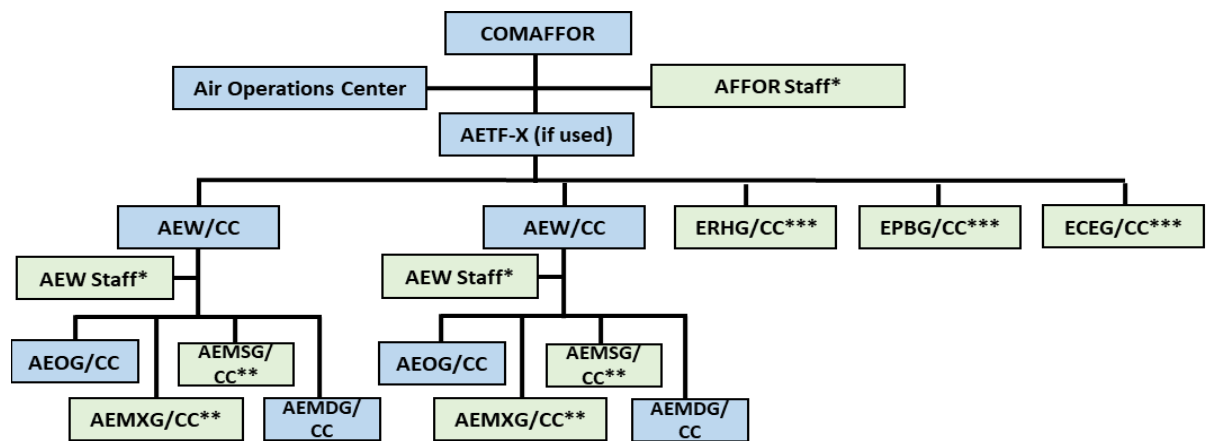


COMBAT SUPPORT COMPONENTS TO THE COMAFFOR

Last Updated: 5 January 2020

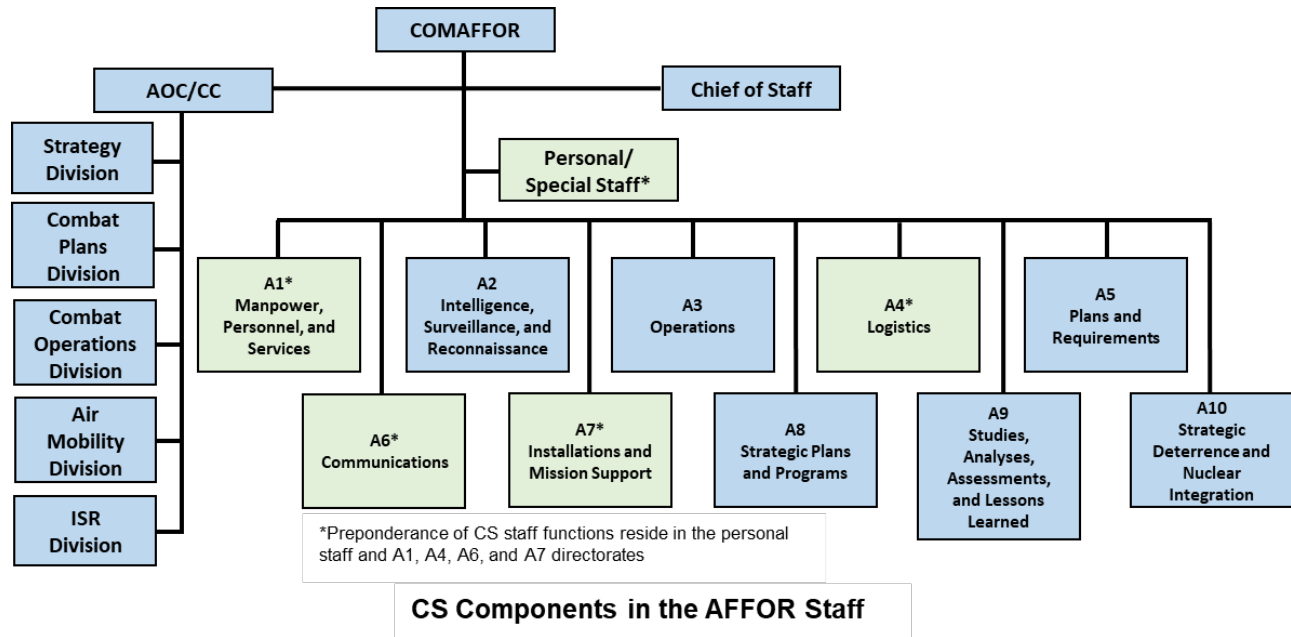
The [air component commander](#) under Title 10 authority as [commander, Air Force forces](#) (COMAFFOR) has responsibility for the command and control (C2) of combat support (CS) operations for assigned and attached Air Force forces (AFFOR). The majority of CS forces operate within air expeditionary wings (AEWs). The air component commander has a direct command relationship with subordinate Air Force commanders. Those subordinate commanders then usually have direct command relationship with the CS units and personnel in the AEWs. The CS personnel, in the AEWs, are aligned in the wing staff, the air expeditionary maintenance group (AEMXG), and the air expeditionary mission support group (AEMSG). The air component commander may also choose to retain some theater level CS assets above the wing level. In this case, a portion of the CS personnel are aligned in squadrons or groups that report directly to the air component commander or to an air expeditionary task force-X (AETF-X) commander (CC) if one is designated (see the figure, COMAFFOR's CS Forces for one notional command relationship). For a more extensive C2 discussion, see AFDP 3-30, [Command and Control](#).



*Preponderance of CS staff functions reside in the AFFOR Staff
 **Majority of the CS personnel reside in the Mission Support Groups, Maintenance Groups and on AEW staffs
 ***Theater wide CS enablers such as the RED HORSE groups (ERHG), Prime Base Engineer Emergency Force (BEEF) Groups (EPBG), and Civil Engineer Groups (ECEG) can be aligned directly under the COMAFFOR

COMAFFOR's CS Forces

While the preponderance of CS forces operate within AEWs primarily working at the tactical level, the air component commander provides overall C2 and specific direction at the operational level through the [AFFOR staff \(the Air Staff and special staff\)](#). Within the Air Force component headquarters, CS staff functions are aligned in several sections of the AFFOR staff as shown in the figure, “CS Components in the AFFOR Staff.” CS components of the AFFOR Staff should interface continuously with the [air operations center](#) (AOC) for planning, support, and sustainment of operations.



The AFFOR staff coordinates with associated joint task force headquarters staffs to plan, coordinate, and execute required support functions. The AFFOR staff interfaces with joint staffs to:

- ✦ Coordinate in decision-making and planning.
- ✦ Integrate CS into theater operations.
- ✦ Develop detailed CS plans.
- ✦ Establish a joint logistics and support architecture.
- ✦ Ensure unity of CS effort.
- ✦ Integrate national and theater CS.
- ✦ Perform sustainability analyses.

VERTICAL AND HORIZONTAL COMMUNICATIONS

Based on the breadth and complexity of CS, especially in a contested environment, all C2 nodes, from the air component commander to fielded forces, should communicate necessary information, both vertically and horizontally, to integrate all combat support efforts. The AFFOR and AOC staffs should consider the effects to operations of their overall CS decisions. Information should be produced and consumed continuously throughout mission operations. Information sharing is essential to successfully executing the mission. Mission success depends upon getting the right information to the right place at the right time.

To facilitate attainment of mission objectives, the air component commander should clearly disseminate the commander's intent to subordinate commanders and staffs. The air component commander should establish the battle rhythm and information requirements.

[CS functional communities](#) should be linked with [CS core processes](#) across the staff to facilitate horizontal communications. CS systems architecture should provide a robust and secure capability and be integrated across all CS functional areas.
