



USAF DOCTRINE UPDATE

on

Multinational Operations Terminology



The previous version of this Doctrine Update gave the impression that combined force commander (CFC) and combined force air component commander (CFACC) are no longer valid titles. CFC and CFACC are still valid titles for commanders within an alliance. This reissuance of our Doctrine Update is to ensure all understand that CFC and CFACC are still valid titles in the appropriate command structure.

The recent revisions of JP 1, *Doctrine for the Armed Forces of the United States* (25 March 2013) and JP 3-16, *Multinational Operations* (16 July 2013) include additional terms and titles within multinational operations Airmen should be familiar with. Specifically, multinational force commander (MNFC) and multinational force air component commander (MNFACC) are used generically to refer to positions either in a combined force with members of a formal alliance (e.g., NATO) or a coalition force with members of an ad hoc informal agreement (e.g., Multinational Force Iraq). The more familiar terms for these positions have been combined force commander (CFC) and combined force air component commander (CFACC).

- Airmen may encounter two primary forms of multinational partnerships. (JP 3-16, I-1)
 - An alliance is “the formal relationship that results from a formal agreement between two or more nations for broad, long-term objectives that further the common interests of the members.” (JP 1, II-21)
 - The term “combined” is used to identify “two or more forces or agencies of two or more allies operating together.” (JP 1, II-21)
 - A coalition is “an arrangement between two or more nations for common action.” (JP 1, II-21)
 - Coalitions are typically ad hoc, formed by different nations, often with different objectives, usually for a single event or for a longer period while addressing a narrow sector of common interest.
 - Operations conducted with units from two or more coalition members are referred to as coalition operations.
- US commanders should expect to conduct military operations as part of a MNF. (JP 3-30, I-8) Overall multinational task force (MNTF) air operations will normally be assigned to a multinational force air component commander (MNFACC). For in-depth discussion of multinational operations, refer to JP 1, JP 3-16, and the section on multinational and interagency integration found in AFDD 1, *Air Force Basic Doctrine, Organization, and Command*.

- The actual designation of the air component commander in a MNTF will be based on the type of multinational configuration [see below] used in the operation. (JP 3-16, III-26)
- JP 3-16 identifies three basic command structures for multinational operations. (JP 3-16, II – 4)
 - **Integrated:** characterized by a designated single commander, staff composed of representatives of all participating nations, subordinate commands and staffs similarly integrated to the lowest echelon necessary for mission accomplishment. An example of an integrated structure is North Atlantic Treaty Organization where the use of CFACC is appropriate. (see fig II-3)
 - **Lead Nation:** when all member nations place their forces under the control of one nation with subordinate elements retaining strict national integrity. An example was the Multinational Force-Iraq.
 - **Parallel Command:** no single force commander is designated and coalition leadership must develop a means for coordination to achieve unity of effort.

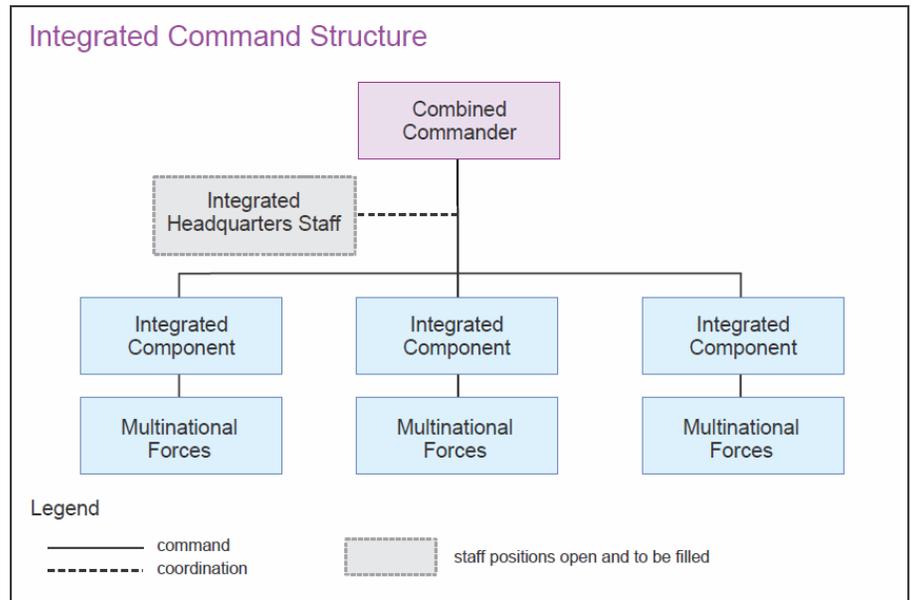


Figure II-3. Integrated Command Structure

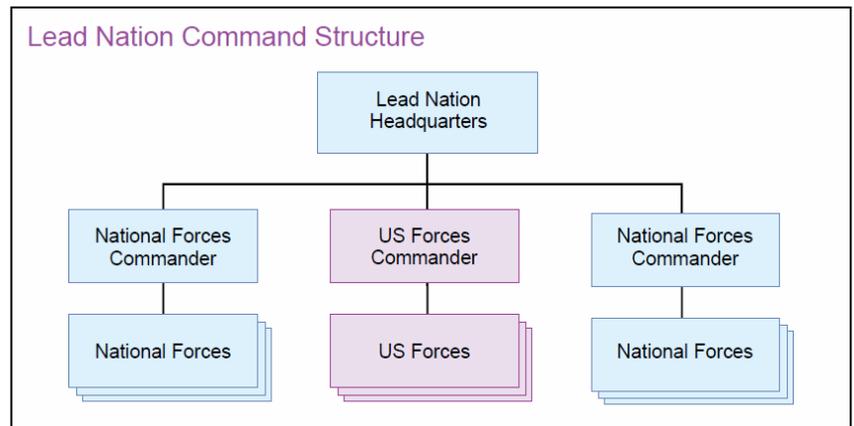


Figure II-4. Lead Nation Command Structure

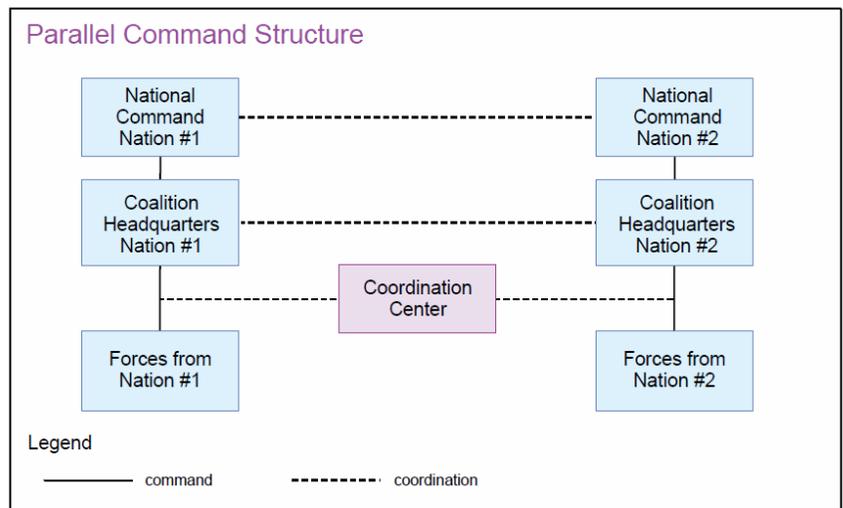


Figure II-5. Parallel Command Structure

Regardless of the title of the senior airman in a multinational force, Airmen should organize to achieve unity of command of air operations whenever possible to enable proper execution of air operations. However, if unity of command is not possible, Airmen should create command and control arrangements to best achieve unity of effort.

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