



CURTIS E. LEMAY CENTER

FOR DOCTRINE DEVELOPMENT AND EDUCATION



ANNEX 3-30 COMMAND AND CONTROL

COMMAND AND CONTROL MECHANISMS

Last Updated: 7 Nov 2014

The [commander, Air Force forces](#) (COMAFFOR) requires [command and control mechanisms](#) to assist in exercising [operational control](#) (OPCON), [tactical control](#) (TACON), and [administrative control](#) (ADCON). The COMAFFOR normally uses some form of an [air operations center](#) (AOC) and a Service component staff, commonly called an [Air Force forces \(AFFOR\) staff](#), to exercise such control.

The core capabilities of the baseline AOC and AFFOR staff are well established, but should be tailored in size and function according to the operation. Not all operations require a “full-up” AOC with over 1,000 people or a large AFFOR staff. Smaller operations, such as some humanitarian operations, can in fact make do with a small control center that does little more than scheduling and reporting. Also, not all elements of the operations center or AFFOR staff need be forward; some may operate “over the horizon” using [reachback](#) to reduce the forward footprint. The goal is to maximize reachback and minimize forward presence as much as possible.

This section discusses the following topics:

- ✦ An [overview of the AOC](#).
- ✦ A similar [overview of the AFFOR staff](#).
- ✦ An overview of the various [liaisons that may be present in an AOC](#).
- ✦ An overview of the [joint air component coordination element](#) that is often used to provide an airpower focal point to other component headquarters in a joint force.