



ANNEX 3-30 COMMAND AND CONTROL

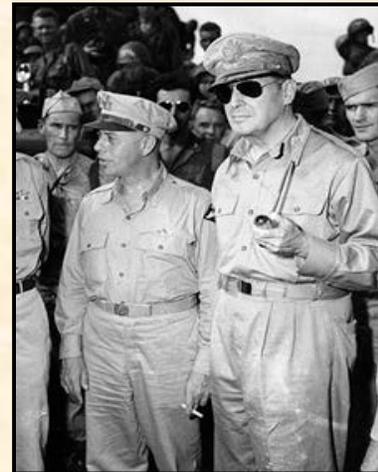
**AIR COMPONENT RELATIONSHIPS WITHIN  
A JOINT FORCE**

Last Reviewed: 7 Nov 2014

The joint force commander (JFC) normally assigns broad missions to the component commanders; with each mission comes a specification of supported commander for that mission. As an example, the JFC may designate the commander, Air Force forces (COMAFFOR) as the supported commander for strategic attack, air interdiction, and theater airborne intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (among other missions). As such, the COMAFFOR would be responsible to the JFC for planning, coordinating, and executing these missions, and other component commanders support the COMAFFOR. When outlining supported/supporting relationships, the JFC usually does not specify the degree and timing for that support; the subordinate commanders normally work that out.

**The commander responsible for a mission should be given the requisite authority to carry out that mission.** For some missions or functions, specification of support alone may be insufficient in order for a functional component commander to fully integrate and employ forces made available. In such instances, the JFC may delegate to a subordinate commander tactical control of specific elements of another component's resources (this, in fact, is the usual command authority exercised by functional component commanders over forces made available to them). This provides that commander with a better degree of control. Finally, written establishing directives are extremely useful in clearly outlining the supporting/supported relationship between commanders and providing guidance for staffs.

The COMAFFOR should establish a close working relationship with the JFC to ensure the best representation of airpower's potential. When possible, the COMAFFOR should co-locate with, or at least be positioned close to, the JFC, so they may benefit from frequent personal interaction. This fosters the personal trust between senior



*During World War II, General MacArthur and his senior Airman, Lt Gen Kenney, had a close working relationship. As a result, General Kenney enjoyed a high level of trust to employ air power as best fit his commander's objectives.*

commanders essential to joint operations. It also helps keep a greater air component presence in the joint force headquarters, especially during planning, as well as keeping the joint force headquarters staff from trying to plan and run air component operations in the perceived absence of the JFC's senior Airman. To facilitate this, in some situations the COMAFFOR may even elect to co-locate with the JFC at the expense of residing in the [air operations center](#).

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