



ANNEX 3-30 COMMAND AND CONTROL

THE SENIOR / HOST AIR FORCE INSTALLATION COMMANDER

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Recent operations, notably Operations ENDURING FREEDOM and IRAQI FREEDOM, highlighted the nuances in on-base command arrangements and support requirements that result from mixed forces deploying forward, often to bare bases.

An installation commander, regardless of Service, always exercises some authority over and responsibility for forces on the base for protection of assigned forces and assets, lodging, dining, and administrative reporting, regardless of the command relations of those forces. These are inherent in his/her responsibilities as an installation commander.

Ultimately, the Air Force Service component commander within a region is responsible for fulfilling administrative control (ADCON) responsibilities and common logistics support for all Air Force forces within his/her region, regardless of organization of assignment of those forces. These ADCON responsibilities are exercised through commanders at subordinate echelons. The ADCON chain of command is clear for non-deployed forces at home station during peacetime. However, the ADCON chain during expeditionary operations requires some fundamental guidance, especially during those fluid times when forces are initially building up in remote deployed locations.

The senior Air Force commander on any base where Air Force forces are present has responsibilities for care and provisioning of the Air Force forces on that installation, regardless of organization. For example, a conceivable mix of host and tenant Air Force organizations at a single base could include:

- ✦ A small permanent party at the group or detachment level.
- ✦ A wing or group sized air expeditionary task force (AETF) conducting sustained operations from that base.
- ✦ Air Force Special Operations Command assets operating in-theater but not attached to the host Air Force component.
- ✦ Air mobility forces bedded down in-theater, supporting an air bridge under the operational control (OPCON) of US Transportation Command (through Air Mobility Command).
- ✦ Transient forces using the base for a staging base for further deployment.

Other scenarios may have forces belonging to other Service components operating from an Air Force-owned base, such as Army special operations forces or Marine aviation units. Although the provision of logistics support is inherently a Service-specific responsibility, the senior Air Force commander, as the host base commander, has responsibility for providing protection and other base operating support as directed by the governing operations order or inter-service agreements. In scenarios where another Service is the host, clear lines of authority over critical issues, especially airfield operations, should be delineated, preferably in writing.

G-series orders should detail which commanders are responsible for providing specific elements of specified ADCON to deployed units and what authority that commander may use to carry out these responsibilities. The orders are not required to spell out all support and sustainment responsibilities. For a notional example, the orders might specify that lodging, dining, and force protection be provided by the 36 AEW from Air Forces Pacific (AFPAC) and Pacific Air Forces. The minimum ADCON responsibilities and authorities to go forward should be responsibility for UCMJ, protection of assigned forces and assets, lodging, dining, and force reporting. These responsibilities apply under a wide variety of basing situations:

- ✦ Whether the base is owned and operated by the Air Force, by another US Service, or by the [host nation](#).
- ✦ Whether or not the senior Air Force officer on a given installation is the host installation commander.
- ✦ Whether or not the Air Force forces present on the installation are assigned or attached to the senior Air Force officer's same expeditionary unit or even to the same AETF.
- ✦ Whether or not the Air Force forces present are regular, Guard, or Reserve, and regardless of whether or not the Guard forces are federalized.

For example, when Air Force aircraft are operating from a dual-use base where the installation commander is neither Air Force nor an [Airman](#), clear lines of authority over airfield operations should be established.

To properly fulfill ADCON responsibilities on an installation, a senior Air Force line officer (preferably a commander of a designated echelon; that is, an "A-coded" commander) should be clearly identified. If such a senior officer is not clearly identified, either by position (as, for example, by his/her standing as the designated host installation commander) or otherwise in writing, the senior Air Force line commander present on an installation should assume responsibility for ADCON issues for all Air Force forces on that installation. The following guidelines are offered for further clarification:

- ✦ Preferably, the designated senior officer should also be the commander of a clearly identifiable echelon, such as an AEW or AEG, and not lower than squadron level (AES).
- ✦ When operational and support forces are present on the same base, the senior officer should normally be appointed or designated from the operational forces by the COMAFFOR.
- ✦ When two or more equally-sized units are present on the same installation, and a single host installation commander has not yet been formally designated, the senior-ranking line officer commander should assume ADCON responsibilities for all Air Force forces on that installation until such time as either the COMAFFOR or [joint force commander](#) formally designates a host installation commander or host Service.
- ✦ This senior officer is responsible for coordinating all required aspects of support with the host nation, any supporting Service, and the owning major command (MAJCOM) or [combatant command](#) as required.
- ✦ Specified elements of ADCON should always be written in the G-series orders and clearly identify the support to be provided to a subordinate expeditionary or host unit.
- ✦ A commander's UCMJ authority only extends to regular, Reserve, and federalized Guard forces.
- ✦ If support is provided to deployed units on a lengthy, recurring basis, Air Force MAJCOMs should specify ADCON relationships between MAJCOMs in standing command-to-command agreements.

Refer to AFI 38-101, [Air Force Organization](#), for more specific policy guidance.
