
Integrating Air Operations in Counter-Insurgency Campaigns

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Overview

- **Objectives**
- **Doctrinal foundation**
- **Air and Ground Operations Today**
- **Key planning considerations**
- **Recommendations**

Objectives

- **Examine recent Operation ENDURING FREEDOM CAS operations and:**
 - **Identify key activities to successful combat missions**
 - **Identify operational and tactical areas that require improvement as experienced in combat missions**
- **Identify key issues surrounding**
 - **Close Air Support**
 - **Other Air Operations**
 - **Planning and execution for ISR, humanitarian, and combat operations on the battlefield**

Doctrinal Foundation Joint Air Planning

1. CJTF & Component Coordination

Alternative COAs

OA

Combat Assessment

6. Operational Assessments

BDA

MISREP

TST

5. Force Execution

ATO

ACO

SPINS

4. ATO Development

ATO
PRODUCTION

COMBAT
Ops

OPS
ASSESSMENT

STRATEGY

C/JFACC Intent/COA
AOD

ROE

ALLOREQ

2. Target Development

ROE

TET Worksheets

3. Weaponneering & Allocation

MAAP Worksheets

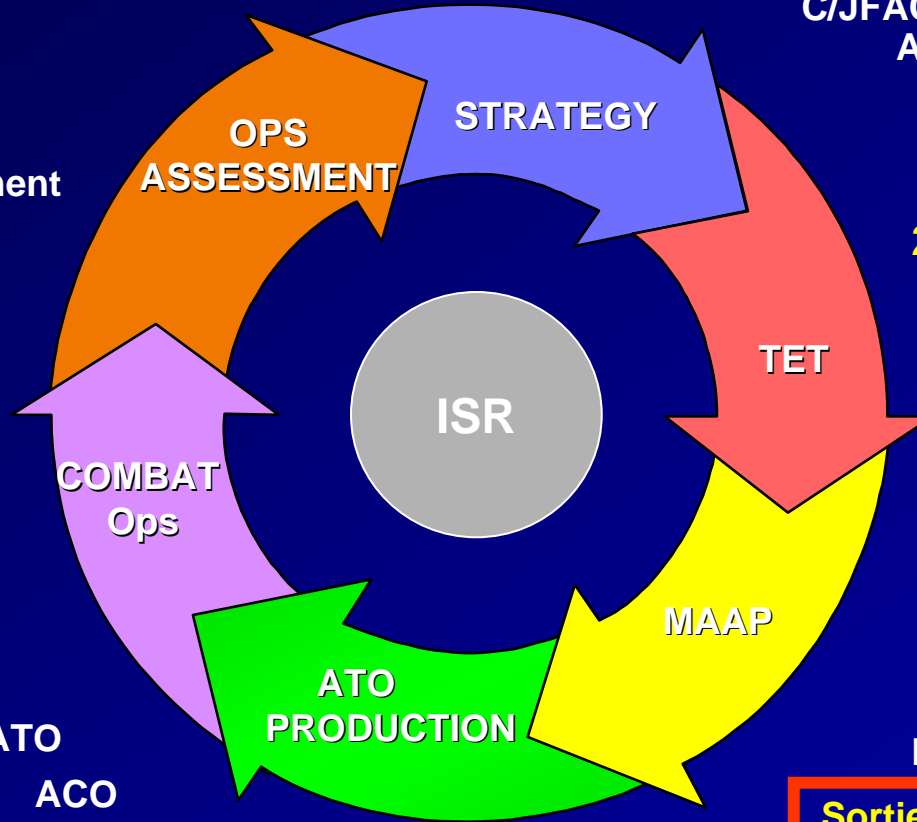
MAAP Brief

Sortie Allocation

ISR

MAAP

TET



Doctrinal Foundation

Close Air Support

Integrating air operations with ground forces maneuver comprised as Close Air Support

Joint Pub 3-09.3 defines CAS:

“Close Air Support is **air action by fixed and rotary wing aircraft **against hostile targets** that are in close proximity to friendly forces and which require **detailed integration** of each air mission **with the fire and movement of those forces**”**

Close Air Support

Joint Pub 3-09.3 continues stating:

- **“CAS provides firepower in offensive and defensive operations to destroy, disrupt, fix, harass, neutralize, or delay enemy forces”**
- **“Synchronizing CAS in time, space and purpose with supported maneuver forces increases the effectiveness of the joint force”**
- **“CAS planning focuses on the ordered arrangement and maneuver of combat elements in relation to each other and to the enemy in order to achieve combat objectives”**

Air Component Planning and Force Allocation

As result of planning process...

- **CAS assets are apportioned and allocated to Ground Commander**
- **MAAP cell focus is on filling ASRs with CAS assets**

The typical Aviator's question:

- **“Where and when does the Ground Commander want the A-10s (or _____ aircraft) to show up?”**

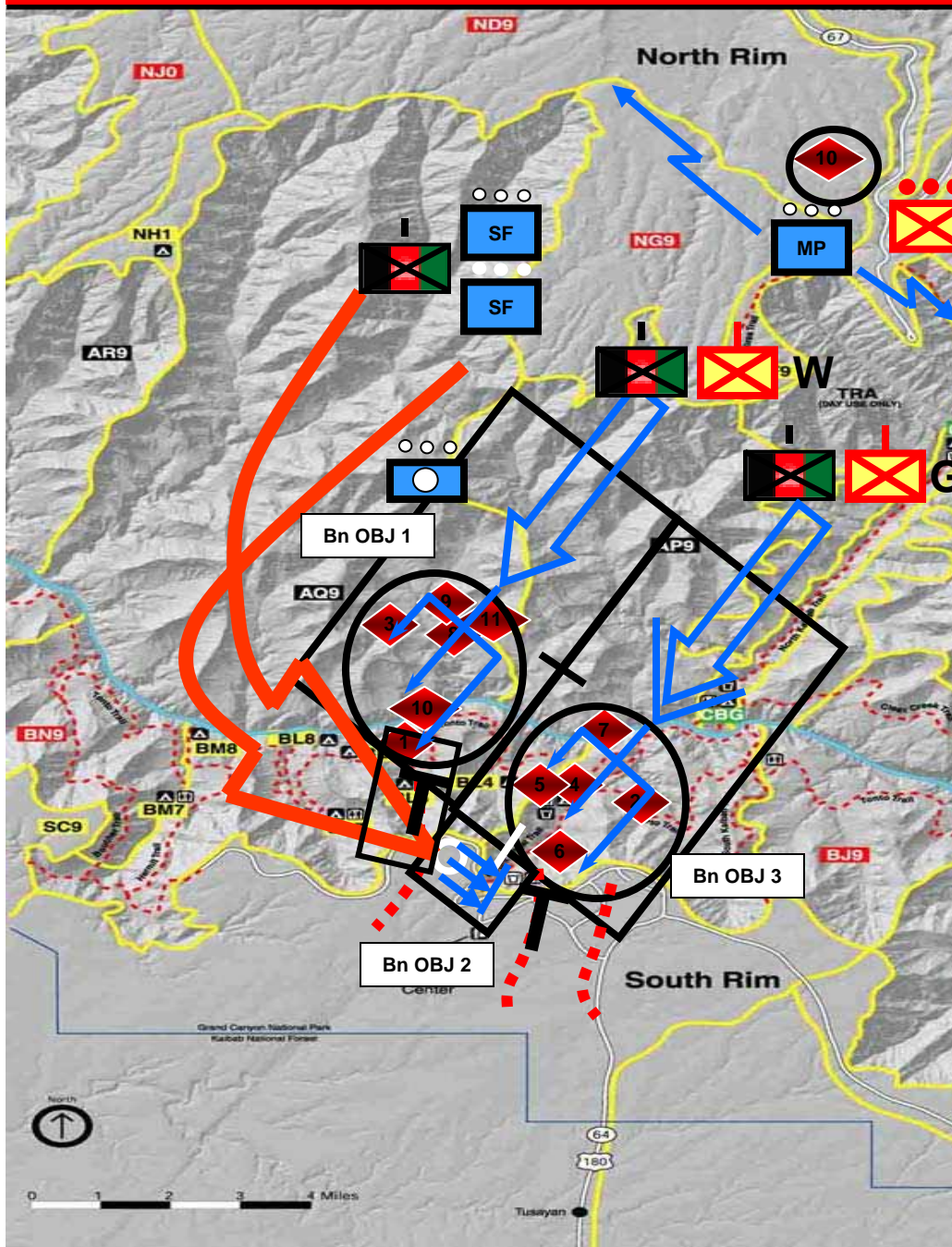
Ground Component Planning

- In counter-insurgency operations, Ground Commanders (Company, Battalion, Brigade/Task Force) tailor operations to meet conditions on the ground
- Senior Commander gives “mission type orders” to lower echelon
- Ground Component detailed planning is “Bottom-Up” in nature
 - Company CC submits plan to Battalion
 - Battalion CC approves/adjusts plan and forwards to Brigade/TF Commander
 - TF Commander approves/adjust and may forward to Division/CJTF Commander
- At Company and Battalion level, air expertise limited to JTAC...often a SSgt or TSgt...who is primarily proficient at terminal control and submitting air requests

When CJTF/CG is briefed can possibly be first time a Senior Airman sees details of plan

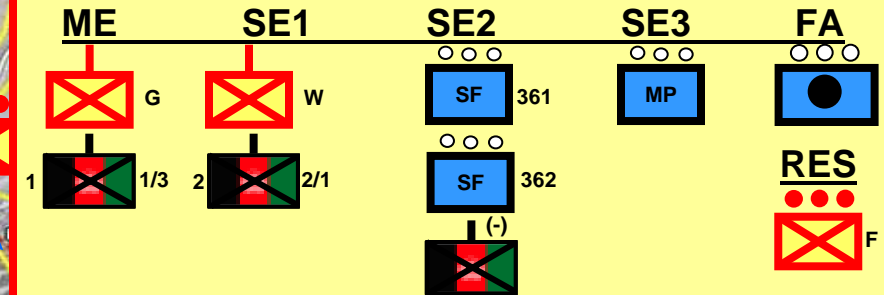
TF Cowboy – Operation GOLD DIGGER

Date: 071630Z DEC XX



DTG Execution: 14-17 Dec XX

Task Organization:



Mission Statement: From 14-17 December, TF Cowboy (-) and elements of 2nd Bde, Utah Corps conduct offensive and civil-military operations to disrupt City Slickers and other insurgents in Grand Canyon Province IOT set the conditions for good governance and conservation.

Scheme of Maneuver: On D-1, the TF re-positions the 105mm FA Plt from Utah to Nevada, receives TACON of aircraft, green cycle Host Nation units and 2 X ODAs. On D-Day, SE1 attacks in zone to disrupt Enemy Force IVO Bn OBJ 1 and blocks enemy forces moving north out of the Gunsight Pass. Simultaneously, SE2 conducts heliborne attack to clear suspected enemy ammunition caches on the east side of the Gunsight Pass. On the evening of D-Day, the ME conducts motorized attack to disrupt Enemy IED facilitators IVO Bn OBJ 3. On D+2, the TF and Host Nation CDRs escort the local Governor and to engage the local populace and the TF conducts MEDCAP and H/CA distribution IVO Bn OBJ 1. On D+3, the TF retrogrades and postures for future operations, with the TF Commander briefing Provincial Leadership on the results of the operation. Throughout the operation, the TF MP Plt conducts security operations to protect the TF's northern flank and the TF reserve is positioned to reinforce friendly forces or defeat enemy attempting to exfiltrate from the battlespace.

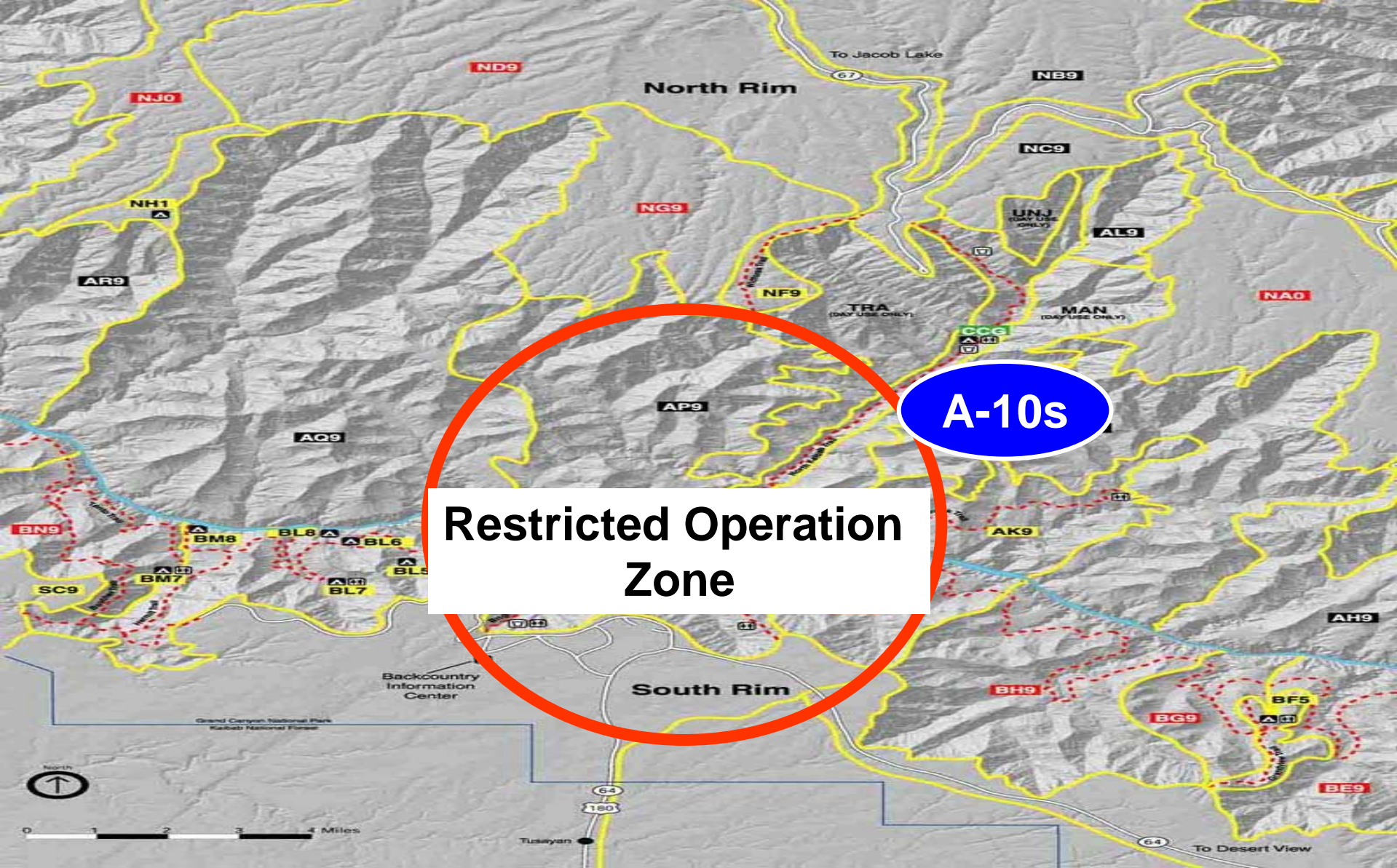
Timeline:

- 10 Dec: Heliborne Recon & Issue Bn OpOrder
- 12 Dec: Combined Arms Rehearsal
- 13 Dec: Displace FA (105) Plt from North Rim to Indian Springs
- 13 Dec: Receive TACON of ODA 361 & 362, 1/1/3/201 and 2/2/1/201
- AM, 14 Dec: SE1's Attack & SE2's Heliborne Insert
- PM, 14 Dec: ME Attacks to Disrupt
- 16 Dec: TF and Local CDRs engage with locals. MEDCAP conducted IVO Bn OBJ 1
- 17 Dec: Retrograde & Posture for Follow-On Ops

Air Elements of the Plan

- **“CAS”**
 - **A-10**
 - **B-52**
 - **GR-7**

Air Planning



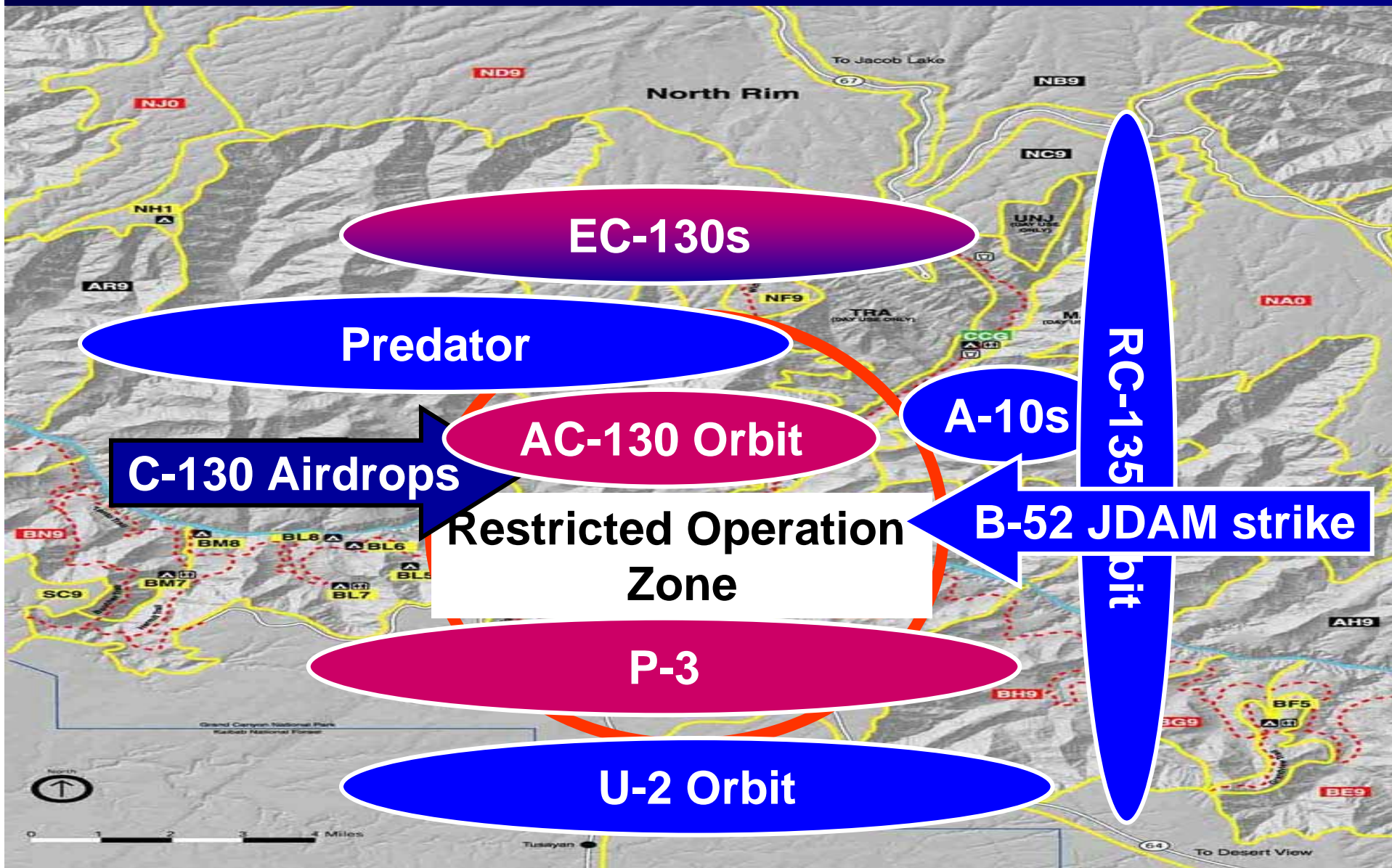
Air Elements of the Plan

The “Rest” of the Players

- **“CAS”**
 - A-10
 - B-52
 - GR-7
- **ISR**
 - U-2
 - Predator
 - RC-135
 - Space
- **Re-supply**
 - C-130
 - C-17
- **Vertical Maneuver**
 - HH-60
 - CH-47
- **Special Ops**
 - P-3
 - AC-130
- **Electronic Attack**
 - EC-130
 - EA-6
- **Rescue/MEDEVAC**
 - HH-60
 - UH-60
- **Attack Helos**

**Who will conduct the ‘detailed integration’
of the fixed and rotary-wing assets?**

Air Planning The Reality



Joint Planning Now Stovepipes

<u>CAS</u>	<u>ISR</u>	<u>SOF</u>	<u>Lift</u>	<u>EA</u>	<u>Med</u>	<u>Airlift</u>
A-10	MQ-1	AC-130	UH-60	EC-130	UH-60	C-130
F-16	U-2	P-3	MH-47	EA-6	HH-60	C-17
F-18	RJ	MH-60	CH-53			
B-52	Space					
S-3	S-2	LNO	S-3/4	S-3	S-3/4	S-4

MAAP
CCO

ISR D

LNO

None

LNO

JSRC

AMD

CAOC // CFACC Planners

Joint Planning Issues

- **Traditional Interdiction Packages**
 - Short TOTs with multiple aircraft (30-60 min TOT)
 - Targets may be dispersed over relatively larger area
 - Mission Commander directs all aircraft in package
- **CAS “Planning”**
 - Ground Operations may last days
 - Intensity of Air Ops will match decisive times/events
 - Early in operation ... many aircraft
 - During sustainment of operation ... fewer aircraft
 - Target area will be much smaller
 - No Mission Commander designated
 - JTAC...often SSgt or Tech Sergeant...is the lead planner

Joint Planning & Execution Issues

- **ISR Support**
 - When and where will Predator be on target?
 - Can it lase for attack aircraft?
 - What laser codes are best for attack aircraft? Predator?
 - Can / How will Rivet Joint / U-2 pass real time intel?
- **SOF Support**
 - When and where will P-3 be?
 - How does P-3 info get passed to attack aircraft? Airlift? JTAC?
 - When and where will AC-130 be?
- **Airlift Support**
 - When and from where will C-130s conduct airdrop?
 - Who will provide clearance to drop?
 - Does C-130 need escort? Visual look-out? What frequency to pass on?
- **Helo Support**
 - When and where will helos conduct assault?
 - Do they need visual / firepower support?
 - Are attack aircraft needed for pre-assault fires? When and where? Who clears?
- **Electronic Attack Support**
 - Where will EA aircraft be?
 - Can the Gnd CC provide updated immediate requests?
- **If MEDEVAC is needed, where will aircraft come from?**

Combined Planning & Execution Issues

- **US Interagency** (Location and plans for US agencies)
 - USAID
 - Dept of Agriculture
 - Department of State
- **Host Nation political and security elements** (Location and plans)
 - Security (police, army, national guard)
 - Political leaders – local and national
 - Election commissions
 - Economic development – contractors and governmental officials
- **Partner nation forces and agencies** (Location and plans)
 - Air, Ground and Special Ops units
 - Non-military assistance: Medical, economic, humanitarian, political
- **International Non-Governmental Agencies** (Location and plans)
 - UN agencies
 - NGOs – Doctors without Borders, Save the Children, Demining contractors, etc

Air component is not responsible for other organizations plans and execution – but be scrutinized in the event of their death or injury from aircraft employment

Transitioning Planning to Execution

- The “Plan” is something to deviate from
- 25 Dec 05, 2 x A-10s re-tasked to a Troops-in-Contact
 - U-2 re-tasked to TIC
 - U-2’s sensors observed US Forces and surrounding area
 - **But ... JTAC and Fighters not aware of U-2 support or what it was seeing**
- Issue: How do we tie in others sensors real-time?

Joint Execution Challenges

- A TIC where the enemy attacks and runs...is the predominant scenario in OEF
- FINDING enemy post-attack is biggest challenge
- Time Sensitive Targeting tools/TTPs need to be applied to CAS
 - Predict-Find-Fix-Track-Target-Engage-Assess (**PF2T2EA**)
 - Same tools/processes as classic TST we've developed in JEFX's and tested in OIF
- Discriminating possible enemy forces from friendly and neutral parties is critical

MG Pete Quesada developed the original TST process

Execution Integration

- **Predict**
 - IPB
- **Find**
 - Ground forces/SIGINT, etc
- **Fix/track**
 - Ground forces/Predator/U-2/TGP/eyeball/etc
- **Target**
 - JTAC works PID/CDE/friendly deconfliction/weapon/restrictions/etc
- **Engage**
 - CAS asset under JTAC control
- **Assess**
 - Ground forces/predator/SIGINT/etc

Recommendations

- All joint air platforms must be made available to CAOC for planning
 - Have discipline to define and make a TOT
 - Reject “Stovepipe” / “Special” mindset...
- Joint Air Planners know and adjust the plan
 - Need to be read-in early
 - Need to accept changes in Commander’s plan as it is reviewed up the chain
- Use “Package IDs” in ATO for all players supporting an operation
- Designate Mission Commander for “large” operations
 - Currently, JTAC plays role on check-in...too late
 - Mission Commander must know how to plan and employ all CAS assets
 - Mission Commander need not be airborne continuously
 - Allow unit Mission Planning Cells to deconflict flight paths/effects/ops

Recommendations

- Use a JEFX type training scenarios develop and hone CAS “Packaging” and PF2T2EA skills in CAS/TIC scenarios
- Apply TST-like processes in CAOC/at tactical level to provide real-time integration of all assets to find and kill enemy
- Develop Information Technology tools for real time update to Joint CAS planning and execution...**Common Planning Picture**
 - SOF
 - Airlift
 - Fighters/Bombers
 - Medivac
 - ISR
 - Electronic Attack
 - Ground Commander / Forces
 - Host nation and partner nation military and non-military elements
- Develop IT solutions for Common Operating Pictures / Real Time information that flow across classification boundaries...



QUESTIONS?

