



# CURTIS E. LEMAY CENTER

FOR DOCTRINE DEVELOPMENT AND EDUCATION



## AIR FORCE GLOSSARY

### **GLOSSARY – C**

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#### **ABBREVIATIONS**

C2	command and control
C2W	command and control warfare
C4ISR	command, control, communication, computer, ISR
CA	civil affairs; coordinating altitude; combat assessment
CAA	combat aviation advisors; civilian air ambulance
CAOC	combined air operations center
CAP	crisis action planning
CAS	close air support
CASEVAC	casualty evacuation
CASF	contingency aeromedical staging facility
CAT	crisis action team
CATF	commander, amphibious task force
CBRN	chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear
CBRNE	chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and high-yield explosives
CC	commander
CC&D	camouflage, concealment, and deception
CCATT	critical care air transport team
C-CBRN	counter-chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear
CCDR	combatant commander
CCG	combat communications group
CCIR	commander's critical information requirement
CCMD	combatant command [organization]
CCS	commander's communication synchronization
CD	collateral damage
CDE	collateral damage estimation
CDR	commander
CDR JFCC SPACE	Commander, JFCC SPACE
CDRUSCENTCOM	Commander, United States Central Command
CDRUSEUCOM	Commander, United States European Command

CDRUSNORTHCOM	Commander, United States Northern Command
CDRUSPACOM	Commander, United States Pacific Command
CDRUSSOCOM	Commander, United States Special Operations Command
CDRUSSTRATCOM	Commander, United States Strategic Command
CDRUSTRANSCOM	Commander, United States Transportation Command
CE	civil engineer
CFACC	combined force air component commander
CGRS	common geographic reference system
CI	counterintelligence
CIA	Central Intelligence Agency
CID	combat identification
CJCS	Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff
CJCSI	Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Instruction
CJCSM	Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Manual
CLF	commander, landing force
CM	consequence management; collection management
CMA	collection management authority
C-MAJCOM	Component-Major Command
CMO	civil-military operations
C-NAF	component numbered air force
COA	course of action
COCOM	combatant command (command authority)
COD	combat operations division
COG	center of gravity
COIN	counter-insurgency
COM	collection operations management
COMAFFOR	commander, Air Force forces
COMAFSOAC	commander, Air Force special operations air component
COMAFSOF	commander Air Force special operations forces
COMARFOR	commander, Army forces
COMCAM	combat camera
COMINT	communications intelligence
COMJSOTF	commander, joint special operations task force
COMMARFOR	commander, Marine forces
COMNAVFOR	commander, Navy forces
COMSEC	communications security
CONOPS	Concept of Operations
CONPLAN	concept plan

CONR	CONUS NORAD Region
CONUS	continental United States
COOP	continuity of operations
COP	common operational picture
COSG	contingency operations support group
CP	counterproliferation
CPD	combat plans division
CPIC	coalition press and information center
CR	contingency response
CRAF	Civil Reserve Air Fleet
CRC	control and reporting center
CRE	contingency response element
CRF	contingency response force; crisis response force
CRG	contingency response group
CRM	collection requirements management
CRO	combat rescue officer
CS	combat support
CSAF	Chief of Staff, United States Air Force
CSAR	combat search and rescue
CSARTF	combat search and rescue task force
CST	contingency skills training
CT	counterterrorism
CTL	candidate target list
CTO	cyber tasking order; counterthreat operations
CWM	Contemporary Warfare Model

## DEFINITIONS

**campaign.** A series of related major operations aimed at achieving strategic and operational objectives within a given time and space. See also **campaign plan**. (JP 5-0)

**campaign assessment.** The joint force commander's broad qualitative and analytical determination of the overall campaign progress, effectiveness of operations and recommendations for future action. (Annex 3-0)

**campaign plan.** A joint operation plan for a series of related military operations aimed at accomplishing a strategic or operational objective within a given time and space. (JP 5-0)

**cascading effect.** One or more of a series of successive indirect effects that propagate through a system or systems. Cascading effects typically flow throughout the levels of conflict and are the results of interdependencies and links among multiple connected systems. (Annex 3-0)

**casualty evacuation.** The unregulated movement of casualties that can include movement both to and between medical treatment facilities. Also called **CASEVAC**. See also casualty; evacuation; medical treatment facility. (JP 4-02)

**causal linkage.** An explanation of why an action/task or effect may cause or contribute to a given effect. (Annex 3-0)

**center of gravity.** The source of power that provides moral or physical strength, freedom of action, or will to act. Also called **COG**. (JP 5-0)

**centralized control.** 1. In air defense, the control mode whereby a higher echelon makes direct target assignments to fire units. 2. In joint air operations, placing within one commander the responsibility and authority for planning, directing, and coordinating a military operation or group/category of operations. (JP 3-30) (Volume 1)

**chaff.** Radar confusion reflectors consisting of thin, narrow metallic strips of various lengths and frequency responses, used to reflect echoes for confusion purposes. (JP 3-13.1)

**chain of command.** The succession of commanding officers from a superior to a subordinate through which command is exercised. Also called command channel. (JP 1)

**channel airlift.** Airlift provided for movement of sustainment cargo, depending upon volume of workload, between designated aerial ports of embarkation and debarkation over validated contingency or distribution channel routes. (JP 3-17)

**characterization.** Characterization encompasses the “collect, analyze and predict” weather core competencies. Characterization depends on the ability to collect accurate data, to effectively, correctly analyze that data, and to use the results to produce a coherent picture of the present and future state of the air and space environment. (AFMAN 15-129 Vol 1)

**chemical agent.** A chemical substance that is intended for use in military operations to kill, seriously injure, or incapacitate mainly through its physiological effects. (JP 3-11) [*The term excludes riot control agents, herbicides, smoke, and flame.*] (Annex 3-40) {Words in brackets apply only to the Air Force and are offered for clarity.}

**civil affairs.** Designated Active and Reserve component forces and units organized, trained, and equipped specifically to conduct civil affairs activities and to support civil-military operations. Also called **CA**. See also **civil-military operations**. (JP 3-57)

**civil-military operations.** Activities of a commander performed by designated civil affairs or other military forces that establish, maintain, influence, or exploit relations between military forces, indigenous populations, and institutions, by directly supporting the attainment of objectives relating to the reestablishment or maintenance of stability within a region or host nation. Also called **CMO**. See also **civil affairs; operation**. (JP 3-57)

**civil reserve air fleet.** A program in which the Department of Defense contracts for the services of specific aircraft, owned by a US entity or citizen, during national emergencies and defense-oriented situations when expanded civil augmentation of military airlift activity is required. Also called **CRAF**. (JP 3-17) *These aircraft are allocated, in accordance with Department of Defense requirements, to segments, according to their capabilities, such as international long range and short range cargo and passenger sections, national (domestic and Alaskan sections) and aeromedical evacuation and other segments as may be mutually agreed upon by the Department of Defense and the Department of Transportation.* (Annex 3-17) {Words in brackets apply only to the Air Force and are offered for clarity.}

**civil support.** Department of Defense support to US civil authorities for domestic emergencies, and for designated law enforcement and other activities. (DOD Directive (DODD) 3025.18, *Defense Support of Civil Authorities (DSCA)*)

**clandestine operation.** An operation sponsored or conducted by governmental departments or agencies in such a way as to assure secrecy or concealment. (JP 3-05)

**close air support.** Air action by fixed and rotary wing aircraft against hostile targets which are in close proximity to friendly forces and that require detailed integration of each air mission with the fire and movement of those forces. Also called **CAS**. (JP 3-0)

**close support.** The action of the supporting force against targets or objectives which are sufficiently near the supported force as to require detailed integration or coordination of the supporting action. (JP 3-31)

**coalition.** An arrangement between two or more nations for common action. (JP 5-0)

**collateral damage.** Unintentional or incidental injury or damage to persons or objects that would not be lawful military targets in the circumstances ruling at the time. (JP 3-60)

**collection.** In intelligence usage, the acquisition of information and the provision of this information to processing elements. (JP 2-01)

**collection asset.** A collection system, platform, or capability that is supporting, assigned, or attached to a particular commander. See also collection (JP 2-01)

**collection management.** In intelligence usage, the process of converting intelligence requirements into collection requirements, establishing priorities, tasking or coordinating with appropriate collection sources or agencies, monitoring results, and retasking, as required. (JP 2-0)

**collection management authority.** Within the Department of Defense, collection management authority constitutes the authority to establish, prioritize, and validate theater collection requirements, establish sensor tasking guidance, and develop theater-wide collection policies. (JP 2-01.2)

**collection manager.** An individual with responsibility for the timely and efficient tasking of organic collection resources and the development of requirements for theater and national assets that could satisfy specific information needs in support of the mission. (JP 2-01)

**collection operations management.** The authoritative direction, scheduling, and control of specific collection operations and associated processing, exploitation, and reporting resources. (JP 2-0)

**collection plan.** A systematic scheme to optimize the employment of all available collection capabilities and associated processing, exploitation, and dissemination resources to satisfy specific information requirements. See also information requirements; intelligence process. (JP 2-0)

**collection requirement.** A valid need to close a specific gap in intelligence holdings in direct response to a request for information. (JP 2-0)

**collections requirement management.** The authoritative development and control of collection, processing, exploitation, and/or reporting requirements that normally result in either the direct tasking of assets over which the commander has authority, or the generation of tasking requests to collection management authorities at a higher, lower, or lateral echelon to accomplish the collection mission. (JP 2-0)

**collection resource.** A collection system, platform, or capability that is not assigned or attached to a specific unit or echelon which must be requested and coordinated through the chain of command. (JP 2-01)

**combatant command.** A unified or specified command with a broad continuing mission under a single commander established and so designated by the President, through the Secretary of Defense and with the advice and assistance of the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Also called **CCMD**. (JP 1)

**combatant command (command authority).** Nontransferable command authority, which cannot be delegated, of a combatant commander to perform those functions of command over assigned forces involving organizing and employing commands and forces; assigning tasks; designating objectives; and giving authoritative direction over all aspects of military operations, joint training, and logistics necessary to accomplish the missions assigned to the command. Also called **COCOM**. (JP 1)

**combatant commander.** A commander of one of the unified or specified combatant commands established by the President. Also called **CCDR**. (JP 3-0)

**combat control team.** A task-organized team of special operations forces who are certified air traffic controllers that are trained and equipped to deploy into hostile environments to establish and control assault zones and airfields. Also called **CCT**. (JP- 3-17)

**combat identification.** The process of attaining an accurate characterization of detected objects in the operational environment sufficient to support an engagement decision. Also called **CID**. (JP 3-09)

**combat search and rescue.** The tactics, techniques, and procedures performed by forces to effect the recovery of isolated personnel during combat. Also called CSAR. See also search and rescue. (JP 3-50) (See Annex 3-50 for Air Force discussion of CSAR)

**combat support.** The foundational and crosscutting capability to field, base, protect, support, and sustain Air Force forces across the range of military operations. Also called **CS**. (Annex 4-0)

**combating terrorism.** Actions, including antiterrorism and counterterrorism, taken to oppose terrorism throughout the entire threat spectrum. Also called **CbT**. (JP 3-26)

**command.** 1. The authority that a commander in the armed forces lawfully exercises over subordinates by virtue of rank or assignment. 2. An order given by a commander; that is, the will of the commander expressed for the purpose of bringing about a particular action. 3. A unit or units, an organization, or an area under the command of one individual. Also called **CMD**. (JP 1)

**command and control.** The exercise of authority and direction by a properly designated commander over assigned and attached forces in the accomplishment of the mission. Also called **C2**. (JP 1)

**command and control system.** The facilities, equipment, communications, procedures, and personnel essential to a commander for planning, directing, and controlling operations of assigned forces pursuant to the missions assigned. (JP 6-0)

**command relationships.** The interrelated responsibilities between commanders, as well as the operational authority exercised by commanders in the chain of command; defined further as combatant command (command authority), operational control, tactical control, or support. (JP 1)

**commander, Air Force forces.** The single Air Force commander of an Air Force Service component assigned or attached to a JFC at the unified combatant command, subunified combatant command, or joint task force (JTF) level. (Annex 3-30)

**commander, Air Force special operations forces.** The senior Airman and presents AFSOF to a JFC. As with the COMAFFOR, the COMAFSOF is the single Airman in charge of AFSOF issues. (Annex 3-05)

**commander's communication synchronization.** DOD's primary approach to implementing United States Government (USG) strategic communication guidance as it applies to military operations. The CCS is the joint force commander's (JFC's) approach for integrating all information-related capabilities (IRCs), in concert with other lines of

operation and lines of effort, and synchronizing themes, messages, images, and actions to support the JFC's objectives. Also called **CCS**. (Annex 3-13)

**commander's critical information requirement.** An information requirement identified by the commander as being critical to facilitating timely decision-making. The two key elements are friendly force information requirements and priority intelligence requirements. Also called **CCIR**. (JP 3-0)

**commander's intent.** A clear and concise expression of the purpose of the operation and the desired military end state that supports mission command, provides focus to the staff, and helps subordinate and supporting commanders act to achieve the commander's desired results without further orders, even when the operation does not unfold as planned. (JP 3-0)

**common operational picture.** A single identical display of relevant information shared by more than one command that facilitates collaborative planning and assists all echelons to achieve situational awareness. Also called **COP**. (JP 3-0)

**communications intelligence.** Technical information and intelligence derived from foreign communications by other than the intended recipients. (JP 2-0)

**communications security.** The protection resulting from all measures designed to deny unauthorized persons information of value that might be derived from the possession and study of telecommunications, or to mislead unauthorized persons in their interpretation of the results of such possession and study. Also called **COMSEC**. (JP 6-0)

**component.** One of the subordinate organizations that constitute a joint force. Normally a joint force is organized with a combination of Service and functional components. (JP 1)

**consequence management.** Actions taken to maintain or restore essential services and manage and mitigate problems resulting from disasters and catastrophes, including natural, manmade, or terrorist incidents. These actions serve to reduce the effects of a CBRN attack or event and assist in the restoration of essential operations and services at home and abroad in a permissive environment.] (JP 3-41)

**constraint.** In the context of joint operation planning, a requirement placed on the command by a higher command that dictates an action, thus restricting freedom of action. See also operational limitation; restraint. (JP 5-0)

**contamination. 1.** The deposit, absorption, or adsorption of radioactive material, or of biological or chemical agents on or by structures, areas, personnel, or objects. **2.** Food and/or water made unfit for consumption by humans or animals because of the presence of environmental chemicals, radioactive elements, bacteria or organisms, the byproduct of the growth of bacteria or organisms, the decomposing material or waste in the food or water. (JP 3-11)



**contamination control.** A combination of preparatory and responsive measures designed to limit the vulnerability of forces to chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and toxic industrial hazards and to avoid, contain, control exposure to, and, where possible, neutralize them. See also biological agent; chemical agent; contamination. (JP 3-11)

**contested combat airspace.** A medium risk exists to US and coalition aircraft within the airspace of interest. Expect the enemy to employ fighters, anti-aircraft systems, and electronic jamming. US and coalition aircraft can achieve localized air superiority for operations within portions of the airspace. Enemy air defense assets are neither fully integrated nor attrited. (Annex 3-52)

**contingency.** A situation requiring military operations in response to natural disasters, terrorists, subversives, or as otherwise directed by appropriate authority to protect US interests. (JP 5-0)

**contingency operation.** A military operation that is either designated by the Secretary of Defense as a contingency operation or becomes a contingency operation as a matter of law (Title 10, United States Code, Section 101[a][13]). (JP 1)

**contingency plan.** A plan for major contingencies that can reasonably be anticipated in the principal geographic subareas of the command. (JP 5-0)

**continuity of operations.** The degree or state of being continuous in the conduct of functions, tasks, or duties necessary to accomplish a military action or mission in carrying out the national military strategy. (JP 3-0)

**continuum of learning.** A career-long process of individual development where challenging experiences are combined with education and training through a common taxonomy to produce Airmen who possess the tactical expertise, operational competence, and strategic vision to lead and execute the full spectrum of Air Force missions. (Annex 1-1)

**control.** Authority that may be less than full command exercised by a commander over part of the activities of subordinate or other organizations. (JP 1)

**control of the air.** Control of the air describes a level of influence in the air domain relative to that of an adversary, and is typically categorized as parity, superiority, or supremacy. (Annex 3-01)

**conventional forces.** 1. Those forces capable of conducting operations using nonnuclear weapons. 2. Those forces other than designated special operations forces. (JP 3-05)

**coordinating altitude.** An airspace coordinating measure that uses altitude to separate users and as the transition between different airspace control elements. Also called **CA**. (JP 3-52)

**coordinating authority.** A commander or individual who has the authority to require consultation between the specific functions or activities involving forces of two or more Services, joint force components, or forces of the same Service or agencies, but does not have the authority to compel agreement. (JP 1)

**Coronet Mission.** is a movement of air assets, usually fighter aircraft, in support of contingencies, rotations, and exercises or aircraft movements for logistics purposes. The tanker aircraft in a Coronet mission provides fuel to avoid intermediate stops and provides weather avoidance, oceanic navigation, communication, and command and control of the mission. (JP 3-17)

**counterair.** A mission that integrates offensive and defensive operations to attain and maintain a desired degree of air superiority and protection by neutralizing or destroying enemy aircraft and missiles, both before and after launch. (JP 3-01). [*Counterair is a mission that integrates offensive and defensive operations to attain and maintain a desired degree of control of the air and protection by neutralizing or destroying enemy aircraft and missiles, including cruise and ballistic missiles, both before and after launch.*] (Annex 3-01) {Words in brackets apply only to the Air Force and are offered for clarity and consistency with the discussion of “control of the air” in JP 3-30.}

**counterdrug operations.** Civil or military actions taken to reduce or eliminate illicit drug trafficking. See also counterdrug; counterdrug nonoperational support; counterdrug operational support. (JP 3-07.4)

**counterforce.** The employment of strategic air and missile forces in an effort to destroy, or render impotent, selected military capabilities of an enemy force under any of the circumstances by which hostilities may be initiated. (JP 1-02)

**counterinsurgency.** Comprehensive civilian and military efforts designed to simultaneously defeat and contain insurgency and address its root causes. Also called **COIN.** (JP 3-24)

**counterintelligence.** Information gathered and activities conducted to identify, deceive, exploit, disrupt, or protect against espionage, other intelligence activities, sabotage, or assassinations conducted for or on behalf of foreign powers, organizations or persons or their agents, or international terrorist organizations or activities. Also called CI. See also counterespionage; security. (JP 2-01.2)

**counterland operations.** Airpower operations against enemy land force capabilities to create effects that achieve joint force commander objectives. (Annex 3-03)

**countermeasures.** That form of military science that, by the employment of devices and/or techniques, has as its objective the impairment of the operational effectiveness of enemy activity. (JP 3-13.1)

**counterproliferation.** Those actions taken to reduce the risks posed by extant weapons of mass destruction to the United States, allies, and partners. Also called **CP.** See also nonproliferation. (JP 3-40)

**countersea.** Operations conducted to attain and maintain a desired degree of maritime superiority by the destruction, disruption, delay, diversion, or other neutralization of threats in the maritime environment. The main objective of countersea operations is to secure and dominate the maritime environment and prevent the opponents from doing the same. (Annex 3-04)

**counterspace.** A mission that integrates offensive and defensive operations to attain and maintain the desired control and protection in and through space. (Annex 3-14)

**counterterrorism.** Activities and operations taken to neutralize terrorists and their organizations and networks in order to render them incapable of using violence to instill fear and coerce governments or societies to achieve their goals. s Also called **CT**. (JP 3-26)

**counterthreat operations.** The AFOSI's capability to find, fix, track, and neutralize enemy threats in order to create a sustained permissive environment for air, space, and cyberspace operations. Also called **CTO**. (Annex 3-10)

**course of action.** 1. Any sequence of activities that an individual or unit may follow. 2. A scheme developed to accomplish a mission. 3. A product of the course-of-action development step of the joint operation planning process. Also called **COA**. (JP 5-0)

**crisis action planning.** The Adaptive Planning and Execution system process involving the time-sensitive development of joint operation plans and operation orders for the deployment, employment, and sustainment of assigned and allocated forces and resources in response to an imminent crisis. Also called **CAP**. (JP 5-0)

**critical information.** Specific facts about friendly intentions, capabilities, and activities needed by adversaries for them to plan and act effectively so as to guarantee failure or unacceptable consequences for friendly mission accomplishment. (JP 2-0)

**critical vulnerability.** An aspect of a critical requirement which is deficient or vulnerable to direct or indirect attack that will create decisive or significant effects. (JP 5-0)

**cruise missile.** Guided missile, the major portion of whose flight path to its target is conducted at approximately constant velocity; depends on the dynamic reaction of air for lift and upon propulsion forces to balance drag. (JP 3-01)

**cumulative effect.** An effect resulting from the aggregation of multiple, contributory direct or indirect effects. (Annex 3-0)

**current intelligence.** One of two categories of descriptive intelligence that is concerned with describing the existing situation. (Annex 2-0)

**cyberspace.** A global domain within the information environment consisting of the interdependent network of information technology infrastructures, and resident data, including the Internet, telecommunications networks, computer systems, and embedded processors and controllers. (JP 3-12) [*Cyberspace is a domain that requires man-made technology to enter and exploit. The only difference is that it is easier to see and sense the other domains. As with air and space, effects of cyberspace operations can occur simultaneously in many places. They can be precise, broad, enduring, and transitory.*] (Annex 3-12) {Definition in brackets applies only to the Air Force and is offered for clarity.}

**cyberspace defense.** The passive, active and dynamic employment of capabilities to respond to imminent or on-going actions against AF or AF-protected networks, AF's portion of the Global Information Grid (GIG) or expeditionary communications assigned to the AF. (Annex 3-12)

**cyberspace operations.** The employment of cyber capabilities where the primary purpose is to achieve objectives in or through cyberspace. (JP 3-0)

**cyberspace superiority.** The degree of dominance in cyberspace by one force that permits the secure, reliable conduct of operations by that force, and its related land, air, maritime, and space forces at a given time and place without prohibitive interference by an adversary. (JP 3-12) [*The operational advantage in, through, and from cyberspace to conduct operations at a given time and in a given domain without prohibitive interference.*] (Annex 3-12) {Definition in brackets applies only to the Air Force and is offered for clarity.}

**cyber tasking order.** Tasking document used by the AF cyber component commander to task assigned AF cyber forces to perform specific actions at specific time frames in support of AF and Joint requirements. Also called **CTO**. (Annex 3-12)

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