

UNIT 01-002: Joint Services Overview

Required Reading:

- [Joint Publication 1](#), (on CD reference)

Supplemental Reference Material:

None

Method of Evaluation:

Material presented during this unit of instruction is testable on FPA Exam One and will be applied during practical application throughout the course.

Note Taker:

[Click here for note taker](#)

Assignment:

Guided discussion

Unit Introduction

Joint operations are primarily concerned with the coordinated actions of the armed forces of the United States. It describes our ability to work as a team. This concept of unified action highlights the synergy of activity of military forces and non-military forces to achieve common objectives.



The concept of unified action highlights the integrated and synchronized actions of military forces, nonmilitary agencies and operations to achieve objectives. Unified actions are planned and conducted by joint force commanders in accordance with guidelines and direction received from the national command authorities, multinational organizations and superior commanders.

The range of military operations stretches from war to military operations other than war.

This unit aims to introduce you to the services' employment, planning and responsibilities in joint service operations. It provides fundamental principles and responsibilities of the public affairs aspect of joint operations.

Training Objectives

Given a joint operational scenario, explain the mission capabilities and role of each military service. Upon completion of this unit of instruction, the student will be able to:

- State the fundamental purpose of the armed forces of the United States
- List the five regional unified commands
- Identify the geographical areas of responsibility for each regional unified command
- List the four functional Unified Commands

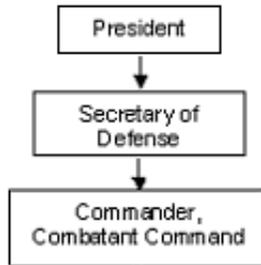
Unit Overview

In this unit, we will review:

- Who's in charge
- The Unified Command Plan
- Service Roles
- Review

Who's in Charge?

The chain of command runs from the president to the secretary of defense, through the Joint Chiefs of Staff, to the commander of the Combatant Command. The ultimate authority and responsibility for national defense rests with the the **president**.



Since the passage of the National Security Act of 1947, the president has used the **secretary of defense** as his principal assistant in all matters relating to the National Military Establishment, which is now the **Department of Defense**.

The secretary of defense has statutory authority, direction and control over the military departments and is responsible for their overall operation.

The authorities are the **president, secretary of defense** and their deputized alternates or successors. Both inter-theater movement of troops and execution of military action must be directed by the president and/or the secretary of defense.

By law, no one else in the chain of command has the authority to take such action.

The bottom line is that the war fighting commanders fight our nation's wars while the service secretaries are charged with training, equipping and maintaining forces. The combatant commanders request forces from the services and use those forces to implement operational plans.

The Unified Command Plan

The Unified Command Plan, establishes the mission, provides guidance to all combatant commanders and delineates the general geographic area of responsibility for the combatant commands. The geographic area is the area within which the combatant commander has authority to plan and conduct operations. (Note: unified commands are composed of two or more services.)

Title 10 of the United States Code requires that the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff review the missions and responsibilities (including geographic boundaries) of each combatant command at least every two years and recommend to the president, through the secretary of defense, any necessary changes.



The Unified Command

A unified combatant command is composed of forces from **two or more** services and is organized in one of two ways: by geographical regions or by functional mission. The area of responsibility (AOR) is the geographical area within which the combatant commander has authority to plan and conduct operations.

The number of unified combatant commands is not fixed by law or regulation and may vary from time to time.

The Regional Unified Commands

Currently there are **nine unified commands** of which five are regional commands responsible for specific geographical areas. The regional commands are:

- U.S. European Command
- U.S. Pacific Command
- U.S. Southern Command
- U.S. Central Command
- U.S. Northern Command



U.S. European Command (USEUCOM)



Headquarters U.S. European Command is located in Stuttgart-Vaihingen, Germany. Its mission is to:

- Maintain ready forces to conduct the full range of operations unilaterally or in concert with the coalition partners
- Enhance transatlantic security through support of NATO
- Promote regional stability
- Counter terrorism
- Advance U.S. interests in its area of responsibility

U.S. European Command (USEUCOM) Area of Responsibility



The area of responsibility (AOR) of the USEUCOM covers more than 21 million square miles and includes 91 countries and territories.

This AOR extends from the North Cape of Norway, through the waters of the Baltic and Mediterranean seas. It covers most of Europe, parts of the Middle East, to the Cape of Good Hope in South Africa (the pink area on the map).

U.S. Pacific Command (USPACOM)

The U.S. Pacific Command, headquartered at Camp H.M. Smith, Hawaii, is one of the oldest and largest of the United States' nine unified commands. Its mission is to work in concert with other U.S. government agencies and regional military partners, promote security and peaceful development in the Asia-Pacific region by deterring aggression, advancing regional security cooperation, responding to crises, and fighting to win. USPACOM's major focus areas include:

- Prosecuting and winning the Global War on Terrorism
- Maturing joint and combined warfighting capabilities and readiness
- Ensuring operational plans are credible
- Advancing regional security cooperation
- Posturing forces for agile and responsive employment

U.S. Pacific Command Area of Responsibility



USPACOM'S area of responsibility (light blue on the map) covers more than 50 percent of earth's surface; approximately 105 million square miles from the west coast of the U.S. mainland to the east coast of Africa and from the Arctic to Antarctic including the states of Alaska and Hawaii. Its AOR crosses 16 time zones.

U.S. Southern Command (USSOUTHCOM)



The United States Southern Command is one of the nine unified commands. Personnel from the U.S. Air Force, Army, Marine Corps, Navy and Coast Guard are assigned to the command. Its headquarters is located in Miami.

The mission of USSOUTHCOM is to conduct military operations and promote security cooperation to achieve U.S. strategic objectives.

What distinguishes USSOUTHCOM from the other regional unified combatant commands is the nature of the theater and consequently the way in which military power is employed. Forces assigned to USSOUTHCOM support U.S. and allied nations' law enforcement agencies for counter-drug operations, joint and bilateral/multilateral exercises, engineering and medical exercises, search and rescue operations, disaster relief operations, humanitarian and civic assistance operations, command post exercises, security assistance programs, personnel exchange programs, staff visits, conferences and other foreign military interaction (military-to-military contact) programs.

USSOUTHCOM



The **USSOUTHCOM** area of responsibility includes the landmass of Latin America south of Mexico; the waters adjacent to Central and South America; the Caribbean Sea, its 12 island nations and European territories; the Gulf of Mexico; and a portion of the Atlantic Ocean.

It encompasses 32 countries (19 in Central and South America and 13 in the Caribbean) and covers about 14.5 million square miles.

U.S. Central Command (USCENTCOM)



USCENTCOM is headquartered at MacDill Air Force Base in Tampa, Fla. It is one of the Unified Combatant Commands assigned operational controls of U.S. combat forces. USCENTCOM has no warfighting units permanently assigned to it. Instead, all four armed services provide USCENTCOM with component commands that make up USCENTCOM's primary war fighting and engagement organizations.

President Ronald Reagan activated USCENTCOM in January 1983 to project American power in the Middle East and East Africa.

USCENTCOM's objectives are to enhance regional stability and demonstrate a steadfast U.S. commitment to regional security.

USCENTCOM operates humanitarian and security assistance programs, as well as combined training and education opportunities for host nation military members in the region.

CENTCOM AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY



AOR COUNTRY LISTING

Horn of Africa Region

1. Egypt
2. Sudan
3. Ethiopia
4. Eritrea
5. Djibouti
6. Kenya
7. Somalia

South Asia

8. Iran
9. Afghanistan
10. Pakistan

Arabian Peninsula, Iraq & Northern Red Sea

11. Iraq
12. Lebanon
13. Syria
14. Jordan
15. Kuwait
16. Saudi Arabia
17. Bahrain
18. Qatar
19. U.A.E.
20. Oman
21. Yemen
22. Seychelles

Central Asia

23. Kyrgyzstan
24. Turkmenistan
25. Tajikistan
26. Uzbekistan
27. Kazakhstan

USCENTCOM's area of responsibility includes 27 culturally and economically diverse nations located throughout the Horn of Africa, South and Central Asia and Northern Red Sea regions, as well as the Arabian Peninsula and Iraq.

The entire region is larger than the Continental U.S., stretching more than 3,100 miles east-to-west and 3,600 miles north-to-south. It includes mountain ranges with elevations of more than 24,000 feet, desert areas below sea level and temperatures ranging from below freezing to more than 130 degrees Fahrenheit.

U.S. Northern Command (USNORTHCOM)



The Department of Defense established U.S. Northern Command in 2002 to consolidate under a single unified command existing missions that were previously executed by other military organizations. The command's mission is to:

- Deter, prevent and defeat threats and aggression aimed at the United States, its territories and interests
- Provide military assistance to civil authorities

U.S. Northern Command provides supplemental support and assistance, as necessary, to other federal agencies and local communities, in the form of equipment, expertise, manpower, plans, organization, communications, training, etc. The men and women in uniform are prepared and ready to lend a helping hand.

USNORTHCOM AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY



U.S. Northern Command's area of responsibility is America's home front.

It encompasses the continental United States, Alaska, Canada, Mexico and the surrounding water out to approximately 500 nautical miles. It also includes the Gulf of Mexico, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The defense of Hawaii and our territories and possessions in the Pacific remain the responsibility of U.S. Pacific Command.

Headquartered at Peterson Air Force Base in Colorado Springs, Colo., USNORTHCOM has few permanently assigned forces - approximately 500 civil service employees and uniformed personnel from all service branches. If necessary, the command will be assigned additional forces as required to execute missions ordered by the president.

Functional Commands

There are also four **functional** commands; organized not by geographic region, but by the functions they perform. They are:

- U.S. Joint Forces Command
- U.S. Transportation Command
- U.S. Strategic Command
- U.S. Special Operations Command

U.S. Joint Forces Command (USJFCOM)



The Department of Defense appointed U.S. Joint Forces Command as the "transformation laboratory" of the U.S. military that serves to enhance the unified commanders' ability to implement the transformation strategy.

Its role is to develop concepts, test these concepts through rigorous experimentation, educate joint leaders, train joint forces, and make recommendations on how the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines can better integrate their war-fighting capabilities.

USJFCOM is located in the Hampton Roads area of Virginia. It is a force of more than 800 people, including members from each branch of the U.S. military, civil servants, contractors and consultants. This includes a headquarters staff of more than 500 active-duty military personnel from each of the four services and approximately 300 civilian and contract employees. Additionally, there are four component commands, a sub-unified command and eight subordinate activities assigned to USJFCOM.

USJFCOM has nine priorities. They are to:

- Successfully pursue the global war on terrorism
- Strengthen joint war-fare capabilities
- Transform the joint force
- Optimize intelligence capabilities
- Improve force manning
- Develop new concepts of global engagement
- Counter the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction
- Maintain homeland security
- Streamline DOD processes

U.S. Transportation Command (USTRANSCOM)

The U.S. Transportation Command's mission is to provide air, land and sea transportation for the Department of Defense, both in time of peace and war. It provides timely, customer-focused global mobility through efficient, effective, and integrated transportation from origin to destination. From its headquarters at Scott Air Force Base, Ill., it coordinates people and transportation assets to allow our country to project and sustain forces, whenever, wherever and for as long as they are needed. USTRANSCOM's top priority is responding to the needs of combatant commanders.

USTRANSCOM coordinates missions worldwide using both military and commercial transportation resources.

USTRANSCOM is composed of three component commands:

- The Air Force's Air Mobility Command
- The Navy's Military Sealift Command and
- The Army's Military Surface Deployment and Distribution Command



Air Mobility Command

Air Mobility Command, the air component of USTRANSCOM, is also headquartered at Scott AFB, Ill. The AMC fleet can provide refueling capability and deliver people and cargo anywhere around the globe in a matter of hours.

Aircraft assets of the command include: the C-17 Globemaster III, C-5 Galaxy, KC-135 Stratotanker and the KC-10 Extender.

Additional long-range airlift aircraft are available during national emergencies through the Civil Reserve Air Fleet, a fleet of commercial aircraft committed to support the transportation of military forces and material in times of crisis.



Military Sealift Command (MSC)

Military Sealift Command, USTRANSCOM's sealift component, provides efficient sea transportation worldwide for DOD in peace and war. Its headquarters are in Washington, D.C.

MSC uses a mixture of government-owned and commercial ships for three primary functions:

- Surge sealift, principally used to move unit equipment from the United States to theaters of operations worldwide
- Prepositioned sealift, which comes under USTRANSCOM's command once the ships have been released into the common-user fleet
- Sustainment sealift, used to keep deployed forces continuously supplied

MSC assets include: fast sealift and Ready Reserve Force ships. In addition, MSC contracts for space on commercial ships.



Surface Deployment and Distribution Command

Surface Deployment and Distribution Command, headquartered in Alexandria, Va., is the overland lift component and primary traffic manager for USTRANSCOM. Its mission is to support DOD and the mobilization community worldwide during peace and war with:



- Responsive planning
- Crisis response actions
- Traffic management
- Terminal operations
- Integrated transportation systems
- Deployability engineering

U.S. Strategic Command (USSTRATCOM)



Located at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb., USSTRATCOM is the command and control center for U.S. strategic forces. It controls military space operations, computer network operations, information operations, strategic warning and intelligence assessments, as well as global strategic planning.

The command's mission is to deter military attack on the United States and its allies. Should deterrence fail, its mission is to employ forces to achieve national objectives.

The command is responsible for both early warning of and defense against missile attack and long-range conventional attacks. The command is charged with deterring and defending against the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

USSTRATCOM Joint Functional Component Commands

USSTRATCOM, headquartered at Offutt Air Force, Neb., exercises command authority over four joint functional component commands known as JFCCs. These commands are responsible for execution of the following mission areas:

- Integrated Missile Defense (JFCC-IMD)
- Intelligence, surveillance and Reconnaissance (JFCC-ISR)
- Network warfare (JFCC-NW)
- Space & Global Strike (JFCC S&GS)
- Combating Weapons of Mass Destruction*

The secretary of defense recently assigned USSTRATCOM responsibility for integrating and synchronizing DOD's efforts for combating weapons of mass destruction. As this initiative is in its formative states, USSTRATCOM has yet to formalize any specific component structure. There are detailed issues to work through, including the proper distribution of subject matter expertise and an assessment of expanding relationships with other U.S. government departments and foreign nations.

USSTRATCOM Task Forces and Service Elements

USSTRATCOM exercises command authority over various task forces and service components in support of the command's mission. During day-to-day operations, service component commanders retain primary responsibility for maintaining the readiness of USSTRATCOM forces and performing their assigned functions.

Their primary function is to provide organized, trained and equipped forces for employment when called upon to support USSTRATCOM's global mission. Organizations include task force and service elements to support the following:

Aerial Refueling/Tankers

Air Force refueling aircraft greatly enhance the command's capability to conduct global combat and reconnaissance operations. Tankers are assigned to 18th Air Force at Scott Air Force Base, Ill.

Airborne Communications

The Navy's E-6B Mercury aircraft provides a survivable communications link between national decision-makers and the nation's strategic forces. An airborne command post, the E-6B enables the president and the secretary of defense to directly contact crews on the nation's ballistic missile submarines, land-based intercontinental ballistic missiles and long-range bombers. E-6B aircraft are assigned to the Strategic Communications Wing One at Tinker Air Force Base, Okla.

Ballistic Missile Submarines

Considered the most survivable leg of the nation's strategic forces, Navy ballistic missile submarines, or SSBNs, provide launch capability from around the globe using the Trident missile weapon system. Atlantic SSBNs are based at Kings Bay Ga., with headquarters at Commander, Submarine Forces U.S. Atlantic Fleet, Naval Base Norfolk, Va. Pacific SSBNs are based at Bangor, Wash., with headquarters at Commander Submarine Forces U.S. Pacific Fleet, Naval Base Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

USSTRATCOM Task Forces and Service Elements

Strategic Bomber and Reconnaissance Aircraft

Aircraft assigned to 8th Air Force, Barksdale Air Force Base, La., are capable of deploying air power to any area of the world. B-52 Stratofortress heavy bombers are based at Barksdale Air Force Base, La. and Minot Air Force Base, N.D. B-2 Spirit stealth bombers are stationed at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo. Worldwide reconnaissance aircraft assigned to 8th Air Force that support the USSTRATCOM mission include the RC-135 Rivet Joint, based at Offutt Air Force Base Neb. and the U-2 Dragon Lady based at Beale Air Force Base, Calif.

Land-based Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles (ICBMs)

Air Force ICBMs, which are dispersed in hardened silos across the nation's central tier, provide a quick-reacting and highly reliable component to the nation's strategic forces. Minuteman III missiles launch control centers are based at F.E. Warren Air Force Base, Wyo., Malmstrom Air Force Base, Mont. and Minot Air Force Base, N.D. Peacekeeper missiles are also based at F.E. Warren Air Force Base. ICBM crews report to 20th Air Force, located at F.E. Warren.

USSTRATCOM Task Forces and Service Elements

Army Space Forces

Headquartered at Colorado Springs, Colo., U.S. Army Space Command, or ARSPACE, serves as the Army component to USSTRATCOM. The command operates the 1st Satellite Control Battalion and the 1st Space Battalion. SATCON operates and manages the Defense Satellite Communications System (DSCS) Ground Stations. This system spans the globe to provide Super-High-Frequency communications to all U.S. forces.

Joint Task force-Computer Network Operations

Located in Arlington, Va., the Joint Task Force-Computer Network Operations (JTF-CNO) is Strategic Command's operational component for Computer Network Operations (CNO), and supports the USSTRATCOM Commander in the integration of Computer Network Defense and Computer Network Attack capabilities into the operations of U.S. military forces.

Joint Information Operations Center (JIOC)

The JIOC integrates Information Operations (IO) into military plans and operations across the spectrum of conflict. Located at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, the JIOC deploys information operations planning teams worldwide at a moment's notice to support combatant commanders and joint task forces.

USSTRATCOM Task Forces and Service Elements

Navy Network Warfare Command

The Navy's central operational authority for space, information technology requirements, network and information operations in support of naval forces afloat and ashore. Located at Little Creek Naval Amphibious Base, Norfolk, Va., NAVNETWARCOM operates a secure and interoperable naval network that enables effects-based operations and innovation. The command also coordinates and assesses the Navy's operational requirements for and use of network/command and control/information technology/information operations and space operations. NNSOC provides operational oversight of shipboard networks, Navy satellite communication systems, overseas communications networks, and the Navy's portion of the Navy Marine Corps Intranet.

Marine Forces Strategic Command (MARFORSTRAT)

The 17-member MARFORSTRAT staff brings resident knowledge of Marine Corps capabilities, doctrine, assets and availability to support all USSTRATCOM mission areas. Particular focus is on USTRATCOM's Information Operations and Global Strike mission. The Marines coordinate and facilitate access to and use of Marine forces to execute USSTRATCOM missions.

Space Air Force (SPACEAF)

SPACEAF is responsible for operating the Air Force's space operations forces. The SPACEAF mission is space operations, including space launch from the Atlantic and Pacific coasts, satellite control, missile warning, and space surveillance. Operations are assigned to 14th Air Force, Vandenberg Air Force Base, Calif.

U.S. Special Operations Command (USSOCOM)



The mission of U.S. Special Operations Command is to plan, direct and execute special operations in the conduct of the War on Terrorism in order to disrupt, defeat and destroy terrorist networks that threaten the United States, its citizens and interests worldwide.

USSOCOM organizes, trains and equips special operations forces provided to geographic combatant commands, American Ambassadors and their country teams. U.S. Special Operations (Forces)

For both war and peacetime activities, special forces provide the nation with rapidly deployable and flexible joint task forces. In peacetime, they can assist a nation in creating the conditions for stable development, thereby reducing the risk of armed conflict. Special operations are characterized by the use of small units in direct and indirect military actions focused on strategic and operational objectives. These actions require units with combinations of specialized personnel equipment, training and tactics that go beyond the routine capabilities of conventional military forces.

USSOCOM

USSOCOM is organized and trained to perform nine principle mission areas in support of the national military strategy. They are:

- Counter-proliferation (CP)
- Combating terrorism (CBT)
- Foreign internal defense (FID)
- Special reconnaissance (SR)
- Direct Action (DA)
- Psychological operations (PSYOP)
- Civil Affairs (CA)
- Unconventional warfare (UW)
- Information Operations (IO)

Service Roles

U.S. Army Special Operations Command (USASOC)

Headquartered at Fort Bragg, N.C., USASOC commands active and reserve special operations forces. USASOC is responsible to USSOCOM for the readiness of Special Forces, Rangers, and special operations aviation, civil affairs and psychological operations units for deployment to unified combatant commands around the world.

Naval Special Warfare Command

Located in Coronado, Calif., it is responsible to USSOCOM for the readiness of active and reserve naval special warfare (NSW) forces.

The major operational components are:

- NSW Group One and Special Boat Squadron One in Coronado, Calif.
- NSW Group Two and Special Boat Squadron Two in Little Creek, Va.

Service Roles

U.S. Air Force Special Operations Command (AFSOC)

Located at Hurlburt Field, Fla., AFSOC is responsible to for the readiness of active Air Force Reserve and National Guard Special Operations Forces for worldwide deployment. Three special operations wings, two special operations groups, and one special tactics group are assigned to AFSOC.

Unit Summary

Remember....

- The chain of command runs from the president to the secretary of defense to the Unified Combatant Commands.
- Orders and other communications from the president or secretary are transmitted through the Chairman of the **Joint Chiefs of Staff**.
- A unified combatant command is composed of forces from two or more services and has a broad and continuing mission. A unified command is normally organized on either a geographical or functional basis
- The number of unified combatant commands is not fixed by law or regulation and may vary from time to time
- Unified Commands are most effective when they are fully integrated into a joint force campaign plan.

Review Quiz

1. An incident occurs in the Middle East - which unified command would be responsible for dealing with that issue?
2. Unified commanders "own" all military forces assigned to them. True False
3. USTRANSCOM uses only military transportation assets. True False
4. USPACOM and NORTHCOM share responsibility for the Hawaiian Islands.
True False