



AIR FORCE COMPONENT PRESENTATION CONSIDERATIONS

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- There are many possible options for presenting forces in support of a [joint force commander](#) (JFC). This section discusses three general models for presenting an Air Force component in support of a JFC.
 - ✦ **Theater-level component.** This model establishes an [air expeditionary task force](#) (AETF) and [commander, Air Force forces](#) (COMAFFOR) at the [combatant commander](#) (CCDR) level, with the COMAFFOR poised to act as a theater [joint force air component commander](#) (JFACC) if so designated—i.e., the “theater COMAFFOR,” poised to act as theater JFACC.
 - ✦ **Sub-theater-level component.** This model establishes a subordinate AETF and COMAFFOR at the [subordinate unified command](#) or [joint task force](#) (JTF), responsible for an [operational area](#) below the CCDR level—referable when the span or scope of operations is less than theater-wide, or when operations are sufficiently fluid to require planning and execution at more tactical levels.
 - ✦ **Sub-theater-level AETF in support of a JTF.** When the CCDR establishes one or more sub-theater JTFs, but elects to retain all (or most) Air Force forces at the theater level, the size and complexity of the mission may lead the theater COMAFFOR/JFACC to determine the best way to support the JTF(s) is by establishing subordinate AETF(s) and designating them in [direct support](#) of the sub-theater JTF commander(s).
- The placement of an Air Force component within the CCDR’s command structure, as well as the formal [command relationships](#) necessary to enable it to interface with other joint forces, requires careful deliberation based on the situation and capabilities available. At times, Air Force forces and capabilities may be best positioned at the theater (i.e., CCDR) level and at other times at the JTF level. **Careful consultation between the respective JFCs and the Air Force component commanders is required.**
- To achieve [unity of effort](#) across an [area of responsibility](#) (AOR), the CCDR should provide the requisite guidance for the interaction between theater-level and subordinate components. This should include clarity of supported and supporting command relationships between the JTFs and theater COMAFFOR/JFACC, together with clear priorities of effort and support, and [apportionment](#). The theater

COMAFFOR/JFACC should then allocate effort across the AOR using CCDR guidance and priorities.

- The CCDR sets the conditions for success by clearly stating and emphasizing the supported command status of subordinate JTFs and the supporting command role of a theater-level COMAFFOR/JFACC and by providing sufficient guidance for the theater COMAFFOR/JFACC's subsequent [allocation](#) decision. **The CCDR is the ultimate arbiter for prioritization and apportionment decisions among subordinate JTF commanders.**
 - *For the complete discussion of this topic, [click here](#).*
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