

intermediate-range missiles capable of carrying nuclear, biological, or chemical warheads. Future threat systems may exhibit greater capabilities, such as increased accuracy, range, and destructive power. Additionally, aircraft systems and cruise missiles capable of delivering WMD will also pose a threat.

c. As nations continue to develop and obtain WMD and viable delivery systems, the potential for US operations in such a lethal environment increases. In addition to proliferation of WMD among rogue states, **proliferation may also expand to include nonstate actors as well.**

5. Nuclear Support Forces

Theater nuclear support may be provided by a geographic combatant commander's assigned forces, US Strategic Command (USSTRATCOM), or from another supporting CINC. Weapons in the US nuclear arsenal (see Figure I-2) include: gravity bombs deliverable by dual-capable aircraft (DCA) and long-range bombers; the Tomahawk Land Attack Missile/Nuclear (TLAM/N) deliverable by submarines; cruise missiles deliverable by long-range bombers; submarine-launched ballistic missiles (SLBM); and intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBM). **These systems provide the NCA and the geographic combatant commander with a wide range of options which can be tailored to meet desired military and political objectives. Each system has unique advantages and disadvantages when applied in a theater nuclear support context. Specific weapon data can be found in Joint Pub 3-12.2, "Nuclear Weapons Employment Effects Data."**



Figure I-2. Weapons in the US Nuclear Arsenal

a. Gravity bombs deliverable by DCA and long-range bombers.

- **Advantages**

- Aircraft increases range (when properly supported by tankers) and provides flexibility and recall
- Weapons may be employed against mobile targets
- Various weapon yields available — from very high to very low
- Aircraft can be launched from the continental United States

Chapter I

- **Disadvantages**

- Crew at risk in high threat environment
- Lead time required for planning and transit
- Significant combat support and ground support infrastructure may be required, depending on scenario
- Equipment may have to be released from other operation plan (OPLAN) tasking

b. TLAM/N. (Specifics can be found in NWP 28.)

- **Advantages**

- Heavily defended areas may be penetrated without risk to crew



A submarine-delivered TLAM/N provides maximum stealth and surprise prior to launch.

- Highly mobile platforms in international waters may serve as launch sites

- Weapons are highly accurate

- Launching platform is recallable

- Basing issues simplified; overflight of third party nations alleviated (depending on launch location)

- Maximum stealth and surprise can be maintained prior to launch

- **Disadvantages**

- Weapons not recallable in flight

- Lead time required to generate and transit needed to desired launch point

- System may be vulnerable to modern air defense systems

- Terrain factors limit employment flexibility

- Weapon yield may be too large for certain theater targets

- Launch platform must receive updated data transfer device in order to update a mission plan

c. Cruise missiles launched from long-range bombers

- **Advantages**

- Weapon can penetrate heavily defended area without risk to crew

- Weapon can be launched from international airspace

- Bomber aircraft range is significant

Role of US Theater Nuclear Operations

- **Weapon system is recallable prior to launch from bomber**
- **Disadvantages**
 - **Weapon yield may be too large for certain theater targets**
 - **System may have to be released from Single Integrated Operational Plan (SIOP) commitment**
 - **Missile is not recallable in flight**
 - **System may be vulnerable to modern air defense systems**
 - **Terrain factors limit employment flexibility**
- d. **SLBMs**
- **Advantages**
 - **Weapon can penetrate heavily defended areas without risk to crew**
 - **Weapon can be launched in international waters**
 - **Weapon can be on target in minimal time**
 - **Maximum stealth and surprise can be maintained prior to launch**
 - **System provides flexible targeting capability**
 - **Weapon has multiple warheads**
- **Disadvantages**
 - **Weapon yield may be too large for certain theater targets**
 - **Multiple warheads present more planning challenges**
 - **Missile is not recallable in flight**
 - **System must be released from SIOP commitment**
- e. **ICBMs**
- **Advantages**
 - **Weapon can penetrate heavily defended areas without risk to crew**
 - **Weapon can be on target in minimal time**
 - **Planning time is short**
 - **Weapon has multiple warheads**
- **Disadvantages**
 - **Weapon yield may be too large for certain theater targets**
 - **System requires release from SIOP**
 - **Missile is not recallable**
 - **Booster may fall on US or Canadian territory**
 - **Multiple warheads present more planning challenges**

CHAPTER III PLANNING AND EMPLOYMENT

"The unrelenting progress of mankind causes continual change in the weapons; and with that must come a continual change in the manner of fighting."

Mahan, 1890

1. General

When directed by the NCA, joint force commanders (JFCs) plan for the employment of nuclear weapons by US forces in a manner consistent with national policy and strategic guidance. The employment of such weapons signifies an escalation of the war and is an NCA decision. USSTRATCOM is tasked by the Nuclear Supplement of the JSCP to provide specific support to geographic combatant commanders for their nuclear planning. Additional guidance is also provided by geographic combatant commander OPLANs and CJCS EAPs. Nuclear operations planning should be integrated into operation plans to maximize effects needed to achieve the CINC's desired objectives. Use of nuclear forces should be restrictive, with tight limits on area and time of use so that the adversary will recognize the "political signal" and not assume that the US has moved to general nuclear war.

2. Employment Guidelines

The employment of nuclear weapons is restricted to those situations where the military gain is commensurate with political objectives and the law of armed conflict. Complete destruction of enemy forces is not necessarily required to achieve a desired objective; rather, containment and a demonstrated will to employ additional nuclear weapons toward a specific goal are the preferred methods. Their suitability is based on the following considerations (see Figure III-1):



Figure III-1. Nuclear Weapons Employment Suitability Guidelines

a. **Relative Effectiveness.** The relative effectiveness of nuclear and nonnuclear weapons must be weighed. The employment of nuclear weapons must offer a clearly significant advantage over nonnuclear munitions. When nuclear weapons will produce only a marginal gain in effectiveness over nonnuclear weapons, there may be no

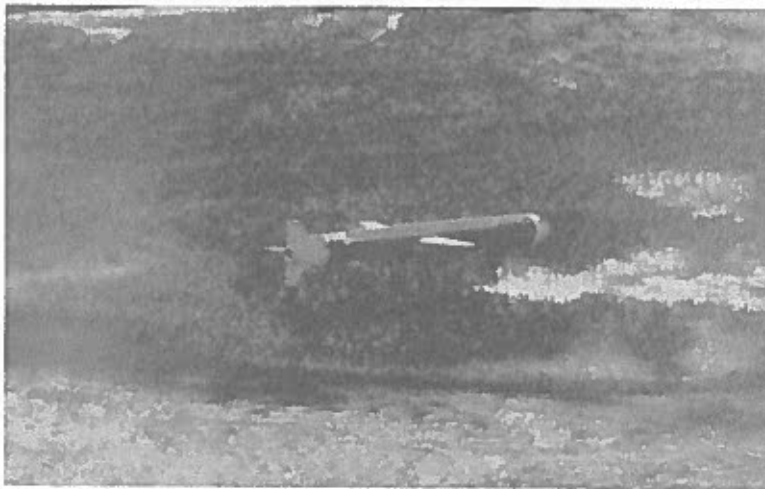
Chapter III

reason to use them since their employment is likely to have geopolitical and military implications beyond the immediate situation.

b. Nuclear Collateral Damage. Such damage includes dangers to friendly forces, civilians, and nonmilitary related facilities, creation of obstacles, and residual radiation contamination. Since the **avoidance of casualties among friendly forces and civilians is a prime consideration when planning theater nuclear operations, preclusion limitation analysis must be performed to identify and limit the proximity of a nuclear strike to civilians and friendly forces.** The amount of damage varies with the protective posture of civilians and friendly units, delivery system accuracy, weapon yield, and height of burst. Additionally, these operations may create **obstacles that inhibit both friendly and enemy**

Effects Data," provides avoidance tables. Specific techniques for reducing collateral damage include:

- **Reducing Weapon Yield.** Balance the size of the weapon needed to achieve the desired damage against the associated danger to areas surrounding the target.
- **Improving Accuracy.** Accurate delivery systems are more likely to strike the desired aimpoint, reducing both the required yield and potential collateral damage.
- **Employing Multiple Weapons.** Collateral damage can be reduced by dividing a large target into several small ones and using smaller weapons rather than one large one.



The employment of cruise missiles on specific targets in a theater scenario needs to be carefully analyzed to avoid detrimental collateral damage.

movement (e.g., tree blow down, fires, area contamination, and rubble). **Determining the possibility and extent of collateral damage is a joint force command level and USSTRATCOM responsibility.** Joint Pub 3-12.2, "Nuclear Weapons Employment

- **Adjusting the Height of Burst (HOB).** HOB adjustments, including the use of subsurface detonations, are a major means of controlling collateral damage and fallout. The HOB has a significant influence on the radius of damage.

- **Offsetting the Desired Ground Zero (DGZ).** DGZ offset may achieve the desired weapon effects while avoiding collateral damage.
- c. **Enemy Responses.** In developing plans, commanders and their staffs should consider the enemy's capabilities and likely responses to nuclear operations.

JOINT TASK FORCE ONE - 1946

The operations of Joint Task Force One in conducting the [South Pacific atomic bomb] tests have set a pattern for close, effective cooperation of the Armed Services and civilian scientists in the planning and execution of this highly technical operation. Moreover, the tests have provided valuable training of personnel in joint operations requiring great precision and coordination of effort.

It is impossible to evaluate an atomic burst in terms of conventional explosives. As to detonation and blast effects, where the largest bomb of the past was effective within a radius of a few hundred feet, the atomic bomb's effectiveness can be measured in thousands of feet. However, the radiological effects have no parallel in conventional weapons. It is necessary that a conventional bomb score a direct hit or a near miss of not more than a few feet to cause significant damage to a battleship. At Bikini the second bomb, bursting under water, sank a battleship immediately at a distance of well over 500 feet. It damaged an aircraft carrier so that it sank in a few hours, while another battleship sank after five days. The first bomb, bursting in air, did great harm to the superstructures of major ships within a half-mile radius, but did only minor damage to their hulls. No ship within a mile of either burst could have escaped without some damage to itself and serious injury to a large number of its crew.

Although lethal results might have been more or less equivalent, the radiological phenomena accompanying the two bursts were markedly different. In the case of the airburst bomb, it seems certain that unprotected personnel within one mile would have suffered high casualties by intense neutron and gamma radiation as well as by blast and heat. Those surviving immediate effects would not have been menaced by radioactivity persisting after the burst.

In the case of the underwater explosion, the airburst wave was far less intense and there was no heat wave of significance. Moreover, because of the absorption of neutrons and gamma rays by water, the lethal quality of the first flash of radiation was not of high order. But the second bomb threw large masses of highly radioactive water onto the decks and into the hulls of vessels. These contaminated ships became radioactive stoves and would have burned all living things aboard them with invisible and painless but deadly radiation.

Observations during the two tests have established the general types and range of effectiveness of air and shallow underwater atomic-bomb bursts on naval vessels, army materiel, including a wide variety of Quartermaster stores, and personnel. From these observations and from instrumental data it will now be possible to outline such changes, not only in military and naval design, but also in strategy and tactics, as future events may indicate.

SOURCE: Preliminary Statement, Joint Chiefs of Staff Evaluation Board on Bikini Atomic Tests, August 2, 1946

d. **Planning.** Advance planning is critical to the successful use of nuclear weapons. Targeting guidance and plans must be current, be tied to national and theater intelligence assessments, satisfy specified objectives, and meet existing or expected release conditions. Planners should consider:

- **Level of effort required for conventional targeting.** If the target is heavily defended such that heavy losses are expected, a nuclear weapon may be favored over a conventional attack.
- **Length of time that a target must be kept out of action.** A nuclear weapon attack will likely put a target out of action for a longer period of time than a conventional weapon attack.
- **Logistic support and anticipation of delays caused by the “fog and friction” of war.** Such delays are unpredictable and may range from several hours to a number of days.

e. **Execution Planning.** The effects of nuclear weapons can significantly affect all types of forces. This is increasingly likely the closer forces are to the detonation and, in particular, when forces are within line of sight of the detonation. Commanders tasked with execution planning should deconflict force locations, plan around effects on communications, and ensure that they have the means to inform all other commanders in time to avoid friendly casualties.

f. **Other Considerations.** Geographic combatant commanders and their staffs must also be aware of any national or theater level constraints (legal, political, or military) imposed on the use of nuclear weapons and plan accordingly.

3. Targeting

Targeting is the process of selecting targets and matching the appropriate response to them by taking account of operational requirements and capabilities. Targeting includes the analysis of enemy situations relative to the commander's mission, objectives, and capabilities at the commander's disposal, as well as the identification and nomination of specific vulnerabilities that, if exploited, will accomplish the commander's purpose through delaying, disrupting, disabling, or destroying critical enemy forces or resources. As with all actions of the joint force, targeting and attack functions are accomplished in accordance with international law, international agreements and conventions, and rules of engagement approved by the NCA for the particular operation.

a. **Targeting occurs and is performed at all levels of command within a joint force.** Targeting is complicated by the requirement to deconflict duplicative targeting by different forces or different echelons within the same force and to synchronize the attack of those targets with other dimensions of the joint force.

b. **Joint force commanders establish broad planning objectives and guidance** for attack of enemy strategic and operational centers of gravity and interdiction of enemy forces as an integral part of joint campaigns and major operations. With the advice of subordinate commanders, JFCs set priorities, provide targeting guidance, and determine the weight of effort to be provided to various operations.

c. **Targeting mechanisms should exist at multiple levels.** The NCA or headquarters senior to JFCs may provide guidance, priorities, and targeting support to JFCs.

d. The targeting process is **cyclical**. It begins with guidance and priorities issued by the NCA and CJCS in parallel with appropriate allied command guidance and priorities, to direct joint force and component commanders and continues through its final step of combat assessment. The process consists of the following phases (see Figure III-2):

- **NCA/Commander's Guidance.** Guidance and objectives from the NCA, CJCS, and joint force and component commanders initiate the targeting cycle.
- **Target Development.** Development of a target focuses on knowing the adversary

and identifying and nominating critical elements of adversary target systems for attack.

- **Weaponeeing Assessment.** In this phase, targeting personnel quantify the expected results of lethal and nonlethal weapons employment against prioritized targets.
- **Force Application.** The next phase integrates the results of earlier planning phases conducted by USSTRATCOM with the execution request by the geographic combatant commander to fuse target, weapon system, and munitions types and nonlethal force options.

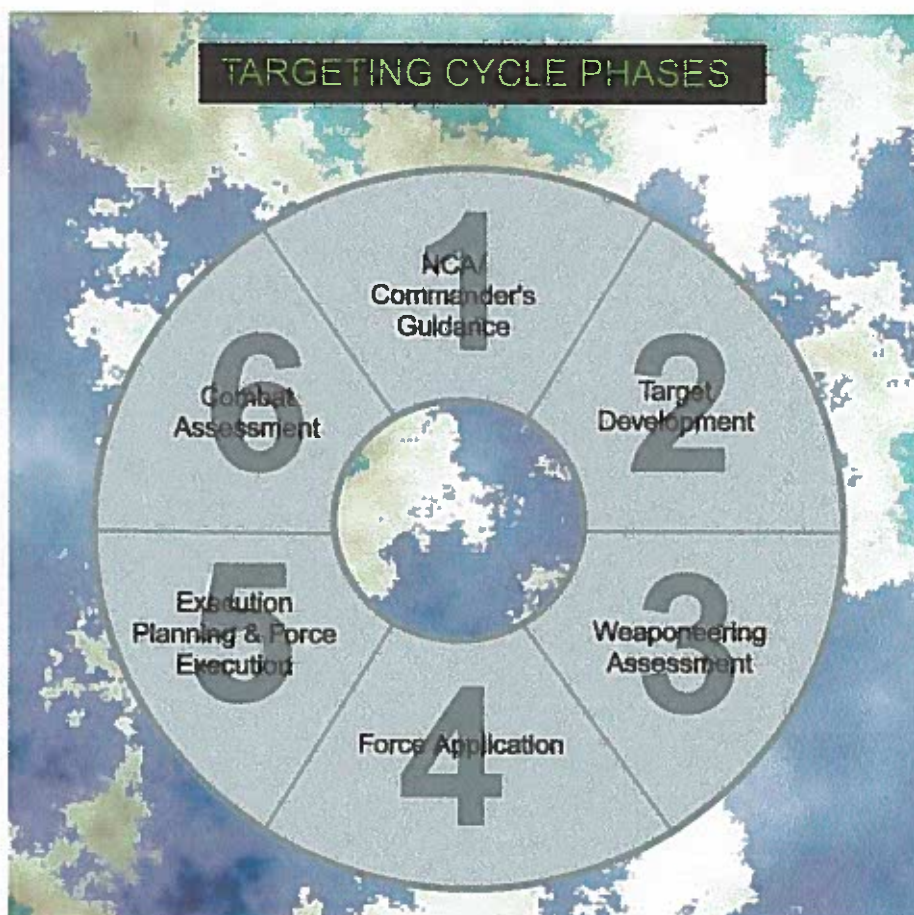


Figure III-2. Targeting Cycle Phases



The targeting process supports the application of the appropriate force at the appropriate location and time.

- **Execution Planning and Force Execution.** This phase involves final tasking order preparation and transmission and specific mission planning and material preparation at the unit level.
- **Combat Assessment.** The final phase is a joint effort designed to determine if the required target effects are being achieved for each of the components, consistent with the JFC's campaign objectives. **Nuclear combat assessment is composed of two segments: battle damage assessment (BDA) and reattack recommendation.**

Additional information on targeting can be found in Joint Pub 2-0, "Joint Doctrine for Intelligence Support to Operations," Joint Pub 2-01.1, "JTTP for Intelligence Support to Targeting," Joint Pub 3-0, "Doctrine for Joint Operations," and Joint Pub 3-56.1, "Command and Control for Joint Air Operations."

4. Targeting Considerations

a. Geographic combatant commanders may consider the following factors in

determining how to defeat the individual targets composing the overall threat. No single statement of damage criteria will cover all situations. Planning should address the considerations shown in Figure III-3.

b. **Planning the use of nuclear weapons** is based on knowledge of enemy force strength and disposition, the number, yields, and types of weapons available, and the status and disposition of friendly forces at the time that weapons are employed. **Enemy combat forces and facilities that may be likely targets for nuclear strikes are:**

- WMD and their delivery systems, as well as associated command and control, production, and logistical support units
- Ground combat units and their associated command and control and support units
- Air defense facilities and support installations
- Naval installations, combat vessels, and associated support facilities and command and control capabilities

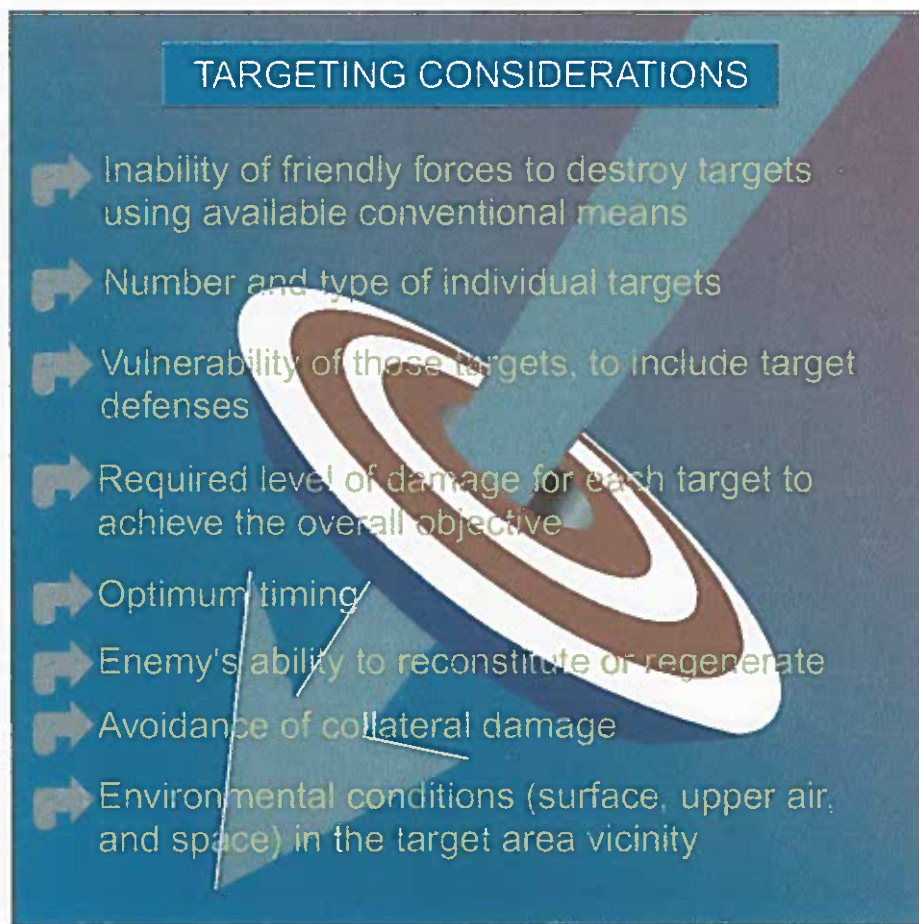


Figure III-3. Targeting Considerations

- ➔ Nonstate actors (facilities and operation centers) that possess WMD
- ➔ International reaction and geopolitical repercussions
- Underground facilities
- b. Military**
- Whether or not an alternative means exists to achieve the objective
- 5. NCA Considerations for Employment**
- Geographical area for employment
- a. Political**
- ➔ Relationship to US vital interests, treaty commitments, diplomatic agreements, and area denial and escalation implications
- ➔ Type of delivery system
- Types of targets to be attacked
- Perception of US will and resolve
- Timing and duration of nuclear weapon employment.

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- Collateral damage constraints
 - Target analysis
 - The quantity, type, and yield of available weapons
- c. Legal. Law of Armed Conflict

Along with the above considerations, additional factors may affect nuclear employment — supplementary guidance on these aspects can be found in the Nuclear Supplement to the JSCP.

6. Enemy Use of Weapons of Mass Destruction

When formulating courses of action, **operation planning should address the possibility that an enemy will use WMD.** Planning should also evaluate nuclear, biological and chemical (NBC) defensive measures. Joint Pub 3-11, "Joint Doctrine for Nuclear, Biological and Chemical (NBC) Defense," and the appropriate Joint Pub 3-01 series provide additional guidance. In theater, the combatant commander must consider the enemy's NBC weapon and delivery system capability when considering courses of action. If the enemy threat capability assessment indicates an NBC potential, **the campaign plan should address active and passive defense measures** necessary to counter the potential use of such weapons and provide for guidance in defending against such a threat.

a. **Enemy aircraft, theater missiles, and artillery are the most likely delivery systems that could strike friendly forces.** The JFC must be able to conduct successful counterforce operations, which include joint theater missile defense, with the ultimate goal of protecting friendly forces from such attacks. **Counterforce operations** include counterair operations conducted to attain and maintain

air superiority by destruction or neutralization of enemy forces. Both air offensive and air defensive actions are involved and may include offensive and defensive operations against theater WMD platforms. The joint force commander will normally designate both a **joint force air component commander (JFACC)** and an **area air defense commander (AADC)**. The JFACC functions as the supported commander for counterair, strategic attack, theater airborne reconnaissance and surveillance, and the overall air interdiction effort. The AADC is responsible for integrating the joint force air defense effort. Operations must be planned and executed to **destroy or eliminate enemy WMD delivery systems and supporting infrastructure** before they can be employed against friendly forces. For these reasons, offensive operations against enemy WMD and delivery systems should be undertaken once hostilities become inevitable or commence.

b. The threat of WMD use extends across the range of military operations. For this reason, **threat analysis, enemy capabilities, and associated doctrine** should be considered when planning joint operations which could involve NBC attacks. In all cases, **friendly forces should be prepared to conduct and sustain operations in such an environment.** Nuclear weapons can cause **casualties or damage** through blast, overpressure, thermal radiation, proximity to initial nuclear radiation, fallout radiation, and EMP. Biological and chemical weapons cause serious injury or death through their toxic properties. WMD can also produce casualties from the psychological effect of their use. More specific guidance can be found in Joint Pub 3-11, "Joint Doctrine for Nuclear, Biological, and Chemical (NBC) Defense."

c. A JFC may not know exactly what portion of his forces, allied forces, or

geopolitical assets in a theater may be targeted by enemy operations. The obvious targets would be those that support critical friendly centers of gravity. Examples are shown in Figure III-4.



Figure III-4. Friendly Targets of Enemy Weapons of Mass Destruction

Regardless of the targets struck, the JFC must be aware that the **operations tempo** may be significantly affected by a WMD attack.

7. Geographic Combatant Commander Planning for Theater Nuclear Operations

CINCs develop **theater strategy** in conformance with national strategic plans and develop theater strategies, campaign plans, OPLANs, and other plans in coordination with subordinate commanders, other supporting commanders, and allies.

a. CINCs prepare for war by **planning and organizing for conflict during peacetime**. This peacetime planning is based on higher level planning guidance and CINC planning assumptions such as warning time, enemy capabilities and intentions, and location of the threat. The CINC is responsible for defining theater objectives, nominating targets, and developing the plans required to support those objectives. USSTRATCOM supports the CINCs throughout the deliberate planning process to develop tailored nuclear support annexes to theater OPLANs.

b. CINCs direct the development of **campaign plans, subordinate campaign plans, and major operation plans**. Review of these plans is a continuous process, incorporating lessons learned from exercises and operations, changes in available forces, and reevaluation of the threat.

c. Component commanders responsible for execution of major operations prepare appropriate plans.

8. Joint Planning Process

Joint operation planning is a coordinated set of **two processes** used by a commander to determine the best method of accomplishing the mission. In peacetime, it is called the **deliberate planning process**. In crisis situations, the **crisis action planning**

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process is used. Guidance for preparing and coordinating plans for the employment of nuclear weapons is provided in the Nuclear Supplement to the JSCP. Guidance on the joint planning process can be found in Joint Pub 5-0, "Doctrine for Planning Joint Operations," and Joint Pub 5-03.1, "Joint Operation Planning and Execution System, Volume I (Planning Policies and Procedures)."

9. Nuclear Requirements

USCINCSTRAT will coordinate and develop procedures, when required, for the storage, security, movement, deployment, and employment of nuclear weapons within the theater.

10. Crisis Management

Because preplanned theater nuclear options do not exist for every scenario, **CINCs must have a capability to plan and execute nuclear options for nuclear forces generated on short notice** during crisis and emergency situations. During crisis action planning, geographic combatant commanders evaluate their theater situation and propose courses of action or initiate a request for nuclear support. The CJCS, in coordination with USCINCSTRAT and appropriate supporting CINCs, will initiate crisis action procedures contained in the Nuclear Supplement to the JSCP and the USSTRATCOM supporting plan to provide nuclear support to the supported geographic combatant commander.

CHAPTER IV

COMMAND RESPONSIBILITIES AND STAFF PROCEDURES

"Unless a staff officer is able to assist his commander in getting things done, in addition to coordinating, planning and policy making, he is not serving his full usefulness."

General Alexander M. Patch
Quoted in Ray S. Cline,
Washington Command Post, 1951

1. Command Guidance

a. Since nuclear weapons can have a significant impact on the conduct of operations at all levels in a theater, command guidance must be provided as early as possible in the planning process. **In the initial guidance, commanders should provide information to their staffs and components about employing nuclear weapons as well as information on other forces and conventional weapons.** Additionally, the geographic combatant commanders should identify targets and target options to USCINCPAC as early in the planning process as possible. **When requested by the geographic combatant commander, USSTRATCOM will develop theater nuclear support plans.**

b. Commanders and their staff officers should understand **effects, employment procedures, capabilities, and limitations** of available nuclear weapon systems. Target analysts, along with USSTRATCOM planners, can provide technical advice and assistance to commanders and staffs.

c. Command guidance normally consists of the items shown in Figure IV-1.

2. Target Acquisition

a. In a conventional conflict, the primary purpose of intelligence is to provide commanders with sufficient information on enemy locations and probable courses of action so that they can apply combat power at decisive points and critical times. This

COMMAND GUIDANCE FOR NUCLEAR OPERATIONS

- 1 A statement of the desired results such as halting an enemy attack, striking a particular enemy facility, or neutralizing a particular enemy target set
- 2 Circumstances or decision points leading to a geographic combatant commander's request for nuclear execution
- 3 The concept for the subsequent use of weapons if the initial effort does not accomplish the desired results
- 4 Delivery systems available for planning
- 5 The level of acceptable risk to friendly troops and noncombatants
- 6 Restrictions on fallout from a detonation
- 7 Collateral damage criteria
- 8 Criteria for intelligence collection, target priorities, and combat assessment for a possible restrike, if necessary
- 9 Projection of limitations for subsequent deployment and logistical support to conventional joint operations

Figure IV-1. Command Guidance for Nuclear Operations—

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purpose remains the same in a nuclear environment.

b. **Target acquisition** is an integral part of the **intelligence collection process**. It involves the timely **detection, identification, and location of a target** in sufficient detail to use weapons effectively. Intelligence systems assist in target tracking and development of intelligence for target analysis, target refinement, weapons employment, and BDA. **The effectiveness of a nuclear strike is enhanced by the accuracy, completeness, and timeliness of intelligence.** Thus, intelligence collection efforts should continuously seek specific information on potential targets, such as that shown in Figure IV-2.

c. Because each target acquisition technique has its inherent strengths and weaknesses, intelligence collection should be broadly based, obtaining information from all available sources to include enemy doctrine and tactics, policy, and strategy.

d. Additional information on target acquisition can be found in Joint Pub 3-55, "Doctrine for Reconnaissance, Surveillance, and Target Acquisition Support for Joint Operations."

3. Integrated Intelligence Planning

Intelligence planning is a key element of any operation. The **collection, production, and dissemination** of intelligence to satisfy the requirements of operational units is of paramount importance. In developing the initial and follow-on collection plans, **intelligence personnel must ensure that all available intelligence assets, whether national or organic, are tasked to cover the designated target** and provide early warning of enemy use of WMD.



Figure IV-2. Information Required on Potential Targets

4. Joint Operation Planning

Joint operation planning is based on the **mission, the enemy, terrain, combat forces constraints, logistic support available, and time**. During the estimate of the situation, the commander develops courses of action, compares and evaluates them against possible enemy responses, and recommends the best course of action. **The commander identifies the situations where the use of theater nuclear forces would result in a significant advantage**

over the enemy. Proper joint operation planning increases the commander's flexibility and facilitates the package approval and release process.

5. Peacetime Planning

Given an operation plan within an area of responsibility and/or joint operations area and a threat, it is advantageous to plan as many potential operations as possible in peacetime. The objective is to **provide plans for nuclear operations that are ready to be used immediately should the need arise and yet are flexible enough to accommodate the dynamic environment that could develop as a conflict matures.** Joint force commanders normally delegate authority for execution planning, coordination, and deconfliction to a commander possessing sufficient command and control infrastructure, adequate facilities, and joint planning expertise. Component commanders, including potential JFACCs, should develop and evaluate plans for employment to include airspace and frequency deconfliction and communications planning.

6. Support Coordination

a. **Nuclear support** is coordinated through geographic combatant commander and/or subordinate joint force commander channels. US Air Force or Navy delivery systems can provide nuclear support to Army or Marine Corps operations. Coordination with the Air Force component is made through the Air Force air operations center (AOC) by the collocated Army battlefield coordination element. Coordination with the Navy and Marine Corps components is made through the naval and amphibious liaison element. Coordination with special operations forces (SOF) can be made through the special operations liaison element.

b. When preparing nuclear support plans, USSTRATCOM will coordinate with supporting Service components and the geographic combatant commander to **prevent fratricide and ensure unity of effort.** USSTRATCOM planners require input from Service experts to ensure that appropriate weapon yields, delivery methods, and safe delivery routing are selected. **Targeting**



Theater nuclear support delivered by US Air Force and Navy systems is thoroughly coordinated among USSTRATCOM, the Services, and the geographic combatant commander to ensure unity of effort.

Chapter IV

conflicts should be resolved with direct consultations between the supporting and supported CINCs' staffs. Joint Pub 3-12.2, "Nuclear Weapons Employment Effects Data," provides data and technical procedures to analyze nuclear weapons effects.

c. Consideration must be given to **special operations forces** operating in an area of nuclear operations. Coordination with the joint force special operations component commander is crucial, since this commander controls SOF operating in enemy territory. **Such operations must be deconflicted with the appropriate planning element** to avoid SOF being in the vicinity of nuclear operations.

7. Control and Distribution

a. Nuclear weapon supply levels and expenditure are **tightly controlled**. The **NCA and combatant commander control the distribution of nuclear weapons** based upon the number of weapons assigned, operational requirements, and the threat.

b. Distributing nuclear weapons requires logistical as well as operational consideration. Distribution is affected by the factors shown in Figure IV-3.

Additional information on distribution of nuclear weapons can be found in CJCSM 3150.04 (formerly Joint Pub 1-03.7), "JRS, Nuclear Weapons Reports (U)," and Defense Nuclear Agency guidance on nuclear logistics, transfer, and reporting policies.

c. Commanders and staff officers should know and understand the **capabilities and limitations of the logistics system**. The nuclear weapon logistics system is tailored to operate in various environments. Planning and controlling nuclear weapons support should involve:

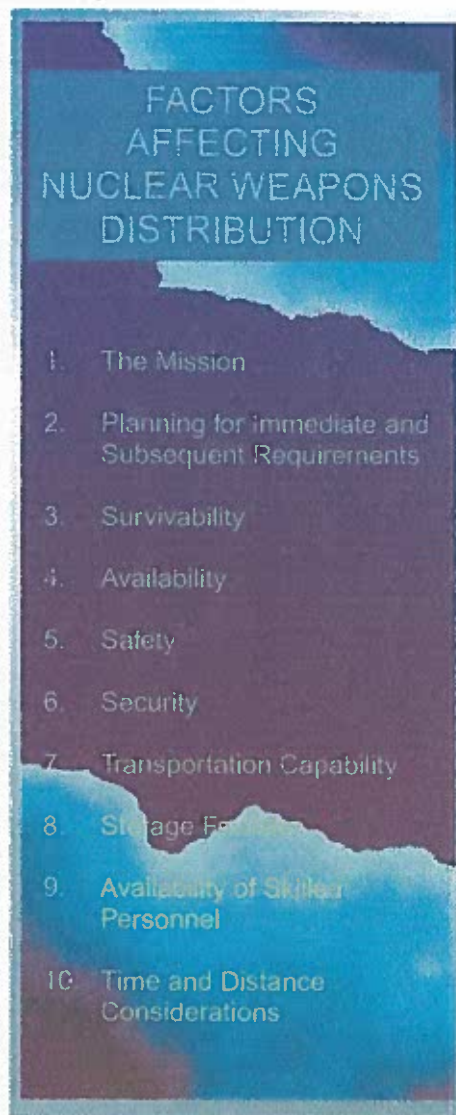


Figure IV-3. Factors Affecting Nuclear Weapons Distribution

- continuous nuclear logistic support of tactical operations
- simplicity and uniformity in procedures
- minimum handling of nuclear weapons
- security of classified or critical material and installations