



# CURTIS E. LEMAY CENTER

FOR DOCTRINE DEVELOPMENT AND EDUCATION



## ANNEX 4-0 COMBAT SUPPORT

### PLANNING

Last Updated: 21 December 2015

Planning is required at each echelon of command and across the spectrum of combat support core processes. Anticipating requirements, coordinating with all the relevant participants, improving responsiveness posture, and rehearsing the execution plan are all important elements of planning. Combat Support (CS) planners in the commander, Air Force forces', A-staff should be involved in planning, from Readyng the Force to Reconstituting the Force, to ensure feasibility of planned operations. Planners should gather, analyze, and disseminate information about the operational environment's support capabilities and constraints, and present it in an appropriate annex or appendix of an operation plan (OPLAN) or campaign support plan.

In planning for CS requirements, the minimum possible footprint consistent with effective operations is desired and should be a planning consideration, especially while preparing the operational environment. Limiting the footprint frees resources for other requirements and reduces vulnerability to adversary attacks. Wherever possible, establishing processes and infrastructure with maximum reachback capability improves agility and efficiency.

#### **Deliberate Planning**

Deliberate planning prepares for military operations based on the best available information and using forces and resources apportioned by the Joint Strategic Capabilities Plan. Deliberate planning addresses the most likely support scenarios for military operations in advance of impending operations. A quick transition can be made to crisis action planning (CAP) when deliberate planning is approached as a continuous process with periodic updates. Whether the specific preplanned OPLAN, some variation of the plan, or some entirely unanticipated operation is required, deliberate planning is required in preparation for deploying and employing forces. CS forces should be integrated fully into the planning process.

Deliberate planning also prepares for security cooperation engagements with partner nations, normally expressed in a campaign support plan or a country plan. In these situations, forces and resources may not be available and planners may need to use the "request for forces" processes to obtain the needed capabilities. CS forces to be deployed to conduct these types of engagements should be fully integrated into the planning process.

## **Crisis Action Planning**

[CAP](#) leads into Positioning the Force and is usually accomplished in a time-constrained environment addressing situations and emergencies using assigned and attached forces. Crisis action planners follow prescribed CAP procedures that parallel deliberate planning, but are more flexible and responsive to changing events. When developing potential [courses of action](#) (COAs), close coordination between CS and operations planners is essential to assure feasibility of those COAs. As a subset of this activity, logisticians should consider alternative logistics COAs to support and sustain operations. Because significant assets are committed in various steady-state contingencies, any new CAP considerations should include the impact of already committed assets in other theaters, and the potential necessity for using some of those assets to support higher priority commitments.

## **Operations Security**

Every functional area has responsibility for operations security (OPSEC) since it is fundamental in the success of all military operations. OPSEC is a process of identifying, analyzing and controlling critical information indicating friendly actions associated with military operations to reduce vulnerabilities of friendly actions to adversary exploitation. For more information on OPSEC see Joint Publication 3-13.3, [Operations Security](#).

---