



MISCELLANEOUS JOINT NOTES

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- **Joint staff composition.** The composition of a truly joint staff should reflect the composition of the subordinate joint forces to ensure that those responsible for employing joint forces have a thorough knowledge of the capabilities and limitations of assigned or attached forces. **The presence of liaisons on a single-Service staff does not transform that Service staff into a joint staff.**
 - ✦ The same general guidelines for joint staffs apply to [coalition](#) operations.
- **Relationship between Commanders and Staffs. “Commanders command, staffs support.”** Within a joint force, only those with the title of “commander”—i.e., the [joint force commander](#) (JFC), the Service component commanders, and the functional component commanders—may exercise any degree of operational control over forces. **Only commanders have the legal and moral authority to place personnel in harm’s way. Under no circumstance should staff agencies, including those of the JFC’s staff, attempt to command forces.** Staff agencies should neither attempt to nor be permitted to directly command or control elements of the subordinate forces. While this guidance is aimed at joint staffs, it also applies to Service staffs.
- **JFACC staff.** When the commander, Air Force forces (COMAFFOR) is designated the joint force air component commander (JFACC), he/she may need to establish a small joint or combined staff to deal with joint issues beyond the purview of the AFFOR staff.
 - ✦ Augmentation within each AOC directorate from relevant Service components and coalition partners ensures adequate joint representation on the staff.
 - ✦ At the discretion of the COMAFFOR, officers from other Services and coalition partners may fill key deputy and principal staff positions.
 - ✦ For very large and complex operations—as might be encountered with large coalition operations—a COMAFFOR dual-hatted as a JFACC may delegate some aspects of COMAFFOR functions to a subordinate deputy COMAFFOR.
- *For expanded discussion of this topic, [click here](#).*