

## PRESENTATION OF NUCLEAR FORCES

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The command structure established by the Commander, [US Strategic Command](#) (USSTRATCOM) is different than other combatant command structures due to its range of assigned missions and the number and range of supporting commands and agencies from which it draws forces and capabilities. Within USSTRATCOM are three joint force component commands (JFCCs) in lieu of standing joint task forces. The roles and responsibilities of the JFCCs vary, as do the command relationships of the supporting Service components. As a result of this organization, care should be taken to understand the various command arrangements, the disposition of [command authorities](#), and the roles of subordinate commanders. It is important to keep track of joint and Service command lines, especially since these frequently converge on dual- or multi-hatted commanders.

The following describes how nuclear force providers present their forces on a day-to-day basis to USSTRATCOM.

### ORGANIZATION OF NUCLEAR FORCES

The Air Force employs forces for USSTRATCOM through the [joint force air component commander](#) (JFACC).

While the JFACC has [tactical control](#) (TACON) of assigned or attached forces for non-nuclear operations, this is not the case for nuclear operations.

Forces assigned to the Commander, USSTRATCOM (CDRUSSTRATCOM) include B-2, B-52, and E-4B aircraft; intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs); and helicopters. CDRUSSTRATCOM delegates [operational control](#) (OPCON) of assigned and attached Air Force forces to the Air Force component commander (the [commander, Air Force forces](#) [COMAFFOR]) assigned to CDRUSSTRATCOM, i.e., Commander, Air Force Global Strike Command (AFGSC/CC). As the commander of a component major command, AFGSC/CC further divides their responsibilities into operational branch authority as Commander, Air Forces Strategic (COMAFSTRAT) and administrative branch authority as AFGSC/CC. COMAFSTRAT exercises OPCON of assigned and attached Air Force forces as delegated by the CDRUSSTRATCOM.

CDRUSSTRATCOM uniquely retains TACON of generated nuclear forces at all times. Thus, for nuclear operations, COMAFSTRAT is a force provider.

The AFGSC/CC is further designated as the JFACC to CDRUSSTRATCOM. As JFACC, AFGSC/CC provides daily monitoring of those joint forces made available, command and control (C2) in peacetime, and during non-nuclear global strike operations to accomplish tasked missions. JFACC authorities and responsibilities differ from those described in doctrine for non-nuclear operations in part because nuclear planning and nuclear C2 are not conducted at the component level.

As the Air Force component commander to CDRUSSTRATCOM, AFGSC/CC exercises [administrative control](#) (ADCON) over Air Force forces as delegated by the Air Force, and OPCON over assigned and attached Air Force forces as delegated by CDRUSSTRATCOM.

AFGSC/CC exercises C2 over ICBMs, bombers, and other assigned aircraft through the 608th Air Operations Center (AOC) while Commander, Air Mobility Command (AMC/CC) exercises C2 over tanker and mobility aircraft through the 618 AOC. The 608 AOC and 618 AOC have a [coordinating](#) relationship.

These unique delegations of command authorities are codified in two annually revised USSTRATCOM operation orders (OPORDs).

## **AIR FORCE ORGANIZATION FOR NUCLEAR OPERATIONS**

Subordinate to AFGSC are two numbered Air Forces (NAFs), Eighth Air Force (8 AF) and Twentieth Air Force (20 AF). These NAF commanders exercise ADCON over their respective forces. The Commander, 8 AF (8 AF/CC), is dual-hatted as Commander, Joint-Global Strike Operations Center (J-GSOC).

8 AF/CC exercises TACON of LOOKING GLASS, Take Charge and Move Out (TACAMO) as delegated by CDRUSSTRATCOM through OPORDs.

Within the NAFs, forces are arrayed internally into wings, groups, and squadrons as necessary to provide internal span of control. Unlike the Air Force doctrine organizational model for non-nuclear operations executed on a regular and recurring basis, there is no single [air expeditionary task force](#) for nuclear operations. However, bomber task force missions occur on a routine basis, performing nuclear deterrence operations in support of current operation plans objectives.

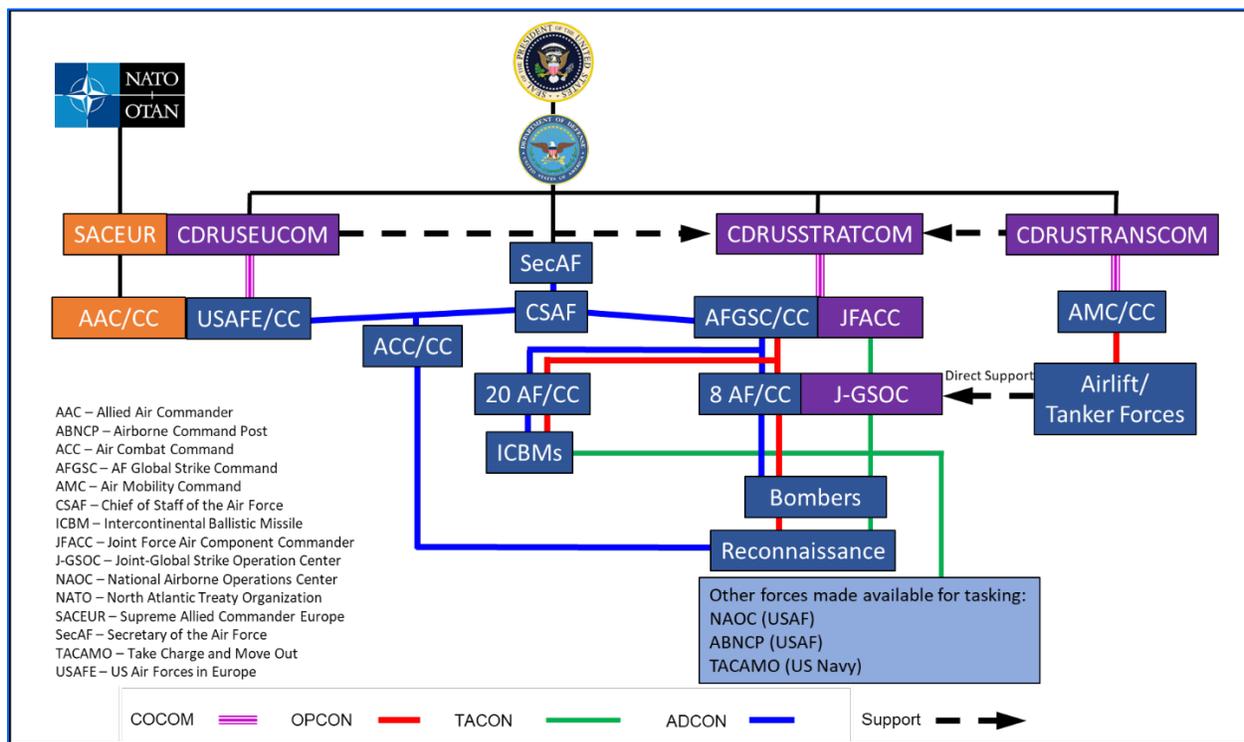
USTRANSCOM through Air Mobility Command provides air refueling and airlift forces in direct [support](#) of USSTRATCOM.

AFGSC/CC via J-GSOC (8 AF/CC) exercises ADCON of National Airborne Command Post (NAOC) aircraft (E-4B) assigned to the 595th Command and Control Group, while

CDRUSSTRATCOM exercises OPCON of non-alert NAOC aircraft and the Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff (CJCS) exercises OPCON of the alert NAOC.

Air Combat Command provides reconnaissance in support of nuclear operations aircraft for USSTRATCOM. Commander, Air Combat Command, retains ADCON of these forces. When reconnaissance aircraft are generated, they are transferred with the specification of OPCON to the J-GSOC (8 AF/CC) via the 608 AOC.

The Commander, US Air Forces Europe (USAFE/CC) provides dual-capable fighter aircraft to the Commander, [US European Command](#) (CDRUSEUCOM). The USAFE/CC is also dual hatted as the Commander, Allied Air Command to the [North Atlantic Treaty Organization](#). In the relationship with CDRUSSTRATCOM, CDRUSEUCOM is the supported commander for planning. At the same time, CDRUSEUCOM is the supporting commander for execution. In the execution of nuclear strikes, CDRUSSTRATCOM has no authority over weapons assigned to USAFE/CC.



**Air Force Organization for Nuclear Operations**