

	CURTIS E. LEMAY CENTER FOR DOCTRINE DEVELOPMENT AND EDUCATION	
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Airpower has attributes that allow it to be employed to conduct diverse and multiple operational tasks across the joint operations area. However, there is rarely enough airpower available to satisfy all demands for airpower. To maximize use of available airpower counterland-capable assets, effective counterland operations call for centralized control and decentralized execution. The [air component commander](#) optimizes the use of normally scarce airpower assets through centralized control. Centralized control also minimizes undue dissipation and fragmentation of effort and ensures unity of effort and focus on essential [joint force commander](#) objectives. Because no single commander can personally direct all the detailed actions of a typical complement of assigned and available airpower, decentralized execution of air missions is necessary and is accomplished by delegating appropriate authority for detailed mission planning and execution. Decentralized execution ensures effective employment of limited assets, allows tactical adaptation, and accommodates the Services' different employment concepts and procedures.
