

**USAF DOCTRINE UPDATE**  
on  
**JP 3-30, *Command and Control of Joint Air Operations***

“Historically, control of the air has been a prerequisite to success for modern operations or campaigns....” (p. I-1) Control of the air and the benefits that flow from it depend on command and control (C2). Effective C2 has been essential to successful air operations from our origins with the Army Air Service and Gen Billy Mitchell at Saint Mihiel to today’s joint operations. Discussion points of interest to Airmen in the revised JP 3-30 include the following.



**Joint Air Operations (p. I-3)**

- “Joint air operations are performed by forces made available for joint air tasking. Joint air operations do not include those air operations that a component conducts as an integral and organic part of its own operations.”

**Control of the Air (p. I-1)**

- “It is important to remember that the degree of control of the air lies within a spectrum that can be enjoyed by any combatant. Likewise, that degree of control can be localized geographically (horizontally and vertically), or defined in the context of an entire theater. The desired degree of control will be at the direction of the JFC and based on the JFC’s concept of operations....”

**Mission Command (p. I-3)**

- “Mission command is the conduct of military operations through decentralized execution based upon mission-type orders....” While philosophically consistent with historical command and control (C2) of air operations, modern joint air operations and their unique aspects of speed, range, and flexibility demand a balanced approach to C2.”
  - **“This approach is... centralized control and decentralized execution.”** [emphasis added]

**Joint Air-Ground Integration Center (JAGIC) (p. II-9)**

- “Air Support Operations Center and Tactical Air Control Party personnel at the Army division will normally be integrated with the division fires cell and airspace element to form a joint air-ground integration center (JAGIC). A JAGIC is designed to fully integrate and coordinate fires and air operations over and within the division commander’s area of operations.”

**Options for Establishing a Joint Force Air Component Command (p. II-17)**

- When there is only one joint task force (JTF) in a given theater, normally the preferred option for Sub-Theater commands is to designate a joint force air component commander (JFACC).”
- “When a geographic combatant commander (GCC) establishes multiple JTFs within the area of responsibility, the GCC normally will retain C2 of joint air forces at the GCC level” through a theater JFACC.

- “The theater JFACC will ... [provide support] to the GCC’s subordinate JTF commanders’ joint air operations within their respective JOAs. Unless limited by the establishing directive, the supported JTF commanders will have the authority to exercise general direction of the supporting effort. (General direction includes the designation and prioritization of targets or objectives, timing and duration of the supporting action, and other instructions necessary for coordination and efficiency.)”
- “The theater JFACC, as the supporting commander, determines [how to provide]... this support.”
- Combination of Theater and Sub-Theater Level JFACCs. “There may be a theater and a sub-theater level JFACC. While in some cases, this may be the most operationally desirable option, it is also the most demanding on available C2 resources....”

### **Counter-UAS [unmanned aircraft system] (p. III-33 - 34)**

- “It is imperative C2 and defensive counter air] nodes are able to differentiate between friendly and enemy UA (unmanned aircraft)....Adversaries may attempt to exploit airspace ‘gaps,’ so these should be kept to a minimum when developing ACPs [airspace control plans].”
- “Positive control of airspace is generally most effective for airspace control and air defense, but many smaller UASs are not capable of positive control. The use of coordinating altitudes and other ACMs should be employed for efficient and timely use of the airspace, and to aid air defense operators differentiate between friend and foe UA.”
- “Restricted operations zone (ROZ) should be used as an integration tool, not as a segregation tool. When a ROZ is used for other than its intended purpose (as a “space holder,” for example), it becomes an inefficient use of airspace that complicates the airspace control authority duties and the air defense mission.”

### **Joint Air Component Coordination Element (p. G-1)**

- Working Relationships: “Typically, when Army units are designated to provide the JTF or joint force land component commander and the COMAFFOR is designated the JFACC, the habitually aligned air support operations group will provide the JACCE nucleus due to the established working relationships.”

### **Navy Composite Warfare Doctrine (p. II-11)**

- JP 3-30 briefly lays out the Navy Combined Warfare Commander approach to C2 complementing JP 3-32, *Command and Control for Joint Maritime Operations*. To gain a deeper understanding of Navy command and control, access the Naval Doctrine Library System to view Navy Warfare Publication (NWP) 3-30, *Naval Command and Control of Air Operations*, and NWP 3-56, *Composite Warfare Doctrine*.

*Published 29 March 2014.* For more information, e-mail [LeMayCtr.weworkflow@maxwell.af.mil](mailto:LeMayCtr.weworkflow@maxwell.af.mil). Follow us on Facebook or Twitter (#AFDoctrine) to stay up to date with the changes to doctrine!