



ANNEX 3-30 COMMAND AND CONTROL

CONTROL OF OTHER SERVICES' AVIATION CAPABILITIES

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When the commander, Air Force forces (COMAFFOR) is designated as the joint force air component commander (JFACC), he/she may control aviation assets of other Services, in whole or in part, depending on the situation. However, he/she only controls those capabilities "made available for tasking" as directed by the joint force commander (JFC). The other Services have developed their air arms with differing doctrinal and operating constructs in mind, and may retain control of some or all of their assets to perform their organic scheme of maneuver. These tactical mission priorities (primarily support of surface forces) may constrain their availability to conduct the broader scope of joint air component operations at the strategic and operational levels of war. Similar concerns also apply to the aviation arms of our allies. The COMAFFOR should consider these differing philosophies when developing the air component portion of a joint campaign.

Regardless of whether the COMAFFOR, as the JFACC, exercises tactical control of other Services' forces, the COMAFFOR, in the normally expected additional roles of airspace control authority, area air defense commander (AADC), space coordinating authority, and electronic warfare control authority, normally requires inclusion of such forces on the air tasking order (ATO) and airspace control order (ACO). This provides situational awareness of all friendly aviation in the area of responsibility/joint operations area, prevents fratricide, and deconflicts airspace.

- ★ Army aviation assets. These assets are normally retained for employment as organic forces within its combined arms paradigm. However, some Army helicopters could be employed in close air support, interdiction, or other missions, in which case they may come under the purview of the COMAFFOR when the COMAFFOR has been tasked to plan and execute the theater interdiction effort. The same can hold true for other systems (such as the Army Tactical Missile System) when employed for interdiction or offensive counterair, depending on tasking and target location. As a minimum, Army aviation elements, including some unmanned systems, should comply with the ACO to deconflict airspace and friendly air defense planning. Placing Army aviation assets on the ATO/ACO reduces the risk of fratricide and provides better overall integration with other joint air component operations. Additionally, Army Patriot surface-to-air missiles and Theater High Altitude Air Defense (THAAD) capabilities should be integrated into the overall theater defensive counterair effort and may operate in a direct support role to the COMAFFOR acting as AADC.

- ★ Navy aviation assets. These assets include carrier-based aircraft, land-based naval aircraft, and missiles. They provide a diverse array of power projection capabilities. Such assets, beyond those retained as needed for fleet defense and related naval missions, are usually available for tasking via the air tasking process. Additionally, Navy Aegis air and missile defense capabilities may be integrated into the overall theater [defensive counterair](#) effort. As with Army aviation assets, Navy aviation assets, including unmanned systems, should comply with the ACO for airspace deconfliction and air defense planning.
 - ★ Marine aviation assets. The primary mission of Marine aviation is support of the Marine air-ground task force (MAGTF) ground element. Sorties in excess of organic MAGTF direct support requirements should be provided through the JFC to the COMAFFOR for ATO tasking. (Note: Marine sorties provided for tasking for such theater missions as long range [reconnaissance](#), theater air interdiction or defensive counterair, are not considered “excess” sorties.)
 - ★ Special operations forces (SOF) aviation assets. The JFC may assign control of SOF aviation forces to either a Service or a functional component commander. When SOF air assets are employed as part of joint SOF operations, the JFC may assign control of those forces to the [joint force special operations component commander](#) (JFSOCC), who may in turn designate a [joint special operations air component commander](#) responsible for planning and executing joint special air operations. However, if SOF aviation assets are assigned primarily in support of the theater air operation, then the JFC may delegate control of those assets to the COMAFFOR as part of the [air expeditionary task force](#). Whether operating autonomously or in conjunction with conventional forces, special operations should be synchronized and closely coordinated with other air activities supporting the theater campaign. In order to coordinate and deconflict operations in their common operating environment the JFSOCC and the JFACC exchange liaison teams. The JFSOCC provides the air operations center a [special operations liaison element](#) to coordinate, deconflict, and synchronize SOF operations, [strategy](#), and plans with conventional air, and if required, the JFSOCC in turn receives a [joint air component coordination element](#) from the COMAFFOR.
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