



VOLUME 3 COMMAND

CHAPTER THREE: COMMANDING AND ORGANIZING AIR FORCE FORCES

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(Note: The information in this section is condensed from material from Annex 3-30, [Command and Control](#). Refer to that document for more detailed overall discussion and context. Other links may point to more specific discussion or to other supplementary sources. Also, any bolded emphasis is in the original text.)

- Organization is critically important to effective and efficient operations. Service and joint force organization and [command relationships](#)—literally, who owns what, and who can do what with whom, and when—easily create the most friction within any operation.
- Organization and preferred command arrangements are designed to address [unity of command](#), a key [principle of war](#). Clear lines of authority, with clearly identified commanders at appropriate echelons exercising appropriate control, are essential to achieving [unity of effort](#), reducing confusion, and maintaining priorities.
- The key to successful employment of Air Force forces as part of a joint force effort is providing a single Air Force commander with the responsibility and authority to properly organize, train, equip and employ Air Force forces to accomplish assigned functions and tasks.
 - ✦ The title of this commander is [Commander, Air Force Forces](#) (COMAFFOR).
 - ✦ Operationally, the COMAFFOR should be prepared to employ Air Force forces as directed by the [joint force commander](#) (JFC), and if directed be prepared to employ joint air forces as the [joint force air component commander](#) (JFACC). In either event, the COMAFFOR should also ensure that Air Force forces are prepared to execute the missions assigned by the JFC.
- The requirements and responsibilities of the COMAFFOR and JFACC are inextricably linked; both are critical to operational success.
- *For the complete discussion on command authorities, see Annex 3-30, [Appendix A](#).*