

ORGANIZATION AND COMMAND AND CONTROL

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Command and control (C2) of space forces ensures accurate, timely, and reliable operational synchronization of operations to enable effective integration of space planning and operations with joint and combined activities across all domains. C2 is fundamental to the conduct of all space operations and is especially critical to the effective conduct of counterspace operations in a contested, degraded, or operationally-limited (CDO) space environment.

The *Unified Command Plan* establishes US Space Command (USSPACECOM) as the combatant command with overall responsibility for military space operations. The Deputy Commander, Space Operations Command, coordinates, plans, integrates, synchronizes, executes, and assesses Air Force space operations and joint space operations when designated as the combined force space component commander (CFSCC).

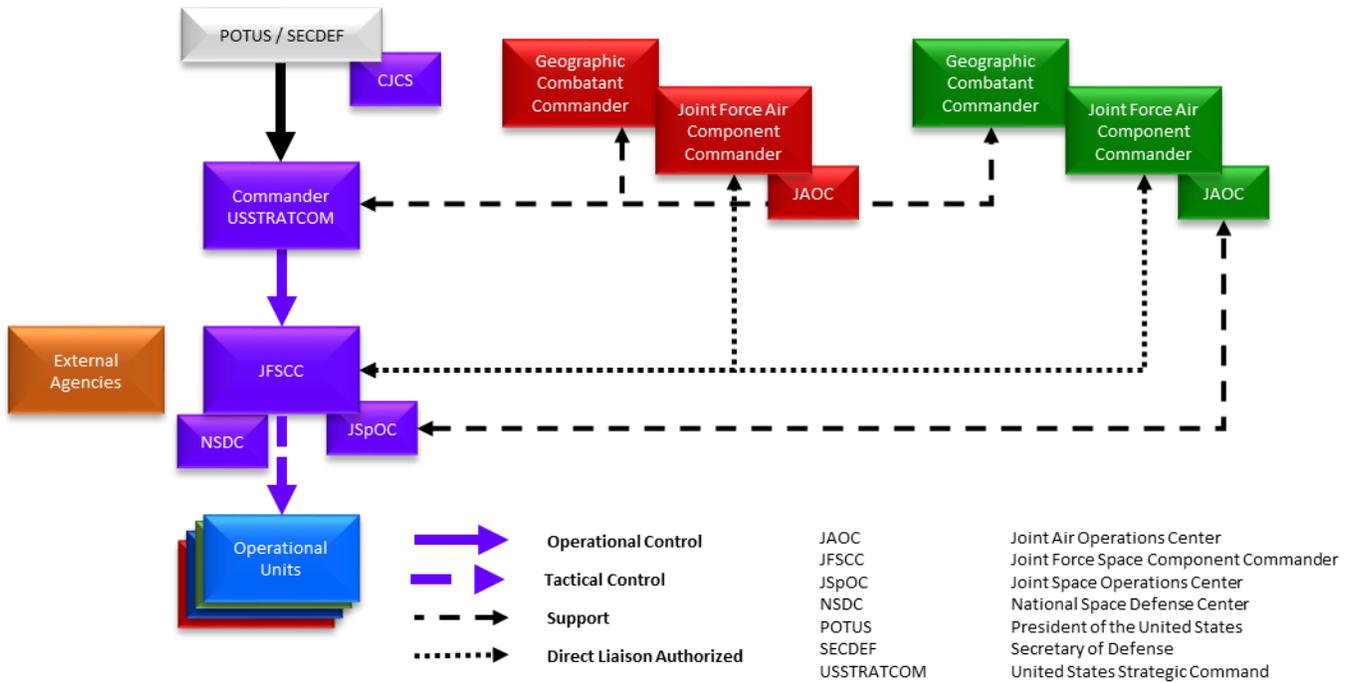
Assets from any domain may be used to conduct counterspace missions in support of joint operations in one, or more than one, geographic area. These assets may be used to fulfill single theater, multiple theater, or global objectives. Thus, the C2 structure established for integrating assets and forces must be robust enough to account for these various operating areas. Employing assets to meet global or multiple theater requirements normally requires a structure that bridges more than one theater and is capable of incorporating non-Department of Defense agencies.

The majority of Air Force space forces support operations in garrison and provide desired effects, regardless of the location of the contingencies they may be supporting. These Air Force forces are presented to CDRUSSPACECOM as a space mission task force (SMTF). The SMTF is part of a wider space mission force (SMF). The SMF is organized, trained, and equipped to successfully operate in an increasingly CDO environment. The SMF recognizes and reacts to adversary threats with advanced training scenarios that hone their warfighting skills and stimulate the development of tactics, techniques, and procedures that will allow our forces to maintain freedom of action across the spectrum of conflict. The SMF normalizes space training with the rest of the Air Force, provides high confidence in our readiness levels and mission capabilities, and ensures a consistent presentation of space forces to combatant commanders, whether operating from garrison or deployed locations.

Typically, CDRUSSPACECOM delegates operational control (OPCON) of assigned space forces to the respective Service component commanders and establishes direct support or direct liaison authorized (DIRLAUTH) relationships with other combatant commands and

external agencies. Exceptions can occur in situations where space forces are deployed in theater to enable localized effects. In these situations, the Secretary of Defense (SecDef) may attach the required forces with specification of OPCON to the geographic combatant commander (GCC).

Theater [air operations centers](#) (AOCs) coordinate integration of space-enabled effects with the Combined Space Operations Center (CSPOC) for execution of operations by assigned, attached, or supporting space forces. More detail on the CSPOC can be found in [Command and Control Resources and Requirements](#).



Command Relationships for Global and Multiple Theater Operations