



ANNEX 3-72 NUCLEAR OPERATIONS

PRESENTATION OF NUCLEAR FORCES

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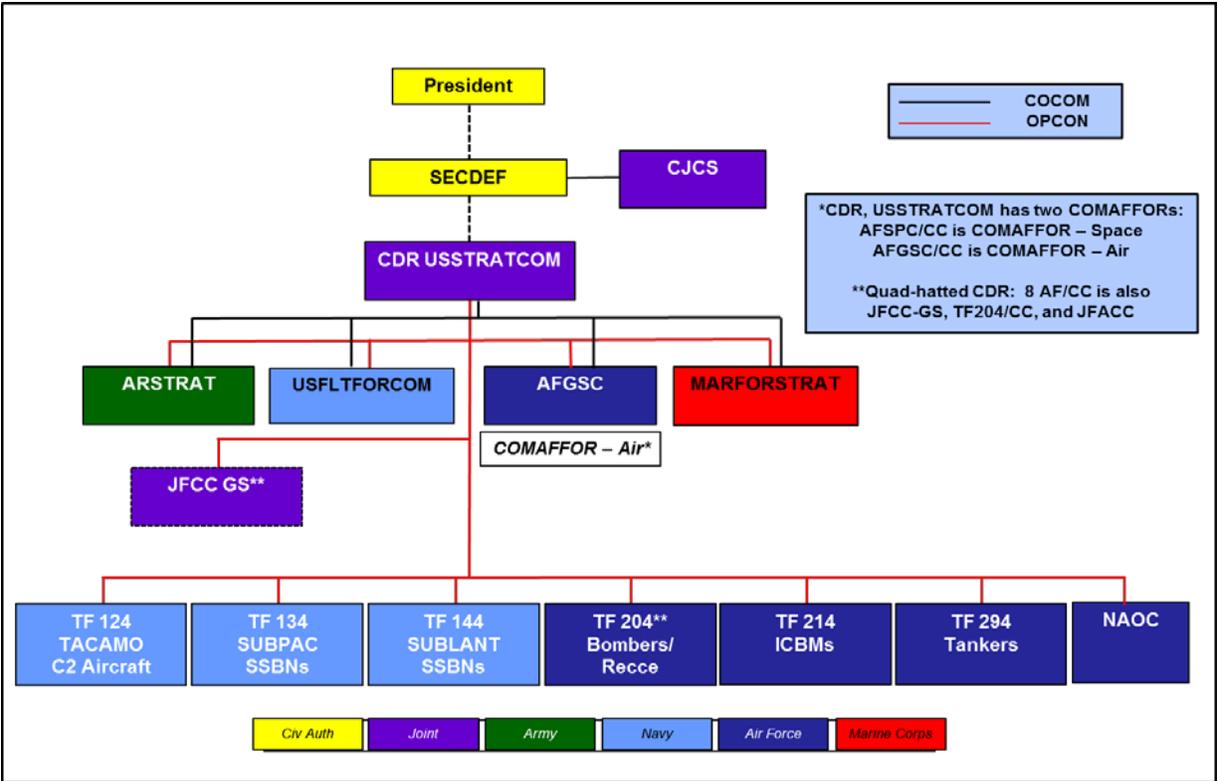
The command structure established by Commander, US Strategic Command (USSTRATCOM), (CDRUSSTRATCOM) is different than other [combatant command](#) (CCMD) structures due to its range of assigned missions and the number and range of supporting commands and agencies from which it draws forces and capabilities. Within USSTRATCOM are a number of [joint functional component commands](#) (JFCCs) in lieu of standing [joint task forces](#) (JTFs). The roles and responsibilities of the JFCCs vary, as well as the [command relationships](#) of the supporting Service components. As a result of this organization, care must be taken to understand the various command arrangements, disposition of [command authorities](#), and roles of subordinate commanders. It is important to keep track of joint and Service command lines, especially since these frequently converge on dual- or multi-hatted commanders.

The following discussion will deal only with organization for USSTRATCOM's nuclear operations mission.

USSTRATCOM Organization for Nuclear Operations

Nuclear forces within USSTRATCOM, when generated, are organized as single-Service functional task forces. See following figure, *USSTRATCOM Organization for Nuclear Operations*. Task Force 204 includes nuclear-capable bombers and airborne reconnaissance; Task Force 214 consists of ICBMs; and Task Force 294 includes [air refueling](#) aircraft and [airlift](#) support. Comparable task forces exist for the Navy's ballistic missile submarines (Task Forces 134 and 144) and for airborne communications (Task Force 124). Each task force may have its own commander.

It is important to note that the task force commanders are not joint commanders within the normal constellation of [joint force commanders](#) as described in joint doctrine. However, they do exercise [tactical control](#) (TACON) over their forces as delegated by CDRUSSTRATCOM through [operations orders](#) (OPORDs).



USSTRATCOM Organization for Nuclear Operations

Between the operating task forces and CDRUSSTRATCOM are two intermediate command entities of interest to Air Force doctrine:

- ★ [JFCC-Global Strike](#) (JFCC-GS). JFCC-GS is responsible for planning and integration for nuclear and conventional long-range strike in support of USSTRATCOM. Commander, JFCC-GS exercises no formal command authorities.
- ★ [Commander, Air Force Forces-Air](#) (COMAFFOR-Air). COMAFFOR-Air is the Air Force Service component commander to USSTRATCOM for nuclear and global strike operations. COMAFFOR-Air exercises [operational control](#) (OPCON) of [assigned](#) and [attached](#) Air Force forces as delegated by CDRUSSTRATCOM. Note, however, that for nuclear operations, CDRUSSTRATCOM retains OPCON of nuclear forces at all times and exercises control through the task force commanders. Thus, for nuclear operations, COMAFFOR-Air is simply a force provider.

The delegation of command authorities is codified in two separate USSTRATCOM OPORDs which are revised annually.

Air Force Organization for Nuclear Operations

Air Force Global Strike Command (AFGSC), an Air Force major command, is the Air Force Service component to USSTRATCOM for nuclear and global strike operations. As such, Commander, AFGSC, (AFGSC/CC) is COMAFFOR-Air. Through the Service component hat, AFGSC/CC exercises [administrative control](#) (ADCON) of assigned and attached Air Force Forces, and through the joint hat (COMAFFOR-Air) exercises

OPCON, as delegated by CDRUSSTRATCOM, over subordinate assigned and attached Air Force forces. See following figure, *Air Force Organization for Nuclear Operations*.

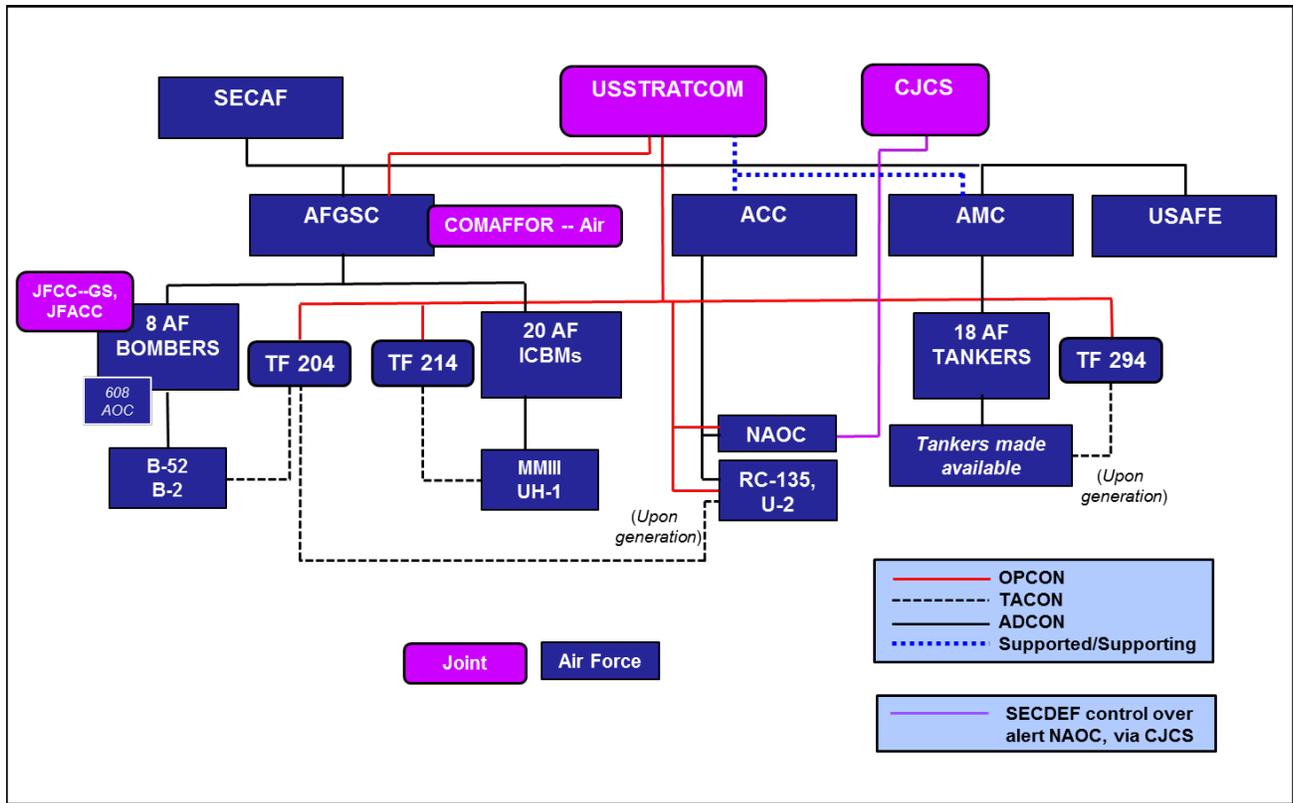
Subordinate to AFGSC are two numbered Air Forces (NAFs), Eighth Air Force (8 AF) and Twentieth Air Force (20 AF). The NAF commanders exercise ADCON over their respective forces. The NAF commanders are also dual-hatted as Commanders, Task Force 204 and Task Force 214 respectively; through these hats they exercise TACON as delegated by CDRUSSTRATCOM. Commander, 8 AF, is further multi-hatted as Commander, JFCC-GS, and as [joint force air component commander](#) (JFACC) to CDRUSSTRATCOM. As JFACC, 8 AF/CC provides daily monitoring of those joint forces made available, command and control in peacetime, and during non-nuclear global strike operations to accomplish tasked missions.

Within the NAFs, forces are arrayed internally into wings, groups, and squadrons as necessary to provide internal span of control. Unlike the normal Air Force doctrine organizational model, there is no single [air expeditionary task force](#) for nuclear operations.

Air Mobility Command provides air refueling and airlift support in [direct support](#) of USSTRATCOM. When generated, they form up under Eighteenth Air Force (18 AF), and Commander, 18 AF, is dual-hatted as Commander, TF 294, who exercises joint and Service authorities as specified by Commander, AMC and by CDRUSSTRATCOM.

Air Combat Command provides the National Airborne Command Post (NAOC) aircraft (E-4B) and reconnaissance aircraft (RC-135s and U-2s). Commander, ACC, exercises ADCON over these forces. When the reconnaissance aircraft are generated, they are attached to TF 204 and Commander, TF 204, then exercises TACON of them. The Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff exercises control over the alert NAOC.

Finally, Commander, US Air Forces Europe, organizes, trains, and equips dual-capable fighters and associated forces for the North Atlantic Treaty organization nuclear mission.



Air Force Organization for Nuclear Operations