There are three types of doctrine: Service, joint, and multinational.

- **Service doctrine** outlines Service capabilities and guides the application of Service forces.

- **Joint doctrine**, as it applies to airpower in joint operations, describes the best way to integrate and employ air, space, and cyberspace capabilities with land, maritime, and special operations forces in military action.

- **Multinational doctrine**, as it applies to airpower, describes the best way to integrate and employ US air forces with the forces of allies in coalition warfare. It establishes principles, organization, and fundamental procedures agreed upon between or among allied forces. When developed as a result of a treaty, as in North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) doctrine, multinational doctrine is directive.