



ORGANIZING AIR FORCE FORCES

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Organization is critically important to effective and efficient operations. It is essential that Airmen understand the fundamentals of Air Force and joint organization, command relationships, and responsibilities of the senior Air Force commander.

The Air Force Service component command is the organizational structure for Air Force forces assigned or attached to a [joint force commander](#) (JFC). [Combatant commands](#) and [subordinate unified commands](#) typically have assigned Air Force Service component commands (component major command [C-MAJCOM] or component numbered Air Force [C-NAF]) to which additional expeditionary forces may be attached as required for operations. [Joint task forces](#) (JTF) normally do not have standing Air Force structures and require the Air Force establish an Air Expeditionary Task Force (AETF) as a temporary Air Force Service component command. The commander of the AETF would either be the [commander, Air Force forces](#) (COMAFFOR) directly responsible to the JTF commander, or established in a supporting role to the JTF under the authority of the theater air component commander. If appropriate, the commander of the AETF may also be designated as a JACCE to the supported JTF commander.

REGIONAL ORGANIZATION AND CONTROL

All military missions are ultimately under the authority of a JFC at the appropriate level. If the entire theater is engaged, the [combatant commander](#) (CCDR) may be the JFC. If the situation is less than theater-wide, the CCDR may establish a subordinate JTF commanded by a subordinate JFC.

- ✦ Within a joint force, the JFC may organize forces in a mix of Service and functional components. **All joint forces contain Service components**, because administrative and logistics support are provided through Service components.
- ✦ The JFC may also establish [functional component commands](#) when forces from two or more military Services operate in the same dimension or domain, or there is a need to accomplish a distinct aspect of the assigned mission.

FUNCTIONAL ORGANIZATION AND CONTROL

Many types of airpower are capable of serving more than one geographic CCDR at a time. Such forces are organized under functional CCDRs to facilitate cross-[area of responsibility](#) (AOR) optimization. When such forces are deployed in a geographic CCDR's AOR, they may remain under the [operational control](#) (OPCON) of their respective functional CCDR and operate in [support](#) of the geographic CCDR, or with Secretary of Defense (SecDef) approval, they may be transferred to a geographic commander and attached with specification of OPCON or [tactical control](#) (TACON).

THE AIR EXPEDITIONARY FORCE

To address growth in diverse regional commitments, the Air Force established the air expeditionary force (AEF) concept as a means to provide Air Force forces and associated support on a rotational, and more predictable, basis. AEFs provide a source of readily trained operational and support forces. They do not provide a commander (specifically, a COMAFFOR) or the necessary [command and control \(C2\) mechanisms](#). Thus, AEFs by themselves are not discrete, employable entities. Forces sourced from AEFs should be integrated with in-theater command structures, and link up with in-theater Air Force forces (which may be in the form of an AETF).

Refer to Air Force Instruction (AFI) 10-401, [Air Force Operations Planning and Execution](#), for further details.

THE AIR EXPEDITIONARY TASK FORCE

The AETF is the organizational structure for Air Force forces to execute operational tasking when there is not an existing Air Force structure prepared to accept expeditionary forces. The AETF provides a task-organized, integrated package with the appropriate balance of force, sustainment, control, and force protection.

The AETF presents a scalable, tailorable organization with three elements: **a single, clearly designated commander, appropriate C2 mechanisms, and tailored and fully supported forces.**

“Single Commander...”

In the context of joint organization, a single commander presents one Air Force position to the JFC and results in clear lines of authority. The AETF commander is the senior Air Force warfighter and exercises the appropriate degree of control over the forces [assigned](#), [attached](#), or in support of the AETF. Within the joint force, these degrees of control are formally expressed as OPCON, TACON, or support. Within Service lines, the AETF commander exercises [administrative control](#) (ADCON).

“Appropriate Command and Control Mechanisms...”

The AETF commander requires command mechanisms to exercise appropriate operational and Service administrative control. An AETF attached with specification of OPCON to a JTF, will include a COMAFFOR under the OPCON of that JTF commander. However, due to resource constraints in both manning and equipment, the theater air component normally will not have sufficient resources to provide the AETF with a C2 capability adequate for being designated as a JTF level [joint force air component commander](#) (JFACC). The CCDR should direct the theater air component commander to retain TACON over joint air forces and be established in support to the JTF commander. This support relationship may be enabled through a JACCE appointed by the theater air component commander. The AETF commander will provide C2 through clearly delineated commander’s intent that is forward thinking. It is imperative these commanders have conditions-based authorities, empowered command by negation while accepting the appropriate level of risk, all while working towards moments of clear C2 back to the theater level air component commander.

Within the authorities and responsibilities of ADCON, the COMAFFOR oversees the deployment and sustainment of Air Force forces, normally through the Air Component staff and subordinate Service organizations (e.g., wings, groups, squadrons, etc.). Sustainment activities are critical to the successful accomplishment of operational functions, and should be fully integrated with and complementary to the [air operations center’s](#) (AOC’s) operational activities.

“Tailored and Fully Supported Forces...”

The AETF should be tailored to the mission; this includes not only forces, but also the ability to command and control those forces for the missions assigned. It should draw first from in-theater resources, if available. If needed the AETF will likely draw from the AEF currently on rotation. These forces, whether in-theater or deployed from out of theater, should be fully supported with maintenance, logistical, health services, and administrative elements.

AETF Organization

The AETF commander organizes forces as necessary into wings, groups, squadrons, flights, detachments, or elements to provide reasonable internal spans of control, command elements at appropriate levels, and to retain unit identity.

Numbered Expeditionary Air Force

Numbered expeditionary Air Force (NEAF) is the generic title for an AETF made up of multiple expeditionary wings and is the largest sized AETF. NEAFs normally carry an appropriate numerical designation based on numbered Air Forces (NAFs) historically associated with the region or command.

Air Expeditionary Task Force-X

“Air Expeditionary Task Force-X” (AETF-X) is the generic title used when a provisional Air Force command echelon is needed between a component numbered Air Force (C-NAF) or NEAF and an air expeditionary wing (AEW). AETF-X is used when a C-NAF or NEAF-level AETF establishes a subordinate provisional command echelon consisting of two or more AEWs. An example of this usage is when the Commander, US Air Forces Central (USAFCENT) established two subordinate AETFs, 9 AETF-Iraq (AETF-I) and 9 AETF-Afghanistan (AETF-A), to provide command over multiple AEWs in their respective joint operations areas.

Depending on why this echelon is established, and its relationship within Service and joint force organizations, the AETF-X commander may or may not be a COMAFFOR. See [“Air Force Component Presentation Considerations”](#) for further discussion.

Air Expeditionary Wing

AEW is the generic title for a deployed wing within an AETF. An AEW normally is composed of the wing command element and subordinate groups and squadrons. AEWs normally carry the numerical designation of the wing providing the command element. An AEW may be composed of units from different wings, but where possible, the AEW is formed from units of a single wing.

Air Expeditionary Group

Air expeditionary group (AEG) is the generic title for a deployed group assigned to an AEW or a deployed independent group assigned to an AETF. Expeditionary groups that deploy independent of a wing structure should contain elements of all the functions needed to conduct semi-autonomous operations. An AEG is comprised of a command element and some squadrons.

If deployed as an independent group, the AEG commander normally reports to the air component commander. If deployed as a group subordinate to an expeditionary wing, the AEG commander reports to the AEW commander. The AEG is normally the smallest independently deployable AETF.

Air Expeditionary Squadron

Air expeditionary squadron is the generic title for a deployed squadron within an AETF. Deployed squadrons (assigned or attached) retain their numerical designation and acquire the “expeditionary” designation. An individual squadron is not designed to conduct independent operations; it normally requires support from other units to obtain the synergy needed for sustainable, effective operations. If a single operational squadron or squadron element is all that is needed to provide the desired operational effect (e.g., an element of C-130s performing humanitarian operations), it should

deploy with provision for support and C2 elements as well as ability for reachback support.

Expeditionary Elements below Squadron Level

The Air Force may deploy elements below the squadron level for specific, limited functions, often as individuals or specialty teams. For ADCON purposes, these elements should normally be attached to the commander of a larger Air Force entity in the region.

Exercising ADCON over small, remotely located Air Force elements has posed challenges for the Air Force component headquarters.

Designation of Expeditionary Units

An AETF is named based on the unit providing the senior-echelon command function, its size, and the operation name.

Units operating from their normally assigned, in-place location, such as permanently assigned units in Korea under US Indo-Pacific Command need not adopt expeditionary nomenclature. The overall operation, however, should still be modeled as an AETF to delineate clear chains of operational and administrative authority. Other deployed wings, groups, and squadrons that are not assigned or attached to the AETF, but provide significant support (such as airlift and air refueling units in the intertheater air bridge), may be designated “expeditionary” at the discretion of their owning major command or Service component commander.

Provisional Units

In some instances, expeditionary forces may not form around active numbered units, when there are insufficient active numbered units in the AEF rotation to satisfy a very large operation or a single major force provider cannot be identified. In such cases, provisional units may be created using predesignated inactive units. A unit under a single provisional unit designation should also be considered to provide continuity of operations for extended [contingency operations](#) in which units are frequently rotated in and out (e.g., Operations SOUTHERN WATCH and IRAQI FREEDOM).

Examples of AETFs

Component AETF

When directed, an AETF may be formally attached to a joint force at the JTF level, usually with specification of OPCON, forming a [Service component command](#). In these cases, the AETF commander is a COMAFFOR, and a separate C2 capability (possibly less than a full AOC and [Air Force forces \(AFFOR\) staff](#) are normally required to employ and support the AETF.

AETF in Support

During some operations, especially when there may be multiple [joint operations areas](#) (JOAs) with multiple JTFs, it may not be feasible to attach AETFs to each JTF due to C2 resource constraints. In such cases, subordinate AETFs may be established and placed in support of JTFs. Examples of this structure occurred in the later phases of Operations ENDURING FREEDOM and IRAQI FREEDOM, US Air Forces Central (USAFCENT) established subordinate task forces to directly support sub-theater-level JTFs operating in separate JOAs within US Central Command (USCENTCOM).

AETF for ADCON Only

On occasion, AETFs may be established to address a specific but purely internal Service challenge and may have no direct relation to a joint force. Examples can be found during the initial phase of Operation IRAQI FREEDOM, when the Air Force formed two task forces for ADCON purposes only, one in Pacific Air Forces, under 13th Air Force on Guam, and one in US Air Forces in Europe, under 16th Air Force in Turkey. These AETFs were formed to provide more direct oversight of Air Force support activities of those forces bedded down in (at the time) US Pacific Command (now US Indo-Pacific Command) and US European Command AORs, supporting USCENTCOM's main effort. In this case, these task forces' commanders only exercised ADCON; they were not delegated any operational authorities.

INTEGRATING REGIONAL AND FUNCTIONAL AIR FORCE FORCES

Functional and geographic capabilities most likely to be integrated in a supported or supporting role are [air mobility operations](#), space operations, [special operations](#), [cyberspace operations](#), and [nuclear operations](#).

Integrating Air Mobility Operations

[Command relationships](#) can allow an interlocking arrangement to manage intratheater and intertheater air mobility operations. Normally, intratheater air mobility forces are attached to the JFC, with OPCON delegated to the air component commander. Intertheater air mobility forces normally remain under the control of US Transportation Command (USTRANSCOM), delegated downward within Air Mobility Command (AMC). Within a regional operation, the [director of mobility forces](#) (DIRMOBFOR), along with the air mobility division (AMD) in the AOC, provides a coordination function between the intertheater and intratheater air mobility operations.

The Director of Mobility Forces

The DIRMOBFOR is the air component commander's designated coordinating authority for air mobility operations, and coordinates on behalf of the air component commander with the AMD in the AOC. To ensure close coordination with the overall theater effort, the DIRMOBFOR is normally assigned to the air component

commander's special staff. In those instances when no JFACC is designated, or the JFACC is from another Service, the DIRMOBFOR should normally report to the COMAFFOR.

For specific authorities and responsibilities, refer to AFDP 3-17, [Air Mobility Operations](#).

Integrating Space Operations

Space capabilities 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 CDRUSSPACECOM may act as either the supporting or supported commander in a conflict, depending on the scenario. Space capabilities within a regional operation are normally focused by the designation of a single authority for space operations.

Space Coordinating Authority

Within a regional operation, the JFC has [space coordinating authority](#) (SCA) to plan, integrate, and coordinate space operations involving forces of two or more military departments, functional components, or two or more forces of the same Service. Although JFCs may retain authority at the JFC level, they should normally delegate SCA to the component commander who provides the preponderance of military space capabilities, the requisite ability to command and control them, and the resident space expertise. The air component commander provides these capabilities through the Air Force's organic space C2 infrastructure.

The Director of Space Forces

The [director of space forces](#) (DIRSPACEFOR) serves as the senior space advisor to the air component commander. The DIRSPACEFOR advises and facilitates coordination, planning, execution, and assessment of space operations and courses of action for the air component commander. In addition, when the air component commander is delegated SCA, the DIRSPACEFOR works the day-to-day SCA activities on their behalf. The DIRSPACEFOR is part of the air component commander's special staff. In those instances when no JFACC is designated, or the JFACC is from another Service, the DIRSPACEFOR reports to the COMAFFOR. Whether a permanent member of the theater major command staff or provided to the theater by Air Force Space Command (AFSPC), the DIRSPACEFOR should be pre-identified to allow that officer time to become familiar with that theater's space requirements.

For specific responsibilities of SCA and DIRSPACEFOR, see AFDP 3-14, [CounterSpace Operations](#).

Integrating Special Operations

Commander, US Special Operations Command (USSOCOM) exercises [combatant command \(command authority\)](#) (COCOM) of worldwide special operations forces, while the geographic CCDR exercises OPCON of assigned or attached Air Force special operations forces (AFSOF) through the commander of the [theater special operations command](#). For conventional missions, the COMAFFOR may receive OPCON or TACON of AFSOF assets when directed by the JFC. However, in most cases, AFSOF will be in a [direct support](#) relationship with conventional assets. When SOF operate in concert with “conventional” JTFs, they normally take the form of a separate [joint special operations task force](#) (JSOTF) within the JTF. The Joint Special Operations Air Component is the SOF functional air component.

Whether operating under control of the [joint special operations component commander](#) (JFSOCC) or in support of the air component commander, SOF aviation missions are synchronized with other air activities supporting the theater campaign. To ensure SOF aviation and surface assets are closely synchronized in all joint air operations, from planning through assessment, the JFSOCC provides the air component commander a [special operations liaison element](#) (SOLE) to coordinate, deconflict, and synchronize SOF operations, strategy, and plans with other air operations. In return, the air component commander should provide a [joint air component coordination element](#) (JACCE) to the JFSOCC.

The Special Operations Liaison Element

Whether operating autonomously or in conjunction with conventional forces, SOF aviation and surface assets should be closely synchronized with all joint air operations—from planning through execution—to provide coordination and deconfliction, prevent fratricide, and exploit synergistic effects.

The SOLE is a liaison team that represents the JFSOCC to the air component commander. The SOLE synchronizes all SOF air and surface operations with joint air operations via the tasking process. Additionally, the SOLE deconflicts SOF operations with other component liaisons in the AOC. Specific functions include synchronization of SOF requirements into [air tasking order](#) (ATO) and [airspace control order](#) generation, real time mission support within the AOC, operations and intelligence support for targeting, combat airspace control for prevention of fratricide, coordination with special plans functions, and coordination with the joint personnel recovery center. The SOLE also assists in the deconfliction of joint special operations areas and unconventional warfare operating areas with the air component commander.

For specific responsibilities of the SOLE, see AFDP 3-05, [Special Operations](#).

Integrating Cyberspace Operations

Global [cyberspace](#) capabilities may be presented to a combatant command through a supporting relationship, with United States Cyber Command (USCYBERCOM; also

USCC). USCC is a [unified combatant command](#) responsible for providing offensive and defensive cyberspace capabilities to other CCDRs. USCC presents cyberspace capabilities to CCDRs through Service-led, regionally aligned, Joint Force Headquarters Cyber (JFHQ-C) staffs and assigned teams.

For further discussion, see AFDP 3-12, [Cyberspace Operations](#)

The Director of Cyberspace Forces

Within an Air Force component, the director of cyberspace forces (DIRCYBERFOR) serves as the senior cyberspace advisor to the air component commander. The DIRCYBERFOR facilitates the coordination, integration, and synchronization of cyberspace operations with air and space operations. The DIRCYBERFOR provides senior leader perspective and guidance on the planning, development, integration, and employment of cyberspace capabilities for Air Force component operations and facilitates synchronization of cyberspace capabilities and effects. The DIRCYBERFOR is part of the air component commander's special staff. In those instances when no JFACC is designated, or the JFACC is from another Service, the DIRCYBERFOR should report to the COMAFFOR.

Integrating the Air Reserve Components

The Air Reserve Components (ARC) are the Air Force Reserve (AFR) and the Air National Guard (ANG). The ARC provides operational capabilities and strategic depth to meet US defense requirements across the [competition continuum](#). ARC forces are normally employed to take advantage of military opportunities, cover shortfalls in regular component critical skills, and to support short duration national priorities. The importance of this factor—the part-time nature of the force—should be fully considered. When evaluating which ongoing operational missions are best suited for ARC participation, factors such as predictability, tour length, and duty location should all be considered.

The AFR consists of the [Ready Reserve](#), the [Standby Reserve](#), and the [Retired Reserve](#), which includes retirees from both the ARC and regular component. The Ready Reserve consists of the [Selected Reserve](#) and the [Individual Ready Reserve](#). ADCON for AFR forces is maintained by the commander of Air Force Reserve Command (AFRC).

The ANG consists of members of the Air National Guard (ANG) who are on active duty under Title 10, United States Code (USC), [Armed Forces](#). The ANG consist of the federally recognized organized militia of the States and Territories, Puerto Rico, and the District of Columbia. ADCON for Guardsmen not in federal status flows to their respective adjutant general and governor. When activated under Title 10 USC, ADCON is maintained through the ANG Readiness Center.

The ARC provides sustainable, rotational support across numerous operational missions, such as [airlift](#), [air refueling](#), North American Aerospace Defense Command air sovereignty mission, and [combat support](#). ARC forces may be mobilized to support rotational capability for steady state operations, during a surge operation, and for activities requiring critical skills.

ARC Organization

The majority of the ARC is organized into two types of units: unit-equipped or associates. Stand-alone unit-equipped organizations have their own organic equipment; associate organizations can be either unit-equipped (active associations) or share the weapon systems of an equipped host organization (classic association) and train to perform the same mission.

These unit associations allow for consistent training, leveraging of resources, and familiarization between the regular component and ARC. The associate models are:

- ✦ **Classic Associate:** A Regular Air Force organization retains principal responsibility for a weapon system that it shares with one or more associate ARC organizations. Each component exercises ADCON of its respective members.
- ✦ **Active Associate:** A sponsoring ARC organization has principal responsibility for a weapon system which it shares with one or more associate regular organizations. Reserve and regular units retain separate organizational structures and chains of command.

The Air Force is responsible for organizing, training, and equipping Air Force forces to provide combat ready resources to combatant commanders. Air Force commanders are responsible for ensuring regular and ARC forces are leveraged to achieve that purpose. This is done through the Total Force Integration (TFI) concept. TFI management is a collaborative process of planning, organizing, and aligning AF units from different Air Force components; each with its own command chain and ADCON responsibilities.

When operating together in garrison (not deployed and activated to active status) unity of effort for TFI is achieved through the concept of operational direction (OPDIR). As detailed in Air Force Instruction 90-1001, [Planning Total Force Associations \(TFAS\)](#), OPDIR is an agreed-upon understanding (codified in memoranda of record, understanding, or agreement) between commanders of total force associations to allow functional leaders from any component, whether from the sponsor or the associated organization, to lead and guide personnel in their in garrison mission and daily tasks.

Air Force Reserve

The AFR also provides individual reservists through the [individual mobilization augmentee](#) (IMA) program and the participating individual ready reserve program

(PIRR). IMAs are trained reservists who augment regular units to support mobilization requirements, contingency operations, or other specialized requirements. Their experience helps the regular component accomplish its mission by augmenting (or rounding out) the regular unit, backfilling positions that have been vacated by deploying regular component members, or performing missions at the normal duty station. IMAs perform the full range of Air Force missions. The ARC retains ADCON of IMAs and PIRR personnel.

Air National Guard

National Guard Airmen can be called to long-term active duty under five different statutes, as authorized in Title 10 USC. They range from full mobilization, which requires a declaration of war or national emergency by the Congress, to reserve component volunteers, which requires consent of the individual reserve component member and consent from the governor to activate individuals in the National Guard. The various mobilization statutes determine how many guardsmen can be called up, to whom the call up applies, and the duration of the call up.

Accessing ARC Forces

ARC forces can be activated both voluntarily and involuntarily to support national requirements. Once activated, there are different degrees of OPCON and ADCON applicable to ARC members. The ARC structure normally retains full ADCON; the gaining COMAFFOR normally exercises specified elements of ADCON, which should be articulated in appropriate orders. OPCON transfers in accordance with Secretary of Defense (SecDef) orders.

- ★ **Voluntary.** Volunteers are placed on Federal active duty by the Secretary of the Air Force, as authorized by Title 10, USC.
- ★ **Involuntary.** There are three authorities that outline the limits and requirements for involuntarily activating members of the ARC:
 - ★★ **Presidential Reserve Call-up.** This provides the President a means to activate, without a declaration of national emergency, not more than 200,000 members of the Selected Reserve and the Individual Ready Reserve (of whom not more than 30,000 may be members of the Individual Ready Reserve), for not more than 365 days to meet the requirements of any operational mission. Members activated under this provision may not be used for disaster relief or to suppress insurrection. This authority has particular utility when used in circumstances in which the escalatory national or international signals of partial or full mobilization would be undesirable. Forces available under this authority can provide a tailored, limited-scope, deterrent, or operational response, or may be used as a precursor to any subsequent mobilization.

✪✪ **Partial Mobilization.** Expansion of the active Armed Forces resulting from action by Congress (up to full mobilization) or by the President (not more than 1,000,000 for not more than 24 consecutive months) to mobilize Ready Reserve component units, individual reservists, and the resources needed for their support to meet the requirements of a war or other national emergency involving an external threat to the national security.

✪✪ **Full Mobilization.** Expansion of the active Armed Forces resulting from action by Congress and the President to mobilize all Reserve Component units and individuals in the existing approved force structure, as well as all retired military personnel, and the resources needed for their support to meet the requirements of a war or other national emergency involving an external threat to the national security. Reserve personnel can be placed on active duty for the duration of the emergency plus six months. Under full mobilization, ADCON transfers to the gaining COMAFFOR and OPCON transfers in accordance with Sedef orders.

Nuclear Support to Regional Commands

The 2018 National Defense Strategy has characterized a global environment whereby great power competition threatens the nation and the international order. Air Force nuclear capabilities, reliant on a modern and survivable command, control, and communications (NC3) capability require precise integration with conventional command and control operations, to deter our adversaries from strategic nuclear and conventional attack. Air Force nuclear capabilities require robust integration with full spectrum operations to ensure effective employment within a particular region and account for larger political ramifications and allow effective operations in a nuclear environment. When requested by a geographic combatant commander, global nuclear capabilities are normally employed through a support relationship with US Strategic Command as authorized by the SecDef and the President of the United States.

Refer to AFDP 3-72, [Nuclear Operations](#), for more information.

Homeland Defense Organizational Considerations

Military operations inside the United States and its Territories fall into two mission areas: [homeland defense](#), for which the DOD serves as the [lead federal agency](#) and military forces are used to conduct military operations in defense of the homeland; and [civil support](#) for which DOD serves in a supporting role to other agencies at the federal, state, tribal, and local levels.

Homeland Defense

For most homeland scenarios, Air Force forces should be presented as an AETF under the OPCON of a COMAFFOR. Air National Guard (ANG) forces whether activated and operating in Title 10 status supporting a Federal mission or operation under Title 32 and attached to a [combatant command](#) (CCMD) or remaining under

state control in Title 32 or state active duty status should be organized and presented within an AETF or equivalent structure.

The command relationships between a JFC and a COMAFFOR in a homeland context may have additional legal and [interagency](#) considerations. Additionally, when the ANG is operating in Title 32 or state active duty status under the authority of a state governor, a similar command relationship exists between the state Adjutant General or JTF commander and the designated ANG air commander.

The SecDef may request State governors to allow their respective ANG personnel or units to support federal operations or missions such as providing intelligence and cyberspace support to CCDRs or supporting civil authorities pursuant to Title 32. ANG personnel and units would remain in Title 32 status, but be attached to the Service component of a CCMD, and under the operational authority of the CCDR. The nature, extent, and degree of control exercised by the CCDR and his or her subordinate commanders, including dual-status commanders, would be set forth in a command arrangements agreement (CAA) agreed upon by the SecDef and state governors. The CAA would be similar to those negotiated for multinational operations. Administrative authority for ANG personnel and units would remain with the state.

Civil Support

The JFC may elect to allocate combat forces to subordinate functional task force commanders (TF CDRs) with a specification of OPCON to the TF CDRs. For example, a JFC in a major disaster relief operation might organize forces into separate engineering, transportation, and medical task forces. This organizational scheme divides Air Force assets among other component commanders and fractures Service [unity of command](#). This is not the most operationally effective scheme for achieving unity of command and [unity of effort](#) under a single Airman. The JFC should delegate OPCON of all assigned and attached Air Force forces to the air component commander. The air component commander then provides direct support to the various functional TF CDRs, as a [supporting commander](#).

Each state has a state joint force headquarters (JFHQ-State) that may provide a contingency C2 capability in support of homeland defense, civil support, and other related operations, and may thus function as a bridge between state and federal forces. Additionally, a governor may stand up a JTF-State to provide direction and control of assigned non-federalized National Guard forces and those attached from other states. ANG forces conducting operations in Title 32 or state active duty status should be organized as an AETF or equivalent within their state force structure to provide unity of command, with a single Airman in command of the ANG forces.

State and federal military forces may adopt a parallel command structure.

A parallel command structure exists when state and federal authorities have separate chains of command, and retain control of their deployed forces. Unity of effort and

decisions of mutual interest are handled through a coordinated liaison effort of the political and senior military leadership of state and federal forces.

- ★ Federal statute permits a dual status command structure, in which a designated commander subordinate to a combatant commander may simultaneously serve in Federal and State duty statuses while performing the separate and distinct duties of those statuses over forces. Such positions are intended for short-term response situations that require both federal and state involvement, such as a multi-state disaster or national event. The command authority for forces in Title 32 attached to the CCDR is exercised by a dual-status commander pursuant to a CAA. Additionally, the statute requires both presidential authorization and a governor's consent to invest a commander with dual status.

For more detailed discussion on homeland operations in general, see AFDP 3-27, [Homeland Operations](#). For more discussion on dual-status commanders, refer to Joint Publication 3-28, [Defense Support of Civil Authorities](#), Appendix C, and "Department of Defense Dual-Status Commander."

THE SENIOR / HOST AIR FORCE INSTALLATION COMMANDER

An installation commander exercises authority over and responsibility for protection of assigned forces and assets, lodging, dining, and administrative reporting, regardless of Service or the command relations of those forces.

Ultimately, the Air Force Service component commander within a region is responsible for fulfilling ADCON responsibilities and common logistics support for all Air Force forces within his or her region, regardless of organization of assignment of those forces.

For non-Air Force forces operating from an Air Force-owned base, the provision of logistics support is inherently the responsibility of the owning Service. Example, forces belonging to other Service components operating from an Air Force-owned base such as Army special operations forces or Marine aviation units. However, the host base commander has responsibility for providing protection and other base operating support for those forces as directed by the governing operations order or inter-Service agreements. Commercial support may also be required to other operations personnel (host nation, multinational support, and operational contract support) and other US Government agencies.

G-series orders should detail which commanders are responsible for providing specific elements of ADCON to deployed units and what authority that commander may use to carry out these responsibilities. The orders are not required to spell out all support and sustainment responsibilities. The minimum ADCON responsibilities and authorities to go forward should be responsibility for enforcement of the Uniform Code of Military Justice, protection of assigned forces and assets, lodging, dining, and force reporting.

Refer to AFI 38-101, [*Air Force Organization*](#), for more specific policy guidance.
