



CURTIS E. LEMAY CENTER

FOR DOCTRINE DEVELOPMENT AND EDUCATION



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UNITY OF COMMAND

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“Unity of command” is one of the principles of war.

Unity of command ensures concentration of effort for every objective under one responsible commander. This principle emphasizes that all efforts should be directed and coordinated toward a common objective. [Airpower's](#) operational-level perspective calls for unity of command to gain the most effective and efficient application. Coordination may be achieved by cooperation; it is, however, best achieved by vesting a single commander with the authority and the capability to direct all force employment in pursuit of a common objective. In many operations, the wide-ranging interagency and [nongovernmental organizations](#) involved may dilute unity of command. Effective information-sharing arrangements may preserve [unity of effort](#) to ensure common focus and mutually supporting actions.

Unity of command is vital in employing airpower. Airpower is the product of multiple capabilities, and [centralized control](#) is essential to effectively fuse these capabilities and provide unity of command.