



COMMAND RELATIONSHIP MODELS FOR AIR FORCE FORCES

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- When employing military forces, a combatant commander (CCDR) first turns to those forces already assigned. Assigned forces are delineated in the Secretary of Defense's (SecDef's) "Forces for Unified Commands" memorandum, and the CCDR exercises combatant command (command authority) (COCOM) over them.
- Additional forces beyond those assigned to the CCDR may be attached by SecDef action. These forces may come from one of two specific Global Force Management allocation supporting processes: rotational force allocation in support of CCDR annual force needs and emergent force allocation in support of CCDR emerging or crisis-based requests for capabilities and forces. Since the additional forces are normally assigned to a different CCDR, the deployment order should clearly delineate the degree of command authority to be exercised by the gaining commander. Forces temporarily transferred via SecDef action are normally attached with specification of operational control (OPCON) to the gaining CCDR.
- For Air Force forces, there are four general models for command relationships. Considerations for these relationships should include the ability of gaining commands to receive the forces and to command and control them appropriately; the characteristics and support requirements of the forces involved; and the operating locations of the forces.
 - ✦ Forces deployed and executing operations within the theater to which they are attached.
 - ✦ Forces executing missions inside the theater of operations but based outside the theater (i.e., across areas of operations).
 - ✦ Functional forces with global missions.
 - ✦ Transient forces.
- *For more detail on command relationship models, see discussion in [Annex 3-30, Command and Control](#).*