



PRESENTATION TO JOINT AND MULTINATIONAL OPERATIONS

Last Updated: 28 October 2020

Department of the Air Force (DAF) weather capabilities should be integrated with those of other services and nations to provide coherent and structured weather operations to joint and multinational forces. DAF weather personnel may be tasked to fill joint weather positions supporting a [combatant commander](#) (CCDR), [air component commander](#), or land component commander.¹

AIR FORCE COMPONENT STAFF LEVEL

In a joint or multinational operational environment, the air component commander, executing under Title 10 commander, Air Force forces (COMAFFOR) authorities, exercises operational control (OPCON) and administrative control of all assigned and attached conventional Air Force weather personnel deployed to a theater.

The CCDR's senior meteorological and oceanographic officer (SMO) coordinates the weather capability needed to support a joint task force (JTF). In addition, the air component commander should have weather personnel on the operations (A3) staff and embedded in the [air operations center](#) (AOC). Weather personnel support the CCDR's intelligence (A2) staff, are involved in contingency planning, and ensure the air component commander's weather requirements are met.

The senior DAF weather representative to the air component commander is designated the staff weather officer (SWO). The SWO monitors and coordinates DAF weather resources in theater, including those supporting conventional land and special operations forces. The SWO advises the air component commander's A-staff on all matters related to employing weather resources and coordinates DAF and Army requirements with the appropriate joint and coalition meteorological and oceanographic entities.

The SWO should coordinate closely with counterparts on other JTF and component staffs. Like the SWO, staff weather officers of other components have functional support responsibilities and should coordinate their respective component requirements directly with their joint counterparts to deconflict responsibilities and ensure unity of effort.

¹ See Joint Publication 3-59, [Meteorological and Oceanographic Operations](#), for details on joint weather operations.

Air Expeditionary Task Force (WX). Weather forces performing mission weather integration; for example, those supporting the Army, should deploy with their strike mission design series flying squadron(s) or other supported Army units as part of an [air expeditionary task force](#) (AETF). The theater air component commander retains OPCON of weather personnel supporting Army units at all echelons. Weather personnel and equipment from other units, including National Guard or Reserve forces, may be tasked to augment AETF weather forces.

DAF weather capabilities that support air expeditionary wing-level operations, to include airfield weather services, staff and installation weather integration, and mission weather integration, are normally organized, commanded, and employed as a weather flight in an expeditionary operations support squadron. In some instances, it may be best for weather personnel performing mission weather integration to be directly attached to a flying squadron to provide more tailored and specific environmental information in support of operations.

DAF weather personnel assigned or attached to an AETF normally obtain data required for the weather analysis and forecasting function from centralized weather analysis and forecasting centers such as operational weather squadrons. Reliable communications are critical to providing data and information required for weather operations conducted forward on the battlefield.

Weather Systems Support Cadre (WSSC). The WSSC is a service-retained asset that is manned, equipped, and trained in accordance with combatant command requirements. When requested and deployed to a theater, the WSSC is normally attached with specification of OPCON to the theater CDR who will delegate OPCON to their air component commander, under their COMAFFOR authorities. The WSSC serves as a subject matter expert, offering recommendations and performing sensor operations, maintenance, troubleshooting, site surveys, and set-up and tear-down procedures in support of all meteorological and oceanographic forces in the designated theater of operations. The WSSC works with combatant command-aligned subject matter experts and senior SWOs to synchronize maintenance and logistics actions necessary to support the approved theater sensing strategy for forward deployed tactical weather sensors.
