



[ANNEX 3-30 COMMAND AND CONTROL](#)

**AIR OPERATIONS CENTER**

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In general terms, an air operations center (AOC) is the Air Force component commander's [command and control](#) (C2) center that provides the capability to plan, direct, and assess the activities of [assigned](#) and [attached](#) forces. **AOCs do not work in isolation**; they require appropriate connectivity to operations centers of higher headquarters (e.g., to the joint force headquarters for the operational branch, and to senior Air Force headquarters for the administrative branch), to lateral headquarters (e.g., other joint force components), to subordinate assigned and attached Air Force units, and to other functional and geographic AOCs as necessary. The overall C2 structure should make maximum use of [reachback](#).

An AOC, along with subordinate C2 elements, should be tailored in size and capability to the mission. An AOC should generally be capable of the following basic tasks:

- ✦ Develop the component [strategy](#) and requisite planning products.
- ✦ Task, execute, and assess day-to-day component operations.
- ✦ Plan and execute [intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance](#) tasks appropriate to assigned missions.
- ✦ Conduct [operational-level assessment](#).

Depending on the nature of the mission and the tailoring of the component, additional AOC tasks may include, but are not limited to, integrating [intertheater air mobility](#) support; developing and issuing [airspace control procedures](#); and providing overall direction of defense appropriate for the operating domains (e.g., theater [air and missile defense](#); [cyberspace defense](#); space defense). While these operations centers are organic to Air Force operations, with proper augmentation from the other Services and coalition partners they may evolve into a joint or combined AOC (JAOC or CAOC), depending on the type of operation and nature of the forces within the air component, and whether the [commander, Air Force forces](#) (COMAFFOR) is also acting as the [joint force air component commander](#) (JFACC) or combined force air component commander (CFACC).

AOCs and their subordinate C2 elements may be geographically oriented or functionally oriented. To bring all the Air Force's capabilities together for a given operation or activity, the AOCs normally work together in a mutually supporting command arrangement, with one of them designated as the supported center.

See [Appendix B](#) for a summary of baseline AOC organization. For more detailed guidance on internal structure and procedures, refer to [Air Force Instruction 13-1AOC, Volume 3, Operational Procedures—Air and Space Operations Center](#).

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