



CURTIS E. LEMAY CENTER FOR DOCTRINE DEVELOPMENT AND EDUCATION



ANNEX 3-22 FOREIGN INTERNAL DEFENSE

DIRECT SUPPORT

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Direct Support Not Involving Combat

When it is impractical for the host air force to develop self-sufficiency in time to counter a threat, the Air Force may be tasked to provide direct support that does not commit US personnel to combat. Such support encompasses Service-funded activities that improve host air force effectiveness without duplicating or replacing [security assistance](#) efforts to create or maintain host-nation capabilities. Air Force activities at this level normally focus on civil-military operations (CMO) support, intelligence collection and analysis, logistics support, and other “stand-off” support functions.

Air Force intelligence resources, in conjunction with country team and theater programs and activities, can support host-nation internal defense and development (IDAD) planning through long-range strategic collection and analysis. At the tactical level, Air Force technical capabilities can complement and augment host-nation collection programs. Intelligence sharing involves providing intelligence products. It does not mean transferring collection methods, sources, or technology to the host nation.

Air Force ground, airborne, and space-based communications resources can support HN security forces by providing critical [command and control](#) (C2) capabilities. The Air Force can also provide missile warning, environmental monitoring, positioning, navigation, and timing support where HN resources are lacking. Such support may include HN use of US communication assets, but it does not involve the transfer of communications systems or technology to the host nation. The Air Force maintains control of systems employed in the direct support role and ensures protection of classified communications and computer technology.

Air Force forces and capabilities can support CMO. Civil-military operations are a broad area embracing the relationship between military forces, civilian authorities, and the population and are employed to develop favorable emotions, attitudes, or behavior in neutral, friendly, or hostile groups. The five major areas of CMO, each with important applications in FID, are civil affairs (CA), military information support

operations (MISO), humanitarian assistance (HA), humanitarian and civil assistance (HCA), and military civic action (MCA). Although the Air Force does not possess CA units, Air Force resources can provide support to joint US civil affairs operations through air mobility and contingency response element support, communications backup, information broadcasting, and technical advice on airpower operations.

The effects of airpower to influence behavior can be employed to further FID objectives through shows of strength and overt demonstrations of support to friends and allies. Specific, stand-alone MISO capabilities can be used to support the dissemination of host-government informational programs. Aircraft can dispense leaflets or conduct MISO broadcasting over standard radio, television, short wave, and military communications bands.

With appropriate authorization and direction, the Air Force can undertake HA independent of joint/multinational exercises or other military operations. Air Force capabilities for HA include personnel evacuation, air mobility, and medical support for disaster victims. Aerial platforms can also support relief activities by broadcasting evacuation instructions and other public information and by temporarily replacing or expanding coverage of existing ground transmitters.

Whereas HA focuses on emergency transportation support and other support to alleviate urgent host-nation needs caused by natural disasters and catastrophes, HCA activities are planned in advance and carried out in conjunction with military operations and exercises. [Appendix B](#) contains more detailed information on HCA.

MCA can be undertaken along with security assistance training or as part of traditional theater activities. MCA is essentially a US military-to-HN military program involving projects undertaken by primarily indigenous forces. Examples include construction, health care, and agriculture projects. Air Force support of MCA is generally limited to training and advisory assistance.

Additionally, the Air Force provides critical ISR capabilities as part of direct support FID. Maps of developing nations often lack sufficient scale and definition for planning and executing exercises and tactical operations. Air Force capability in this area can also be used for testing and evaluating mutual intelligence analysis techniques and procedures. A steady supply of photographs and maps for HN personnel in quantities larger than that consumed in exercises usually requires security assistance funding.

Air Force meteorological reporting, analysis, forecasting, and interpretation can be employed as part of the direct support effort to enhance [HN IDAD](#) initiatives. Interpretation of weather data for local effects (rainfall, flooding, wind, visibility, etc.) can be used in an MCA role or applied to host-military planning activities.

Air mobility is another capability crucial to FID direct support operations. Air mobility can be used for delivery, recovery, and resupply of US defense equipment and

services, returning items to the US for repair, transporting HN personnel to out-of-country training locations, and providing [aeromedical evacuation](#) from main operating bases in the HN.

Air Force resources may be used in concert with counter-drug activities in countries receiving FID assistance. Such activities may include intercept of aircraft, vessels, or vehicles for communications purposes, gathering and processing tactical intelligence from a variety of sources (including fixed and mobile surveillance assets), and intelligence sharing.

Subject to Department of Defense (DOD) policy and legislative guidance, the Air Force may offer certain types of direct support to host-nation counter-drug personnel. Air Force resources may also provide capabilities to US civilian law enforcement agencies that may be operating in the region and to the Department of State Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs. Combatant commanders direct their components' execution of counter-drug activities within their geographic areas of responsibility.

Counter-drug activities, subject to legislative constraints, may involve Air Force capabilities like intelligence sharing; meteorological services; aerial reconnaissance and mapping; air mobility of personnel, supplies and equipment; communications support; counter-drug training; upgrading and maintenance of equipment; and establishing and operating bases or training sites that facilitate counter-drug activities. However, US forces are prohibited from engaging in direct law enforcement activities unless directed by the President of the United States or Secretary of Defense.

Combat Operations

Given appropriate authorities, Air Force personnel can conduct joint/multinational combat operations in the host country. Air Force assets can provide air mobility for both US and host-nation forces. [Intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance](#), attack, and forward air control assets provide capabilities in support of US and host ground and naval forces. Air Force electronic warfare platforms can also provide support including communications jamming.
