



THEATER ORGANIZATIONS

Last Updated: 10 Jan 14

There are numerous organizations that may be called upon to support theater targeting and assessment efforts. It is imperative that AOC targeteers understand the organizations that they can utilize to support AOC targeting efforts, both in peacetime and during wartime.

Air Operations Center. The [intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance](#) (ISR) division within the AOC provides targeting expertise through the Targets/TA team. This team works with other AOC divisions to ensure continuity of the targeting process. Primary outputs from the Targets/TA team are electronic target folders (ETFs) that contains target data, target materials, weaponeering solutions, collateral damage estimates, and mensurated aimpoints for air component [target nomination list](#) (TNL), integrated TNLs, and STAR packages.¹ In addition, theaters have two supporting intelligence organizations: the 480th ISR WG's Distributed Common Ground System (AF DGS) with four supporting nodes, and the 67th Network Warfare Wing's offensive cyberspace operations capability within the 67th Network Warfare Group. These two organizations can provide intelligence and offensive capabilities to support lethal and nonlethal targeting solutions. Further, the director of space forces (DIRSPACEFOR) may be of assistance in coordinating space requirements in support of targeting. When [contingency operations](#) exceed available manning and system requirements in the ISR division, the COMAFFOR/JFACC can request reachback support.

Air Force Distributed Common Ground System (AFDCGS). The Air Force has developed an intelligence weapon system to provide enhanced intelligence processing, exploitation, and dissemination (PED) support for worldwide operations. While these units do not typically provide support directly to targeteers, they do provide SIGINT MASINT and IMINT support to theater AOCs that ultimately support targeting and assessment. DCGS provides Planning and direction, [collection, processing and exploitation, analysis](#) and [dissemination](#) (PCPAD) for a variety of platforms including the U-2, RQ-4 Global Hawk, R/MQ-1 Predator, MQ-9 Reaper, MC-12 Project Liberty, and others.

¹ See Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Instruction (CJCSI) 3122.06, *Sensitive Target Approval and Review (STAR) Process* (classified publication), for more information on sensitive targets.

There are currently five operational DGSs units. While each DGS is regionally aligned to a primary theater for familiarity and situational awareness, the DCGS operates as a single entity and specific DGSs units can be called upon to flex from their primary theater to support a more critical area, as warfighter needs dictate. Targeteers should keep this in mind when the ISR/D request (PCPAD) support from AF DCGS. AF DCGS is not part of a theater AOC or a theater's assigned forces. However, AF DCGS products, reporting, and support can prove beneficial to AOC [joint intelligence preparation of the operational environment](#) (JIPOE), targeting, collection management, and assessment efforts.

National Tactical Integration (NTI). The Air Force NTI team embedded in the AOCs makes available a cadre of expertise to provide substantive and timely reachback and integration of national SIGINT to inform and enhance targeting, planning, operations, and force protection.
