



ANNEX 3-30 COMMAND AND CONTROL

THE JOINT FORCE AIR COMPONENT COMMANDER

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In the conduct of joint air operations, the commander, Air Force forces (COMAFFOR) is normally designated as the joint force air component commander (JFACC), not merely due to providing the 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 joint AOC (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. While joint doctrine discusses the roles and responsibilities of the JFACC in adequate detail, it is important to present a basic discussion here in Service doctrine in parallel with discussion in Joint Publication 3-30, Command and Control of Joint Air Operations.

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 air 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.** If working with allies in a coalition or alliance operation, the JFACC may be designated as the combined force air component commander. The JFACC recommends the proper employment of air component forces from multiple components. The JFACC also plans, coordinates, allocates, tasks, executes, and assesses joint air operations to accomplish assigned operational missions. **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).

If the JFACC is appointed from another Service, the COMAFFOR relinquishes control of those Air Force component forces to be made available to the JFACC as directed by the JFC. In all cases, the COMAFFOR maintains an effective command and control structure to perform Service operational and administrative functions. In addition, the COMAFFOR should coordinate with the JFACC through a liaison element.

Refer to JP 3-30 for more complete discussion of the JFACC's role and the planning processes that support joint air component employment.
