



AIR FORCE SPECIAL OPERATIONS FORCES COMMAND RELATIONSHIPS

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[Air Force special operations forces](#) (AFSOF) are under the [combatant command](#) (COCOM) authority of the US Special Operations Command (USSOCOM) and under [administrative control](#) (ADCON) of the Commander, Air Force Special Operations Command (AFSOC). USSOCOM is a functional combatant command, with Service-like responsibilities in areas unique to special operations, and when established as a supported command, plans and conducts certain global special operations missions.

USSOCOM exercises COCOM authority over [theater special operations commands](#) (TSOC) for organize, train, and equip responsibilities. A [combatant commander](#) (CCDR), exercises [operational control](#) of special operations forces (SOF) through the commander, TSOC (CDRTSOC). The CDRTSOC may also be designated as the [joint force special operations component commander](#).

When a CCDR establishes and employs multiple joint task forces and independent task forces, CDRTSOC may establish and employ a special operations joint task force (SOJTF) or multiple [joint special operations task forces](#) (JSOTFs) to command and control SOF assets. The GCC normally establishes support relationships between JSOTF commanders and JTF/task force commanders.

AFSOC retains Service ADCON of all assigned active component and exercises specified elements of ADCON over reserve component AFSOF personnel. AFSOC may share selected elements of Service ADCON with other Air Force component commands in order to obtain regional beddown support.

Regardless of the arranged command relationship, commanders should provide for a clear, unambiguous chain of command ([unity of command](#)).

Refer to AFDP 3-30, [Command and Control](#), for additional information.