



ANNEX 3-14 SPACE OPERATIONS

INTEGRATING GLOBAL SPACE FORCES

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When a theater requests global [space forces](#) to produce effects, the Secretary of Defense (SecDef) will specify a [command relationship](#) between CDRUSSTRATCOM and the combatant commander—normally a supporting/supported relationship. This will be employed at appropriate levels within both the supporting and supported commands. These support relationships fall into four categories: general; mutual; direct; and close support.¹

For [space](#) forces providing effects via a support relationship, it is important for both supported and supporting commanders to document their requirements in an “establishing directive.” The establishing directive should specify the purpose of the support relationship, the effect desired, and the scope of the action to be taken. Additional information includes:

- ✦ The space forces and resources allocated to the supporting commander's effort.
- ✦ The time, place, level, and duration of the supporting commander's effort.
- ✦ The relative priority of the supported commander's effort.
- ✦ The degree of authorities exercised by the supported and supporting commanders over the effort, to include processes for reconciling competing requirements and resolving emergency events expeditiously, as required.

To facilitate a support relationship, an appropriate level of coordination should occur between the involved commanders. This facilitates planning the detailed integration of space capabilities and effects with theater operations, and enables theater warfighters to coordinate directly at either the same or differing organizational levels.

Normally, CDRUSSTRATCOM retains control of global space forces. However, a theater commander may require a greater degree of command authority than specified by a support relationship. This assumes the requisite expertise and ability to command and control (C2) exist in theater. In those instances, SecDef may transfer control over specified global space forces conducting operations affecting an individual theater.

¹ JP 1, [Doctrine for the Armed Forces of the United States](#), Chapter Four, Section A.

Because of the high operations tempo in the US Central Command area of responsibility (AOR) during Operations ENDURING FREEDOM (OEF) and IRAQI FREEDOM (OIF), a supporting/supported relationship was established between CDR JFCC SPACE and the commander of Air Force Central Command (AFCENT/CC). To codify this relationship, both commanders used an establishing directive to document the details of the supporting/supported relationship. In this relationship, the AFCENT/CC is the “supported” commander and the CDR JFCC SPACE is the “supporting” commander. (See vignette, Examples of Space Support.)

Examples of Space Support

General Support. During the major combat operations phase of OIF, USSTRATCOM provided general support from space operations to the Iraqi theater of operations. This support relationship helped the joint force integrate space capabilities, such as positioning, navigation, and timing from GPS, and space control-enabled effects.

Mutual Support. During the counterinsurgency phase of OIF, the combatant commander assigned the JFACC the task of space superiority. For this objective, the JFC designated the JFACC as the supported commander with other component commanders in a mutual support relationship for space operations.

Direct Support. During Operation ALLIED FORCE (OAF), a direct support relationship was established between the JFACC and 11th Space Warning Squadron (SWS). This relationship allowed the AOC to directly task 11 SWS personnel and exchange real-time information from the warning satellite for time critical actions like personnel recovery after aircraft shoot downs.