



## INTRODUCTION

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**This AFDP establishes a framework for air and space components supporting joint all-domain operations (JADO).** It combines a vision of JADO with near-term practical approaches. Near-term approaches are grounded in operational experience and battle-tested processes for [operational planning, execution, and assessment](#). This AFDP guides the Department of the Air Force (DAF) in organizing and employing the full range of forces and capabilities it presents to the [joint force commander](#) (JFC). Experiments, wargames, and exercises will refine JADO operational principles. The role of this doctrine publication as emerging doctrine is depicted in Appendix E.

## JOINT ALL-DOMAIN OPERATIONS

DAF and joint force operations are increasingly interconnected, interdependent, and challenged. Anti-access and area denial threats, reduced freedom of maneuver, and rapid proliferation of advanced technologies challenge the DAF's ability to operate. This operating environment requires examining how forces will sense, plan, decide, and act in concert across all domains. Achieving freedom of action requires convergence across domains that presents adversary *dilemmas* at an operational tempo complicating or negating adversary responses and enabling the joint force to operate inside the adversary's decision-making cycle. Synergistic employment of capabilities in different domains enhances effectiveness and compensates for vulnerabilities, creating outcomes not readily attainable through single-domain action.

A dilemma is a situation in which one must make a difficult choice between two or more alternatives, often equally undesirable.

### DAF's support to JADO principles:

- ✦ [Centralized control and decentralized execution](#) through mission-type orders.
- ✦ Delegation of authority.
- ✦ Sharing of information.
- ✦ Integrated planning.
- ✦ Risk identification and mitigation.

- ✦ Use of joint or coalition structures for command and control (C2) and force employment.

## **Outcomes of DAF's support to JADO:**

- ✦ Describe the need for joint all-domain command and control structures.
- ✦ Accelerate and increase capacity to develop decision-quality information.
- ✦ Organize, train, and equip forces to converge in multiple domains in operationally-relevant timeframes.
- ✦ Create dilemmas for an adversary.

### **DAF contribution to JADO synergizes air and space forces. It ensures the DAF presents capabilities to the JFC in ways that can be integrated into JADO.**

Functions of the military departments are codified in Department of Defense Directive 5100.01, [Functions of the Department of Defense and Its Major Components](#). While it promotes unity of command and effort within each domain, it stovepipes operations, limits integration, planning, and synergies between activities, creates vulnerabilities, and reduces dynamic exploitation of emergent opportunities. All-domain approaches leverage the joint force's full capability and permit lower-level integration in operationally-relevant timeframes.

Peer competition requires reframing integration and synchronization for sustained and dynamic combat operations. Current decision-making processes (e.g., joint planning process for air) employ linear planning and force synchronization to execute operations. If successful, these operations lead to reduced activity, followed by another cycle of the process. Current processes are slow and predictable; peer competition requires process changes to facilitate rapid synchronization of [effects](#) to create adversary dilemmas. This requires continuous and iterative near-term tactical planning, longer-term operational-level planning, and campaign refinement as conditions change.

## **JADO ACROSS THE COMPETITION CONTINUUM**

The DAF provides forces to JFCs for JADO throughout the competition continuum. Those forces operate principally in air, space, cyberspace, and the electromagnetic spectrum (EMS).<sup>1</sup>

Joint Doctrine Note 1-19 introduced the competition continuum: a comprehensive and flexible spectrum of strategic relations between the United States and other actors.<sup>2</sup> The competition continuum describes a world of enduring competition conducted via

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<sup>1</sup> Appendix A depicts the relationship between the DOD domains and associated elements.

<sup>2</sup> Joint Doctrine Note 1-19, [Competition Continuum](#).

**cooperation, competition below armed conflict, and armed conflict, depicting the relationship between the US and strategic actors (state or non-state)** concerning policy objectives. The competition continuum describes the environment in which the United States government applies instruments of national power. Key points are:

- ★ **Cooperation:** Mutually beneficial relationships with compatible interests.
- ★ **Competition:** Relationships with incompatible interests—none seeking to escalate to armed conflict.
- ★ **Armed conflict:** A situation in which combat is the primary means to satisfy interests.

“The reemergence of long-term strategic competition, rapid dispersion of technologies, and new concepts of warfare and competition that span the entire spectrum of conflict require a Joint Force structured to match this reality.”

[National Defense Strategy of the United States of America, 2018](#)  
[unclassified summary]

Air and space forces support JADO across the competition continuum, as shown through examples in the figure below.

JADO Across the Competition Continuum	
Continuum region	Joint all-domain operations, activities, and investments
Cooperation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>★ Improve materiel and non-materiel partner nation interoperability.</li> <li>★ Obtain and maintain air and cyberspace domain access enabling global reach and rapid projection of military power.</li> <li>★ Establish cooperative sharing agreements improving mutual support in crisis response.</li> </ul>
Competition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>★ Incorporate all-domain approaches into flexible deterrent options.</li> <li>★ Expose and counter malign influence.</li> <li>★ Maintain freedom of access and maneuver in the global commons.</li> </ul>
Conflict	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>★ Gaining information advantage.</li> <li>★ Projecting global combat power.</li> <li>★ Synchronizing action in, from, or through all domains to gain and maintain theater access.</li> <li>★ Overmatching adversary forces at decisive points.</li> <li>★ Preserve combat capability to conduct future operations</li> </ul>

**JADO Across the Competition Continuum**



## DEFINITIONS OF TERMS

**Domain:** A sphere of activity or influence with common and distinct characteristics in which a force can conduct joint functions.<sup>3</sup>

**Joint All-Domain Operations (JADO):** Comprised of air, land, maritime, cyberspace, and space domains, plus the EMS. Actions by the joint force in multiple domains integrated in planning and synchronized in execution, at speed and scale needed to gain advantage and accomplish the mission.<sup>4</sup>

### **Joint All-Domain Command and Control (JADC2):**

The art and science of decision-making to rapidly translate decisions into action, leverage capabilities across all domains with mission partners to achieve operational and informational advantage in both competition and conflict.<sup>5 6</sup>

### **Information Advantage:**

Conditions in the information environment favorable to achievement of the commander's overall objectives. Such conditions may arise on their own or be the result of deliberately using information to influence relevant actors; inform desired audiences; attack, exploit, and defend information, information networks, and systems; and support human and automated decision-making. Information advantage can exist in the human or systems dimensions of the information environment separately or simultaneously.



*“Victory in future combat will depend less on individual capabilities and more on the integrated strengths of a connected network available for coalition leaders to employ....*

*What I’m talking about is a fully networked force where each platform’s sensors and operators are connected.*

*The goal [is to] produce multiple dilemmas for our adversaries in a way that will overwhelm them.... An even better outcome...is to refine [JADO] to the point where it produces so many dilemmas for our adversaries that they choose not to take us on in the first place.”*

**--Air Force Chief of Staff Gen David Goldfein**  
Remarks to the Air Force Association,  
17 September 2019

<sup>3</sup> Joint Publication (JP) 3-0, [Joint Operations](#), describes the operational environment as encompassing the physical domains of air, land, maritime, and space; the information environment, which includes the cyberspace domain; and the electromagnetic spectrum. It also describes the joint functions as related capabilities grouped to help commanders integrate, synchronize, and direct operations. The [joint functions](#) are C2, information, intelligence, fires, movement and maneuver, protection, and sustainment. Also refer to Appendix A for a graphical depiction.

<sup>4</sup> Air Force Doctrine Note 1-20, [USAF Role in Joint All-Domain Operations](#).

<sup>5</sup> JADC2 Cross-Functional Team Charter/Terms of Reference.

<sup>6</sup> [Air Force Doctrine Note 1-20](#).