



CURTIS E. LEMAY CENTER

FOR DOCTRINE DEVELOPMENT AND EDUCATION



ANNEX 3-60 TARGETING

TARGETING AND THE AIR TASKING CYCLE

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The air tasking cycle is the COMAFFOR's process for effective and efficient employment of joint air capabilities. It is a methodical, iterative, and responsive process that translates operational level guidance into tactical level plans. The air tasking cycle promotes flexibility and versatility with a series of Air Tasking Orders (ATOs) and related products in progress at any time and by responding during execution to changes in the operational environment. The air tasking cycle consist of the following stages:

- ✦ Objectives, Effects, and Guidance
- ✦ Target Development
- ✦ Weaponing and Allocation
- ✦ ATO production and Dissemination
- ✦ Execution Planning and Force Execution
- ✦ Assessment

The air tasking cycle and joint targeting cycle are separate yet integrally related processes.
