



VOLUME 3 COMMAND

AIR FORCE COMPONENT PRESENTATION CONSIDERATIONS

Last Updated: 22 Nov 2016

- There are many possible options for presenting forces in support of a [joint force commander](#) (JFC). To provide an initial baseline for organizational decisions, there are three general models for presenting an Air Force component in support of a JFC.
 - ✦ **Theater-level component.** This model establishes an Air Force component at the combatant commander (CCDR) level, attached with specification of operational control (OPCON) and commanded by a theater commander, Air Force forces (COMAFFOR) who may also be designated as a joint force air component commander (JFACC).
 - ✦ **Sub-theater-level component.** This model establishes an Air Force component at the subordinate unified command or joint task force (JTF) level, attached with specification of OPCON, with a COMAFFOR (prepared to act as a JFACC) at a level below the CCDR. This component may be in the form of an air expeditionary task force (AETF).
 - ✦ **Sub-theater-level AETF in support of a JTF.** This model establishes a dedicated Air Force force, in the form of an AETF, in direct support of a subordinate JTF, with OPCON retained by the theater COMAFFOR.
 - The placement of an Air Force component within the CCDR's command structure, as well as the formal command relationships necessary to enable it to interface with other joint forces, requires careful deliberation based on the situation and capabilities available. At times, Air Force forces and capabilities may be best positioned at the theater (i.e., CCDR) level and at other times at the JTF level.
 - The CCDR decides whether effective accomplishment of the operational mission at the JTF level outweigh competing missions at the CCDR's AOR level and can best be accomplished by attaching Air Force forces with specification of OPCON to a JTF commander. Deliberations should examine the interplay of priority, tempo, intensity, duration, and scope of operations.
 - *For the complete discussion of this topic, [click here](#).*
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