8.3 Operational planning process

The **Operations Planning Process (OPP)** is applied at the operational level by designated **Joint Force Command Headquarters (JFC HQ)** or **Operational Level Headquarters (HQs)**. This process follows the **six phases of the NATO Crisis Response Process (NCRP)**, ensuring that strategic decisions incorporate the considerations and inputs of subordinate commands and components. The **first graphic** provides an overview of this six-phase process, detailing each stage of planning from **Political-Military Estimates** to **Strategic and Operational Plan Development**.

In cases of urgency or when Advance Plans exist, the **North Atlantic Council (NAC)** may direct the application of **Fast Track or Accelerated Decision Making Procedures (FTDM/ADM)**, using streamlined procedures within the NCRP framework.

**The second graphic** illustrate how CIMIC staff provide essential inputs during each phase, from **Situation Awareness** to **Transition**, ensuring that civil considerations are integrated into strategic and operational decision-making.



