



PROCESSES AND CAPABILITIES

Last Updated: 21 December 2015

To perform command and control (C2) of combat support (CS), staffs rely on underlying CS business processes to facilitate monitoring, assessing, planning, and execution of steady-state/peacetime CS activities supporting military operations.¹ The following descriptions of C2 of CS processes and capabilities bring into focus the continuum of action required to link operational and CS capabilities to achieve desired effects. These continual processes also allow for a rapid and smooth transition from steady-state to contingency operations and nest with the joint operations planning process as outlined in Joint Publication (JP) 5-0, [Joint Operation Planning](#).

Monitoring

Effective monitoring involves continually collecting, storing, maintaining, and tracking data. Monitoring enables CS planners to anticipate where CS capabilities may be needed. Priorities should be determined in advance based on the nature of the operation. A comprehensive mission analysis by the [commander, Air Force forces](#), A-staff should produce a list of a [commander's critical information requirements](#) to focus staff monitoring efforts on mission-essential data. The [AFFOR staff](#) should constantly monitor information from all sources while maintaining focus on the commander's intent.

Assessing

JP 3-0, [Joint Operations](#), defines assessment as "a continuous process that measures the overall effectiveness of employing joint force capabilities during military operations." For Air Force CS the focus is on continual measures of CS capabilities to determine the impact of conditions and events on force capabilities and commander's intent. It involves the processes of analysis and evaluation to obtain situational awareness and alternative solutions. Analyzing data provides the foundation for potential courses of action (COAs) during the planning phase. Proper analysis ensures that the limitations of the environment are well defined.²

Planning

Thorough planning should address all levels of CS. Planning involves development and evaluation of COAs for support operations. The flexible nature of CS forces gives the operational level planner the freedom to scale and sequence forces into a theater to

¹ The Air Force C2 of CS processes and capabilities are derived from [JP 4-0](#), and are expanded to meet the Service requirements for the more comprehensive C2 of CS, rather than just logistics.

² For more detail on assessment, see JP 3-0 and Annex 3-0, [Operations and Planning](#).

enhance mission effectiveness. Planners should take advantage of reachback capabilities available and right-size the deploying force to place the correct capabilities into theater.

Execution

Execution is the overall dissemination and implementation of a plan to ensure successful mission accomplishment. The need for solid C2 is critical in the coordinated execution of the joint force commander's campaign.
