

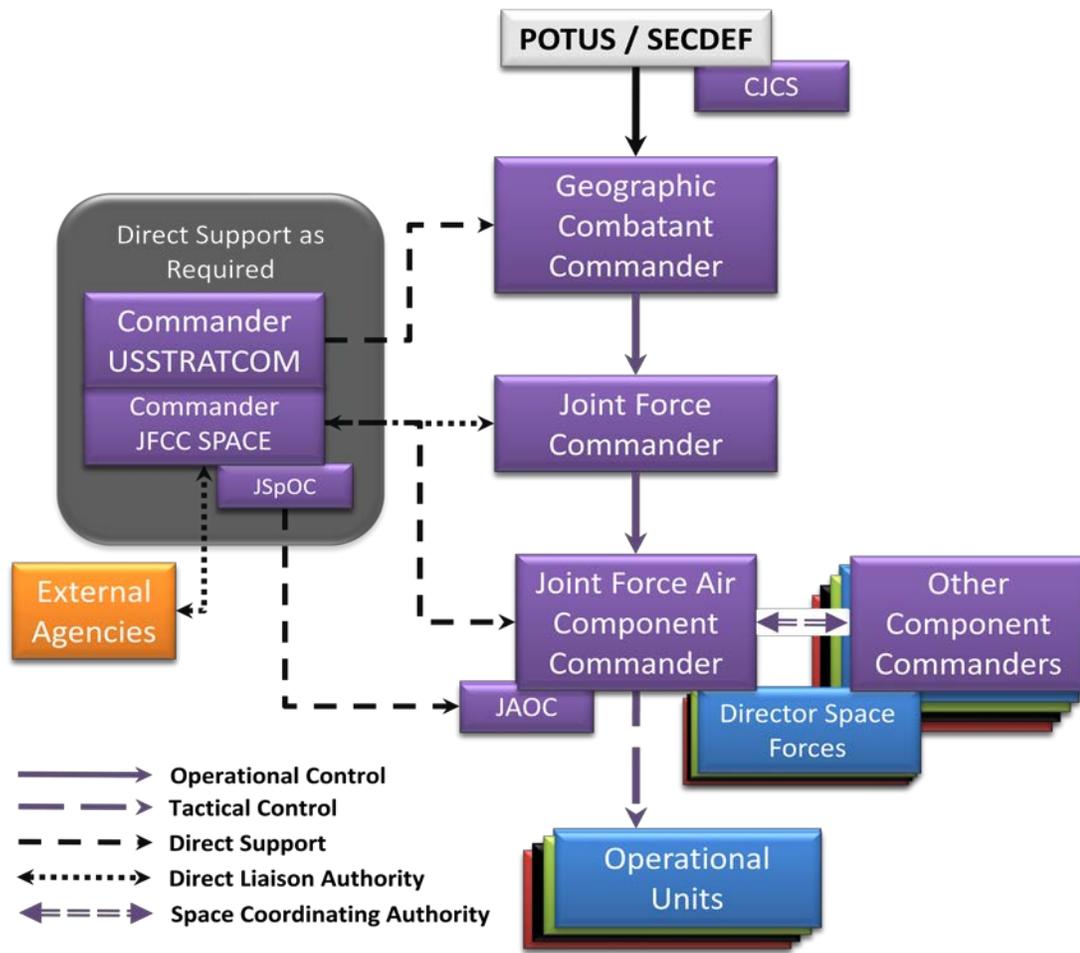


ANNEX 3-14 SPACE OPERATIONS

C2 OF THEATER SPACE FORCES

Last Updated: 19 June 2012

If the desired effects produced by space operations are focused primarily on a single theater, the Secretary of Defense (SecDef) may direct CDRUSSTRATCOM to attach space forces to the geographic combatant commander (GCC) of that theater. The SecDef will specify a command relationship (see figure titled Command Relationship for Theater Operations). The normal relationship for attached forces is tactical control (TACON), but a support relationship may be appropriate depending on the ability of the theater commander to command and control (C2) space operations as well as other factors like the nature and duration of the operation and the degree of integration (particularly timing and tempo) with non-space assets that is required.



Command Relationship for Theater Operations

When [space forces](#) are transferred with specification of OPCON from CDRUSSTRATCOM to a theater GCC, the GCC normally delegates OPCON to the appropriate Service component commander and TACON to the appropriate functional component commander, as required. The theater commander, Air Force forces (COMAFFOR) is the Service component commander for Air Force space forces. The functional component commander is usually the joint force air component commander (JFACC) in-theater. When the JFACC is designated in command relationships as the “supported” commander for space operations, the joint force commander (JFC) normally delegates [space coordinating authority](#) down to the JFACC to coordinate joint space operations and integrate theater and global space capabilities and effects. The COMAFFOR is normally dual-hatted as the JFACC. The COMAFFOR/JFACC is well suited to coordinate space operations because of the COMAFFOR/JFACC’s ability to exercise C2 of space forces, theater-wide perspective, and expertise on staff. A [director of space forces](#) (DIRSPACEFOR) is assigned to the COMAFFOR’s staff and serves as the senior space advisor to integrate [space capabilities](#) and effects. If the COMAFFOR/JFACC is delegated SCA, the DIRSPACEFOR will execute SCA responsibilities on behalf of the COMAFFOR/JFACC.

When the situation arises that there are no Air Force forces attached to a joint task force (JTF), the COMAFFOR to the GCC may be tasked in a supporting relationship to the JTF to integrate space capabilities and effects. For example, multiple JTFs in US Central Command’s area of responsibility (AOR) required space-enabled effects. Dual-hatted as the theater JFACC, the COMAFFOR integrated effects for JTFs in Afghanistan, Iraq, and the Horn of Africa.

During Operation IRAQI FREEDOM, a [defensive space control](#) (DSC) unit was deployed to theater to respond to episodes of electromagnetic interference affecting critical [satellite communications](#) (SATCOM) [frequencies](#). Since this interference was seemingly random and unpredictable, command relationships were established which allowed the combined [air operations center](#) (CAOC) to directly task the weapon system to dynamically employ real-time effects in support of combat operations.

Space experts on theater staffs facilitate space integration and operations. The Air Force embeds space expertise within its theater Service component staff and functional component (at the AOC) staff. Also, the Air Force may augment other theater staffs with space expertise to assist with tasking space operations in-theater and integrating global space capabilities and effects.
