot easily reach. Added to traditional domains is cyberspace. Employing the Air Force's cyber capabilities throughout this domain, in combination with the traditional capabilities of air and space power, allows synergy and flexibility across a range of lethal and non-lethal options. Airpower used in SA comprises the JFC's maneuver elements that can operate in three dimensions and time. Through cyberspace, the commander has access to the cognitive and information dimensions that can give an asymmetric advantage and unprecedented access to an adversary's decision-making cycle. Through the employment of Air Force forces and capabilities, the JFC is not limited to two-dimensional warfare, using his surface forces in a series of tactical battles to position maneuver elements that threaten an adversary's COGs. The application of airpower, integrated with information operations (IO), creates effects more rapidly than surface forces alone, thereby accessing the psychological and cognitive aspects of warfare directly. Properly employed, SA can be the Air Force's most decisive warfighting capability.
