



ANNEX 3-14 SPACE OPERATIONS

**COMMAND AND CONTROL OF SPACE FORCES**

Last Updated: 19 June 2012

The Unified Command Plan establishes the US Strategic Command (USSTRATCOM) as the functional unified command with overall responsibility for military [space](#) operations, except as otherwise directed.<sup>1</sup> The Joint Functional Component Command for Space (JFCC SPACE) is a component of USSTRATCOM and is responsible for executing continuous, integrated space operations to deliver theater and global effects in support of national and combatant commander objectives.<sup>2</sup> JFCC SPACE coordinates space operational-level [planning](#), integration, and coordination to ensure unity of effort in support of military and national security operations and support to civil authorities.

Air Force space forces are presented by the commander of Air Force Space Command (AFSPC/CC), as USSTRATCOM’s commander of Air Force forces (COMAFFOR) for space operations. The 14th Air Force (14 AF) is the Component Numbered Air Force (C-NAF) for space operations—Air Forces Strategic (AFSTRAT).<sup>3</sup> The commander of USSTRATCOM (CDRUSSTRATCOM) has designated the commander of 14 AF (AFSTRAT) as the commander of JFCC SPACE (CDR JFCC SPACE). The 614th [Air Operations Center](#) (614 AOC) forms the core of the [Joint Space Operations Center](#) (JSpOC).

**Air Forces Strategic**

Three C-NAFs designated in support of USSTRATCOM carry the suffix title “Air Forces Strategic (AFSTRAT).”

8 AF (AFSTRAT)

14 AF (AFSTRAT)

20 AF (AFSTRAT)

8th Air Force and 20th Air Force are organized under Air Force Global Strike Command.

CDRUSSTRATCOM has combatant command authority (COCOM) of all space forces as assigned by the Secretary of Defense (SecDef) in the *Forces For Unified Commands* memorandum. CDRUSSTRATCOM employs these forces to support worldwide operations. Typically, CDRUSSTRATCOM retains operational control (OPCON) of assigned space forces and establishes direct support or direct liaison authority (DIRLAUTH) relationships with other combatant

<sup>1</sup> The Unified Command Plan, DOD Directive 3100.10 *Space Policy*, and JP 3-14 *Space Operations* (Chapter IV, para 4.a) state “except as otherwise directed” or “as directed,” generally referring to direction from the SecDef.

<sup>2</sup> JP 3-14, [Space Operations](#), states in Chapter IV, para 5.a.(1) that JFCC SPACE responsibilities exclude spacelift and ICBMs.

<sup>3</sup> HQ USAF Program Action Directive 10-02, C-NAF C2 Restructure, dated 2 Jun 2010.

commands and external agencies. Exceptions can occur in situations where space forces are deployed in theater to enable localized effects and be more responsive to warfighter needs. In these situations, the SecDef attaches the required forces with specification of OPCON to the geographic combatant commander (GCC). OPCON, along with the [space coordinating authority](#) (SCA) to integrate space capabilities, is typically delegated to a component commander who executes space operations taskings through a theater operations center.

The following two command relationship sections distinguish between support to [global operations](#) or [multiple theater operations](#) and support to a [single theater](#).

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