



THE JOINT FORCE AIR COMPONENT COMMANDER

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- Historically, when Air Force forces have been attached to a [joint task force](#) (JTF), the [commander, Air Force forces](#) (COMAFFOR) has normally been dual-hatted as the [joint force air component commander](#) (JFACC), not merely due to preponderance of forces but also due to the ability to [command and control airpower](#) through an air operations center (AOC), which forms the core of the JFACC's JAOC.
 - ✦ This is why the COMAFFOR trains to act as the JFACC.
 - ✦ The instances when sizeable Air Force forces have been present in a JTF, and the COMAFFOR has not been the JFACC, are very rare.
- If aviation assets from more than one Service are present within a joint force, the [joint force commander](#) (JFC) normally designates a JFACC to exploit the full capabilities of joint operations.
 - ✦ The JFACC should be the Service component commander with the preponderance of forces to be tasked and the ability to plan, task, and control joint air operations (Joint Publication P 3-30, [Command and Control for Joint Air Operations](#)).
 - ✦ If working with allies in a coalition or alliance operation, the JFACC may be designated as the combined force air component commander (CFACC).
- Because of the wide scope of joint air operations, the JFACC typically maintains a similar theaterwide or [joint operations area](#) (JOA)-wide perspective as the JFC. The JFACC:
 - ✦ Recommends the proper employment of air component forces from multiple components.
 - ✦ Plans, coordinates, allocates, tasks, executes, and assesses joint air operations to accomplish assigned operational missions.
 - ✦ As with any component commander, should not also be dual-hatted as the JFC, as the scope of command is usually too broad for any one commander and staff.

- **Functional component commanders normally exercise tactical control (TACON) of forces made available to them by the JFC.** Thus, a COMAFFOR normally exercises operational control (OPCON) of assigned and attached Air Force forces and, acting as a JFACC, normally exercises TACON of forces made available for tasking (i.e., those forces not retained for their own Service's organic operations).
 - ✦ The other Services have developed their air arms with differing doctrinal and operating constructs in mind, and may retain control of some or all of their assets to perform their organic scheme of maneuver.
 - ✦ These tactical mission priorities (primarily support of surface forces) may constrain their availability to conduct the broader scope of joint air component operations at the strategic and operational levels of war.
 - ✦ Similar concerns also apply to the aviation arms of our allies.
 - ✦ The JFACC should consider these differing philosophies when developing the air component portion of a joint campaign. *For further detail on Army, Navy, Marine, and SOF aviation assets made available to a JFACC, see [Annex 3-30](#).*

JFACC Responsibilities

- The JFACC should be prepared to assume the following responsibilities, as assigned by the JFC:
 - ✦ Organize a JFACC staff manned with personnel from each component to reflect the composition of capabilities and forces controlled by the JFACC.
 - ✦ Develop a joint air operations plan (JAOP) to support the JFC's objectives.
 - ✦ Plan, coordinate, allocate, and task the joint capabilities and forces made available to the JFACC.
 - ✦ Develop the air operations directive (AOD).
 - ✦ Recommend apportionment of the joint air effort to the JFC.
 - ✦ Control execution of current joint air component operations to include:
 - [Counterair](#), to include integrated air and missile defense.
 - [Strategic attack](#).
 - [Counterland](#).
 - [Countersea](#).

- [Space control](#).
- [Air mobility](#).
- [Information operations](#).
- [Personnel recovery](#) operations, including [combat search and rescue](#), for assigned and attached forces.
- ★ Coordinate [special operations](#) with the [joint force special operations component commander](#) (JFSOCC) or the [joint special operations task force](#) (JSOTF) commander.
- ★ Perform [assessment](#) of joint air component operations at the operational (component) and tactical levels.
- ★ Serve as [airspace control authority](#), [area air defense commander](#), and [space coordinating authority](#) and develop plans and products associated with these responsibilities.
- ★ Serve as the joint electronic warfare coordinator, if so appointed.
- ★ Serve as the [supported commander](#) for counterair operations, strategic attack, the JFC's overall air interdiction effort, and theater airborne [intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance](#) (ISR). As the supported commander, the JFACC has the authority to designate the target priority, [effects](#), and timing of these operations and attack targets across the entire JOA in accordance with JFC guidance, to include coordinated targets within land and maritime [areas of operations](#) (AOs).
- ★ Serve as the [supporting commander](#) for operations such as [close air support](#), [air interdiction](#) within the land and naval component AOs, and maritime support.
- If the JFACC is ever appointed from another Service, the COMAFFOR passes control of air component forces to be made available to the JFACC as directed by the JFC.
 - ★ In such cases, the COMAFFOR maintains an effective C2 structure to perform Service-specific functions.
 - ★ In addition, the COMAFFOR should coordinate with the JFACC through a [liaison](#) element.

- Refer to Joint Publication 3-30, [Command and Control for Joint Air Operations](#), for more complete discussion of the JFACC's role and the planning processes that support joint air component employment.
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