



OTHER INFORMATION OPERATIONS CAPABILITIES

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[Information operations](#) (IO) planners should consider all available options and/or combinations of lethal and non-lethal, kinetic and non-kinetic means in order to achieve the desired lethal and/or non-lethal effects.

Modern military operations require the ability to engage a [target audience](#) with a combination of lethal and non-lethal means, to produce both lethal and non-lethal effects. Non-kinetic and non-lethal means are not reserved only for friendly or neutral audiences. The ability to influence and affect an adversary through non-lethal means may prove to be a better option. For example, well-crafted [military information support operations](#) products may be the best solution to convey the intended message through a variety of print and electronic media to select audiences, which may also free-up conventional, kinetic assets to pursue other objectives.

Lethal actions are those taken through “physical, material means like bombs, bullets, rockets, and other munitions.”¹ Kinetic actions are those designed to produce effects using the forces and energy of moving bodies and directed energy, including physical damage to, alteration of, or destruction of targets. Kinetic actions can have lethal or non-lethal effects.² Non-kinetic and -lethal actions include logical, electromagnetic, or behavioral means, such as gathering intelligence to understand how an adversary’s cyber networks function in order to prioritize targeted nodes or a [public affairs operation](#) to inform friendly, neutral and/or adversarial audiences. Non-lethal options offer the capability to create effects and achieve influence without destroying targets, which may be more advantageous to the overall objectives.

Special Technical Operations

IO planners should maintain close coordination with the special technical operations element to integrate, synchronize, and deconflict operations, as appropriate.

For additional information, see JP 3-13, [Information Operations](#).

¹ Annex 3-60, [Targeting](#).

² Annex 3-0, [Operations and Planning](#)