Historically, when Air Force forces have been attached to a joint task force (JTF), the commander, Air Force forces (COMAFFOR) is normally designated as the joint force air component commander (JFACC), not merely due to preponderance of forces but also due to the ability to command and control airpower through an air operations center (AOC), which forms the core of the JFACC’s JAOC.

This is why the COMAFFOR trains to act as the JFACC.

It is rare that sizeable Air Force forces have been present in a JTF, and the COMAFFOR has not been the JFACC.

If aviation assets from more than one Service are present within a joint force, the joint force commander (JFC) normally designates a JFACC to exploit the full capabilities of joint operations.

The JFACC should be the Service component commander with the preponderance of forces to be tasked and the ability to plan, task, and control joint air operations (Joint Publication P 3-30, Command and Control for Joint Air Operations).

If working with allies in a coalition or alliance operation, the JFACC may be designated as the combined force air component commander (CFACC).

Because of the wide scope of joint air operations, the JFACC typically maintains a similar theaterwide or joint operations area (JOA)-wide perspective as the JFC. The JFACC:

As with any component commander, should not also be dual-hatted as the JFC as the scope of command is usually too broad for any one commander and staff.

Functional component commanders normally exercise tactical control (TACON) of forces made available to them by the JFC. Thus, a COMAFFOR normally exercises operational control (OPCON) of assigned and attached Air Force forces and, acting as a JFACC, normally exercises TACON of forces made available for tasking (i.e., those forces not retained for their own Service’s organic operations).
JFACC Responsibilities

- The JFACC should be prepared to assume the following responsibilities, as assigned by the JFC:
  
  ✤ Organize a JFACC staff manned with personnel from each component to reflect the composition of capabilities and forces controlled by the JFACC.

  ✤ Develop a joint air operations plan (JAOP) to best support the JFC’s concept of operations or operation plan.

  ✤ Recommend air apportionment priorities to the JFC that should be devoted to the various air operations for a given period of time.

  ✤ Allocate and task the joint air capabilities and forces made available by the Service components based on the JFC’s air apportionment decision.

  ✤ Provide JFACC guidance in the air operations directive (AOD).

  ✤ Provide oversight and guidance during execution of joint air operations.

  ✤ Assess the results of joint air operations.

  ✤ Perform the duties of the airspace control authority (ACA).

  ✤ Perform the duties of the area air defense commander (AADC).

  ✤ Perform the duties of the space coordinating authority (SCA).

  ✤ Perform the duties of the personnel recovery (PR) coordinator.

  ✤ In concert with the above responsibilities, perform tasks within various mission areas to include, but not limited to:

    - Counterair, to include integrated air and missile defense.

    - Strategic attack.

    - Counterland.

    - Countersea.

    - Countersea.

    - Air mobility.

    - Information operations.
- **Personnel recovery** operations, including **combat search and rescue**, for assigned and attached forces.

Serve as the **supported commander** for counterair operations, strategic attack, the JFC’s overall air interdiction effort, personnel recovery, and theater airborne **intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance** (ISR) (among other missions).

- Refer to Joint Publication 3-30, *Command and Control for Joint Air Operations*, for more complete discussion of the JFACC’s role and the planning processes that support joint air component employment.