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FOR DOCTRINE DEVELOPMENT AND EDUCATION



AIR FORCE GLOSSARY

GLOSSARY - S

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ABBREVIATIONS

SA	security assistance
SAA	senior airfield authority
SAAM	special assignment airlift mission
SACC	suppression of adversary counterspace capabilities; supporting arms coordination center (Navy)
SADC	sector air defense commander
SAM	surface-to-air missile; specialized air mobility, special airlift mission
SAR	search and rescue
SATCOM	satellite communication
SC	security cooperation; space control
SCA	space coordinating authority
SCADA	supervisory control and data acquisition
SD	strategy division
SDDC	Surface Deployment and Distribution Command
SEAD	suppression of enemy air defenses
SECAF	Secretary of the Air Force
SecDef	Secretary of Defense
SEW	shared early warning
SF	special forces
SFA	security force assistance
SG	surgeon general
SIDO	senior intelligence duty officer
SIGINT	signals intelligence
SIPRNET	SECRET Internet Protocol Router Network
SIS	space intelligence squadron
SITREP	situation report
SJA	staff judge advocate
SLBM	submarine launched ballistic missile
SO	special operations

SOAGS	special operations air-ground system
SOD	space operations directive
SOF	special operations forces
SOFA	status of forces agreement
SOJTF	special operations joint task force
SOLE	special operations liaison element
SOSA	system of systems analysis
SOWT	special operations weather team
SPINS	special instructions
SR	special reconnaissance
SROE	standing rules of engagement
SS	space support
SSA	space situational awareness
SWO	staff weather officer

DEFINITIONS

scheme of maneuver. The central expression of the commander's concept for operations that governs the design of supporting plans or annexes of how arrayed forces will accomplish the mission. (JP 5-0)

sea control operations. The employment of naval forces, supported by land and air forces, as appropriate, to achieve military objectives in vital sea areas. Such operations include destruction of enemy naval forces, suppression of enemy sea commerce, protection of vital sea lanes, and establishment of local military superiority in areas of naval operations. (JP 1-02)

search and rescue. The use of aircraft, surface craft, submarines, and specialized rescue teams and equipment to search for and rescue distressed persons on land or at sea in a permissive environment. Also called **SAR**. (JP 3-50)

sea surveillance. The systematic observation of surface and subsurface sea areas by all available and practicable means primarily for the purpose of locating, identifying and determining the movements of ships, submarines, and other vehicles, friendly and enemy, proceeding on or under the surface of the world's seas and oceans. (JP 1-02)

security assistance. Group of programs authorized by the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended, and the Arms Export Control Act of 1976, as amended, or other related statutes by which the US provides defense articles, military training, and other defense-related services, by grant, loan, credit, or cash sales in furtherance of national policies and objectives. Security assistance is an element of security cooperation funded and authorized by Department of State to be administered by Department of Defense/Defense Security Cooperation Agency. Also called **SA**. (JP 3-22)

security cooperation. All Department of Defense interactions with foreign defense establishments to build defense relationships that promote specific US security interests, develop allied and friendly military capabilities for self-defense and multinational operations, and provide US forces with peacetime and contingency access to a host nation. (JP 3-22)

security force assistance. The Department of Defense activities that contribute to unified action by the US Government to support the development of the capacity and capability of foreign security forces and their supporting institutions. Also called **SFA**. (JP 3-22)

Selected Reserve. Those units and individuals within the Ready Reserve designated by their respective Services and approved by the Joint Chiefs of Staff as so essential to initial wartime missions that they have priority over all other Reserves. Selected Reservists actively participate in a Reserve Component training program. The Selected Reserve also includes persons performing initial active duty for training. (JP 4-05)

senior airfield authority. An individual designated by the joint force commander to be responsible for the control, operation, and maintenance of an airfield to include runways, associated taxiways, parking ramps, land, and facilities whose proximity affect airfield operations. Also called **SAA**. (JP 3-17)

sequel. The subsequent major operation or phase based on the possible outcomes (success, stalemate, or defeat) of the current major operation or phase. See also branch. (JP 5-0)

Service component command. A command consisting of the Service component commander and all those Service forces, such as individuals, units, detachments, organizations, and installations under that command, including the support forces that have been assigned to a combatant command or further assigned to a subordinate unified command or joint task force. (JP 1-02)

show of force. An operation designed to demonstrate US resolve that involves increased visibility of US deployed forces in an attempt to defuse a specific situation that, if allowed to continue, may be detrimental to US interests or national objectives. (JP 3-0)

signals intelligence. 1. A category of intelligence comprising either individually or in combination all communications intelligence, electronic intelligence, and foreign instrumentation signals intelligence, however transmitted. 2. Intelligence derived from communications, electronic, and foreign instrumentation signals. Also called **SIGINT**. (JP 1-02)

space. A medium like the land, sea, and air within which military activities shall be conducted to achieve US national security objectives. (JP 3-14)

space assets. A generic term which may refer to any of the following individually or in combination: space systems, individual parts of a space system, space personnel, or

supporting infrastructure. (Annex 3-14)

space capability. 1. The ability of a space asset to accomplish a mission. 2. The ability of a terrestrial-based asset to accomplish a mission in space (e.g., a ground-based or airborne laser capable of negating a satellite). (JP 3-14)

space control. Operations to ensure freedom of action in space for the US and its allies and, when directed, deny an adversary freedom of action in space. Also called **SC**. The space control mission area includes: operations conducted to protect friendly space capabilities from attack, interference, or unintentional hazards (defensive space control); operations to deny an adversary's use of space capabilities (offensive space control); supported by the requisite current and predictive knowledge of the space environment and the operational environment upon which space operations depend (space situational awareness). (JP 3-14)

space coordinating authority. A commander responsible for coordinating joint space operations and integrating space capabilities in the operational area. Also called **SCA** (JP 3-14) [*SCA is not a person; it is a specific type of coordinating authority. SCA can be retained by the JFC but is generally delegated down to the functional component commander possessing the preponderance of space forces, expertise in space operations, and ability to command and control.*] [Annex 3-14] {Words in brackets apply only to the Air Force and are offered for clarity.}

space forces. The space and terrestrial systems, equipment, facilities, organizations, and personnel necessary to access, use and, if directed, control space for national security. (JP 3-14) [*Operational military units which consist of some combination of space assets such as space-based and terrestrial equipment, facilities, organizations, and personnel used to exploit space for national security.*] [Annex 3-14] {Words in brackets apply only to the Air Force and are offered for clarity.}

space situational awareness. The requisite current and predictive knowledge of the space environment and the operational environment upon which space operations depend as well as all factors, activities, and events of friendly and adversary space forces across the spectrum of conflict. Also called **SSA** (JP 3-14) [*Space situational awareness is the cornerstone of space operations, all-inclusive of global space mission operations, space support, and space control.*] [Annex 3-14] {Words in brackets apply only to the Air Force and are offered for clarity.}

space superiority. The degree of dominance in space of one force over another that permits the conduct of operations by the former and its related land, maritime, air, space, and special operations forces at a given time and place without prohibitive interference by the opposing force. (JP 3-14) [*The ability to maintain freedom of action in, from, and to space, sufficient to sustain mission assurance. Space superiority may be localized in time and space, or it may be broad and enduring.*] [Annex 3-14] {Words in brackets apply only to the Air Force and are offered for clarity.}

space support. Operations to deploy and sustain military and intelligence systems in space. The space support mission area includes launching and deploying space vehicles, maintaining and sustaining spacecraft on-orbit, rendezvous and proximity operations, disposing of (including deorbiting and recovering) space capabilities, and reconstitution of space forces, if required. (JP 3-14) [*The essential capabilities, functions, activities, and tasks necessary to operate and sustain all elements of space forces throughout the full range of military operations. The space support mission area includes assured access to space, satellite support operations, and space support services.*] Also called **SS** [Annex 3-14] {Words in brackets apply only to the Air Force and are offered for clarity.}

space systems. All of the devices and organizations forming the space network. These consist of: spacecraft; mission packages(s); ground stations; data links among spacecraft, mission or user terminals, which may include initial reception, processing, and exploitation; launch systems; and directly related supporting infrastructure, including space surveillance and battle management and/or command and control. (JP 3-14) [*A data link includes the uplink and downlink signal. Data links are classified as control links for operating space systems and mission links for users to leverage space capabilities.*] [Annex 3-14] {Words in brackets apply only to the Air Force and are offered for clarity.}

special forces. US Army forces organized, trained, and equipped to conduct special operations with an emphasis on unconventional warfare capabilities. Also called **SF**. (JP 1-02)

special operations. Operations requiring unique modes of employment, tactical techniques, equipment and training often conducted in hostile, denied, or politically sensitive environments and characterized by one or more of the following: time sensitive, clandestine, low visibility, conducted with and/or through indigenous forces, requiring regional expertise, and/or a high degree of risk. Also called **SO**. (JP 3-05)

special operations command. A subordinate unified or other joint command established by a joint force commander to plan, coordinate, conduct, and support joint special operations within the joint force commander's assigned area of operations. Also called **SOC**. (JP 1-02)

special operations expeditionary group. An independent group, normally the lowest command echelon of forces reporting directly to a COMAFFOR, JSOTF, JSOACC, or JTF. Also called **SOEG**.

special operations expeditionary squadron. The squadron is the basic fighting unit of the US Air Force. Squadrons are configured to deploy in support of crisis action requirements. However, an individual squadron is not designed to conduct independent operations; it requires support from other units to obtain the synergy needed for sustainable, effective operations. As such, an individual squadron or squadron element should not be presented by itself without provision for appropriate support and command elements. If a single operational squadron or squadron element is all that is

needed to provide the desired operational effect it should deploy with provision for commensurate support and command and control elements. This squadron is normally subordinate to a special operations expeditionary group or wing. Also called **SOES**.

special operations expeditionary wing. Normally composed of a special operations wing or a wing slice. The SOEW is composed of the wing command element and appropriate groups. It is attached to a COMAFFOR, JSOTF, JSOACC, or JTF depending upon size, duration, and nature of the operation. The SOEW may be composed of units from different wings, but where possible, is formed from units of a single wing. Also called **SOEW**.

special operations forces. Those active and Reserve component forces of the military Services designated by the Secretary of Defense and specifically organized, trained, and equipped to conduct and support special operations. Also called **SOF**. (JP 1-02)

special operations liaison element. A special operations liaison team provided by the JFSOCC to the JFACC (if designated) to coordinate, deconflict, and integrate special operations air and surface operations with conventional air. Also called **SOLE**. (JP 1-02)

special operations weather team. Air Force weather forces organized, trained and equipped to execute weather operations in the forward battlespace independent of established airbase or its perimeter defenses to support Army special operations in permissive, uncertain or hostile operational environments. Also called **SOWT**. (Annex 3-59)

special reconnaissance. Reconnaissance and surveillance actions conducted as a special operation in hostile, denied, or politically sensitive environments to collect or verify information of strategic or operational significance, employing military capabilities not normally found in conventional forces. These actions provide an additive capability for commanders and supplement other conventional reconnaissance and surveillance actions. Also called **SR**. (JP 1-02)

special tactics team. A task-organized element of special tactics that may include combat control, pararescue, and combat weather personnel. Functions include austere airfield and assault zone reconnaissance, surveillance, establishment, and terminal control; terminal attack control; combat search and rescue; combat casualty care and evacuation staging; and tactical weather observations and forecasting. Also called **STT**. (JP 1-02)

spectrum management. Planning, coordinating, and managing joint use of the electromagnetic spectrum through operational, engineering, and administrative procedures, with the objective of enabling electronics systems to perform their functions in the intended environment without causing or suffering unacceptable interference. (AFI 33-118)

split operations. One type of distributed operations. It describes those distributed operations conducted by a single command and control (C2) entity that is separated

between two or more geographic locations. A single commander must have oversight of all aspects of a split C2 operation. (Annex 3-30)

stability operations. An overarching term encompassing various military missions, tasks, and activities conducted outside the United States in coordination with other instruments of national power to maintain or reestablish a safe and secure environment, provide essential governmental services, emergency infrastructure reconstruction, and humanitarian relief. (JP 3-0)

staff judge advocate. A judge advocate so designated in the Army, Air Force, or Marine Corps, and the principal legal advisor of a Navy, Coast Guard, or joint force command who is a judge advocate. Also called **SJA**. (JP 1-04)

standardization. The process by which the Department of Defense achieves the closest practicable cooperation among the Services and Defense agencies for the most efficient use of research, development, and production resources, and agrees to adopt on the broadest possible basis the use of: a. common or compatible operational, administrative, and logistic procedures; b. common or compatible technical procedures and criteria; c. common, compatible, or interchangeable supplies, components, weapons, or equipment; and d. common or compatible tactical doctrine with corresponding organizational compatibility. (JP 1-02)

Standby Reserve. Those units and members of the Reserve Component (other than those in the Ready Reserve or Retired Reserve) who are liable for active duty only, as provided in Title 10, United States Code, Sections 10151, 12301, and 12306. (JP 4-05)

standing rules of engagement. Fundamental policies and procedures governing the actions to be taken by US commanders and their forces during all military operations and contingencies and routine Military Department functions occurring outside US territory and outside US territorial seas. They provide implementation guidance on the application of force for mission accomplishment and the exercise of self-defense. Also called **SROE**. (CJCSI 3121.01B)

status-of-forces agreement. A bilateral or multilateral agreement that defines the legal position of a visiting military force deployed in the territory of a friendly state. Also called **SofA**. (JP 3-16)

strategic attack. Offensive action that is specifically selected to achieve national or military strategic objectives. These attacks seek to weaken the adversary's ability or may to engage in conflict, and may achieve strategic objectives without necessarily having to achieve operational objectives as a precondition. Also called **SA**. (Annex 3-70)

strategic communication. Focused United States Government efforts to understand and engage key audiences to create, strengthen, or preserve conditions favorable for the advancement of United States Government interests, policies, and objectives through the use of coordinated programs, plans, themes, messages, and products synchronized with the actions of all instruments of national power. Also called **SC**. (JP

5-0). {The process of informing and appropriately influencing key audiences by synchronizing and integrating communication efforts to deliver truthful, credible, accurate, and timely information.} (Annex 3-61) {Italicized definition in brackets applies only to the Air Force and is offered for clarity.}

strategic intelligence. Intelligence that is required for the formation of strategy, policy, and military plans and operations at national and theater levels. Strategic intelligence and tactical intelligence differ primarily in level of application, but may also vary in terms of scope and detail. See also intelligence; operational intelligence; tactical intelligence. (JP 2-01.2)

strategic level of war. The level of war at which a nation, often as a member of a group of nations, determines national or multinational (alliance or coalition) strategic security objectives and guidance, and develops and uses national resources to achieve these objectives. (JP 3-0)

strategy. A prudent idea or set of ideas for employing the instruments of national power in a synchronized and integrated fashion to achieve theater, national, and/or multinational objectives. (JP 3-0)

strike. An attack to damage or destroy an objective or a capability. (JP 3-0)

subordinate unified command. A command established by commanders of unified commands, when so authorized by the Secretary of Defense through the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, to conduct operations on a continuing basis in accordance with the criteria set forth for unified commands. Also called **subunified command**. (JP 1)

subversion. Actions designed to undermine the military, economic, psychological, or political strength or morale of a governing authority. (JP 3-24)

success indicator. The conditions indicating the progress toward and/or achievement of an objective or end-state condition. (Annex 3-01)

support. 1. The action of a force that aids, protects, complements, or sustains another force in accordance with a directive requiring such action. 2. A unit that helps another unit in battle. 3. An element of a command that assists, protects, or supplies other forces in combat. (JP 1)

supported commander. 1. The commander having primary responsibility for all aspects of a task assigned by the Joint Strategic Capabilities Plan or other joint operation planning authority. 2. In the context of joint operation planning, the commander who prepares operation plans or operation orders in response to requirements of the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. 3. In the context of a support command relationship, the commander who receives assistance from another commander's force or capabilities, and who is responsible for ensuring that the supporting commander understands the assistance required. (JP 3-0)

supporting commander. 1. A commander who provides augmentation forces or other support to a supported commander or who develops a supporting plan. 2. In the context of a support command relationship, the commander who aids, protects, complements, or sustains another commander's force, and who is responsible for providing the assistance required by the supported commander. (JP 3-0)

suppression of enemy air defenses. Activity that neutralizes, destroys, or temporarily degrades surface-based enemy air defenses by destructive and/or disruptive means. Also called **SEAD**. (JP 3-01)

surface warfare. That portion of maritime warfare in which operations are conducted to destroy or neutralize enemy naval surface forces and merchant vessels. (JP 3-32)

surveillance. The systematic observation of aerospace, surface or subsurface areas, places, persons, or things, by visual, aural, electronic, photographic, or other means. (JP 3-01)

survivability. All aspects of protecting personnel, weapons, and supplies while simultaneously deceiving the enemy.. (JP 3-34)

sustainment. The provision of logistics and personnel services required to maintain and prolong operations until successful accomplishment. (JP 3-0)

synchronization. 1. The arrangement of military actions in time, space, and purpose to produce maximum relative combat power at a decisive place and time. 2. In the intelligence context, application of intelligence sources and methods in concert with the operation plan to ensure intelligence requirements are answered in time to influence the decisions they support. (JP 2-0)
