



## GEOGRAPHIC ORGANIZATION AND CONTROL

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A geographic combatant commander (GCC) exercises [operational control](#) (OPCON) over assigned and attached forces and normally delegates OPCON of assigned and attached mobility air forces (MAF) to the theater [commander, Air Force forces](#) (COMAFFOR). For example, Commander, US Pacific Command (CDRUSPACOM) delegates OPCON of assigned and attached MAF to the commander, Pacific Air Forces (PACAF), who acts as the theater COMAFFOR to CDRUSPACOM.

The COMAFFOR executes control of assigned and attached Air Force mobility forces through the air operations center (AOC). One of the AOC divisions, the [air mobility division](#) (AMD), plans, coordinates, tasks, and executes intratheater air mobility operations and, when required, plans, coordinates, tasks, and executes intertheater operations to meet requirements established by the GCC. The AOC coordinates intertheater air mobility support operations with the [618 AOC](#) (Tanker Airlift Control Center [TACC]). A theater COMAFFOR may designate a [director of mobility forces](#) (DIRMOBFOR) as a coordinating authority between the 618 AOC (TACC), the geographic AOC's AMD, and joint task force (JTF)-specified [command and control](#) nodes to meet all validated air mobility requirements.<sup>1</sup> The COMAFFOR and DIRMOBFOR should ensure intratheater MAF are organized to properly interact with other intratheater and intertheater forces.<sup>2</sup> When air mobility forces are attached to a subordinate JTF, they become part of that air expeditionary task force commanded by the GCC's COMAFFOR.

*There will usually be a tension between regionally-organized forces and functionally-organized forces. The former seeks effectiveness at the point of their operation, while the latter seeks effectiveness and efficiency across several regions. At critical times, the requirement for effectiveness may trump efficiency, and additional functional forces may be transferred to the regional command and organized accordingly. These situations require careful and continuing dialogue between competing senior commanders and their common superior commander.*

—[Annex 3-30, Command and Control](#)—

<sup>1</sup> Joint Publication 3-17, [Air Mobility Operations](#).

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.