Information-related capability (IRC) forces and information operations (IO) planners are assigned to geographic and functional combatant commands (CCMDs) who employ forces in support of worldwide operations. The functional CCMDs provide IRC support to joint operations in all geographic area of responsibilities (AORs), as required. Thus, the command and control (C2) structure established for integrating IRCs should be robust enough to account for these various operating areas.

The combatant commander (CCDR) develops a theater campaign plan to accomplish ongoing and enduring theater objectives, including those involving IO. The CCDR may establish a joint task force (JTF) commanded by a joint force commander (JFC) to accomplish specific tasks or carry out a particular contingency. The CCDR or subordinate JFC normally designates a joint force IO officer to accomplish broad IO oversight functions. The joint force IO officer heads the JTF IO cell, when designated.

Primary and supporting components are designated by the JFC. If deemed appropriate, the CCDR or subordinate JFC may choose to use service component assets as part of IO integration into their planning efforts. Air Force IO planners and information-related capabilities are typically presented by the commander, Air Force forces to the CCDR or other JFC through either an Air Force component major command or a component numbered Air Force. In addition to IO support to CCDR objectives and messaging requirements, Air Force forces should also use their capabilities, tools, techniques and activities to support component objectives and leadership’s messaging objectives.