



USAF DOCTRINE UPDATE

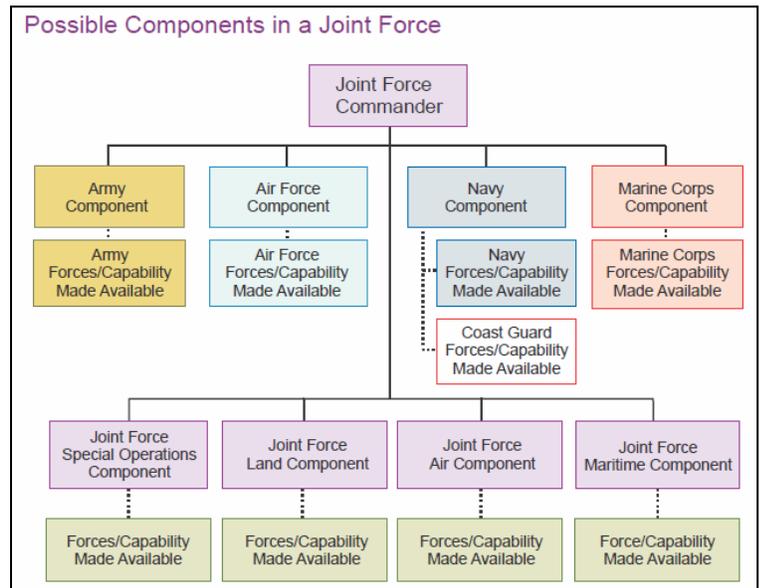
on

Functional Component Commands and their Missions

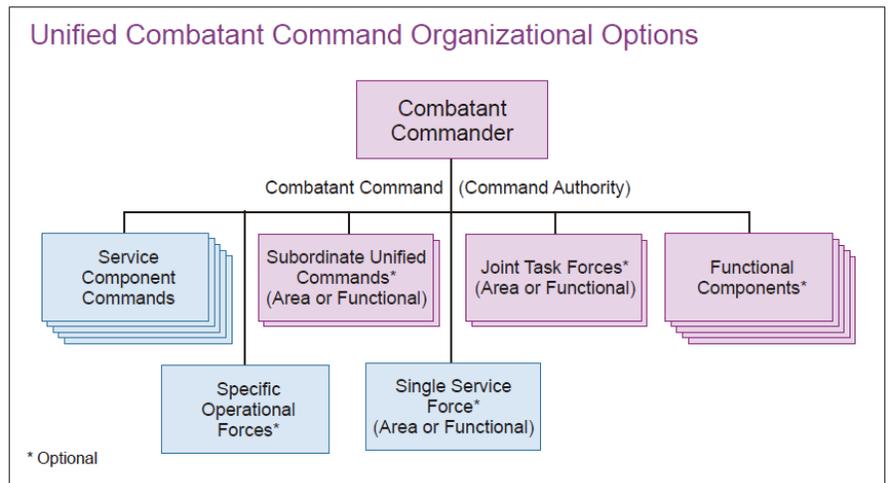


In certain circumstances, Airmen may see a joint force commander (JFC) directing a functional component commander to accomplish a mission instead of standing up a joint task force (JTF).

- JFCs normally conduct joint operations with a joint force comprised of a combination of Service and functional component commands. (JP 1 IV-4)
 - Functional components were first seen in Operation Desert Storm in 1991, and are now routinely used when organizing a joint force.
 - Functional components are most appropriate when forces from two or more Military Departments must operate within the same mission area or physical domain or there is a need to accomplish a distinct aspect of the assigned mission. (JP 1, IV-4)



- JFCs, most often combatant commanders or subordinate unified commanders, also have the option to establish a JTF to conduct operations.



integration of effort, or requires coordination within a subordinate operational area or local defense of a subordinate area. (JP 1, IV-10 – *emphasis added*)

- “A JTF may be established on a geographical or functional basis....” (JP 1, IV-10)

- A functional component may be directed to accomplish a mission that in the past has been conducted by a joint force. For example, a JFC may direct the Joint Force Maritime Component Commander (JFMCC) to conduct a non-combatant evacuation operation (NEO), in place of standing up “JTF-NEO.”
 - In this case, the JFC would make available forces, which may include air and land components’ units, to the JFMCC.
 - The JFC would then establish the JFMCC’s command authority over those forces. This could be tactical control (TACON) or the JFC could direct the joint force air component or joint force land component be in SUPPORT of the JFMCC.

- However, while the designation of forces and command relationships is important, attaining the correct composition of the functional component commander’s staff is equally as important.
 - Regardless of the missions assigned, a functional component commander’s staff composition should be manned to mirror the composition of the forces made available. (JP 1 IV-18)
 - Adequate joint augmentation of a functional component’s staff helps prevent the planning of a single-service-focused solution to a problem that would benefit from a thorough joint approach.

- If the Joint Force Air Component Commander (JFACC) is tasked with a JTF-like mission, Airmen may need to ask for additional augmentation from other components. Similarly, Airmen should strive to provide an appropriately manned joint air component coordination element (JACCE) to another functional component so tasked.

- AFDD 1, *Air Force Basic Doctrine, Command, and Organization* has a caution concerning augmentation from the Air Force forces (AFFOR) staff to the joint air operations center (JAOC) that may be applicable when the JFACC is tasked with a JTF-like mission.
 - The JFACC should try and “avoid dual-hatting the AFFOR staff to the maximum extent possible.” (AFDD 1, p.71)
 - Depending on the nature and scope of the mission assigned to the JFACC and JAOC, if the JAOC is augmented with personnel from the COMAFFOR staff, the AFFOR staff members supporting the JFACC’s expanded mission may need to be separated from other AFFOR staff responsibilities. (AFDD 1, p.72)

- As always, command relationships, responsibilities and authorities should be clearly spelled out in written establishing directives.

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