



AIR COMBAT COMMAND

PEOPLE FIRST - MISSION ALWAYS

AIR OPERATIONS CENTER (AOC)

Current as of February 7, 2023

MISSION

The Air Operations Center (AOC) commands and controls the broad spectrum of what air power brings to the fight: Global Vigilance, Global Reach, and Global Power. The Commander, Air Force Forces or the Joint/Combined Forces Air Component Commander (C/JFACC) uses the AOC weapons system (AOC WS) to exercise command and control (C2) of joint (or combined) air forces, including planning, directing, and assessing air, space, and cyberspace operations; air defense; airspace control; and coordination of space and mission support not resident within theater. Serving as the operational bridge that integrates and synchronizes strategic decisions to tactical-level execution, the AOC is comprised of a vast array of people, programs and processes that execute day-to-day air and space operations and provides rapid reaction, positive control, coordination and deconfliction of weapons systems.

FUNCTION

Functioning as the nerve center of the air campaign, the AOC plans, monitors and directs sortie execution, close air support and precision air strike; intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance; airlift; air refueling; aeromedical evacuation; air drop, and countless other mission-critical operations. The United States Air Force employs two kinds of AOCs: Theater AOCs utilizing the AN/USQ-163 Falconer weapon system to support geographic combatant commanders, and global/functional AOCs to support functional combatant commanders. When there is more than one U.S. military service working in an AOC, such as when naval aviation from the U.S. Navy (USN) and/or the U.S. Marine Corps (USMC) is incorporated, it is called a Joint Air Operations Center (JAOC). In cases of allied or coalition (multinational) operations in tandem with USAF or Joint air and space operations, the AOC is called a Combined Air Operations Center (CAOC).

ORGANIZATION

To facilitate superior airpower operations, the AOC relies upon the expertise of joint and Coalition teams within five divisions: Strategy Division (SRD); Combat Plans Division (CPD); Combat Operations Division (COD); Air Mobility Divisions (AMD); Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Division (ISRD) and various specialty teams as needed. Manning and positions in AOCs vary based on operational mission and battle rhythm requirements.

AOC Weapons System (AOC-WS)

The AOC weapons system (AN/USQ-163) is a system of systems that incorporates numerous third-party software applications and commercial off-the-shelf products. Each third-party system integrated into the AOC WS provides its own programmatic documentation. Block 20 is being developed by Kessel Run to deprecate Block 10 in the coming years.

AOC WS capabilities include command and control (C2) of joint theater air and missile defense; pre-planned, dynamic and time-sensitive multi-domain target engagement operations; and intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance operations management.

Characteristics

Divisions: There are five divisions in the AOC. These organizations fuse information that becomes the Air Tasking Order. Staffing of these divisions consists primarily of USAF officers of various specialties in the ranks of captain, major and lieutenant colonel, supported by a larger cohort of enlisted Airmen, typically in the rank of staff sergeant and above. When conducting joint air and space operations, U.S. Army and USMC officers of similar rank and USN officers in the ranks of lieutenant, lieutenant commander and commander will also provide liaison officer manning as required, the majority of whom will be aeronautically rated/aeronautically designated. Senior leadership oversight of the AOC is provided by USAF colonels and general officers.

Strategy Division (SRD) Strategy Plans Team
Strategy Guidance Team
Operational Assessment Team
Information Operations Team

Combat Plans Division (CPD)
Target Effects Team
Master Air Attack Plan Team
Air Tasking Order Production Team
Command and Control Planning Team

AIR COMBAT COMMAND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

115 Thompson St., Ste 121
Langley AFB, Va. 23665-1987

ACCPA.operations@us.af.mil
757-764-5007



Twitter: @aircombatcmd

Facebook: @aircombatcommand



Instagram: @aircombatcommand





AIR COMBAT COMMAND

PEOPLE FIRST - MISSION ALWAYS

The AOC WS consists of:

Commercial off-the-shelf software (COTS) and hardware for voice, digital, and data communications infrastructure.

Government software applications developed specifically for the AOC WS to enable planning, monitoring, and directing the execution of air, space and cyber operations to include Theater Battle Management Core Systems (TBMCS) – Force Level, and Master Air Attack Plan Toolkit (MAAPTK).

Other government software applications used by the AOC WS to enable joint & interagency integration include, Global Command and Control System – Joint (GCCS-J), Army Battle Command System (ABCS), and Joint Automated Deep Operations Coordination System (JADOCS).

Additional third-party systems that accept, process, correlate, and fuse C2 data from multiple sources and share them through multiple communications systems.

When required, the AOC WS operates on several different networks, including the SIPRNET, Joint Worldwide Intelligence Communications System (JWICS), and coalition networks. (The networks connect the core operating system and primary applications to joint and coalition partners.)

Combat Operations Division (COD)

- Offensive Ops Team
- Defensive Ops Team
- Personnel Recovery
- Senior Intelligence Duty Officer
- Joint Interface Control Officer
- Weather Specialty Team
- Naval Air Liaison Element (NALE)
- USN + USMC; NALE also provides personnel/support to CPD and ISRD

Intelligence, Surveillance, Reconnaissance, Division (ISRD)

- Analysis, Correlation, and Fusion
- Targeting and Tactical Assessment
- ISR Operations

Air Mobility Division (AMD)

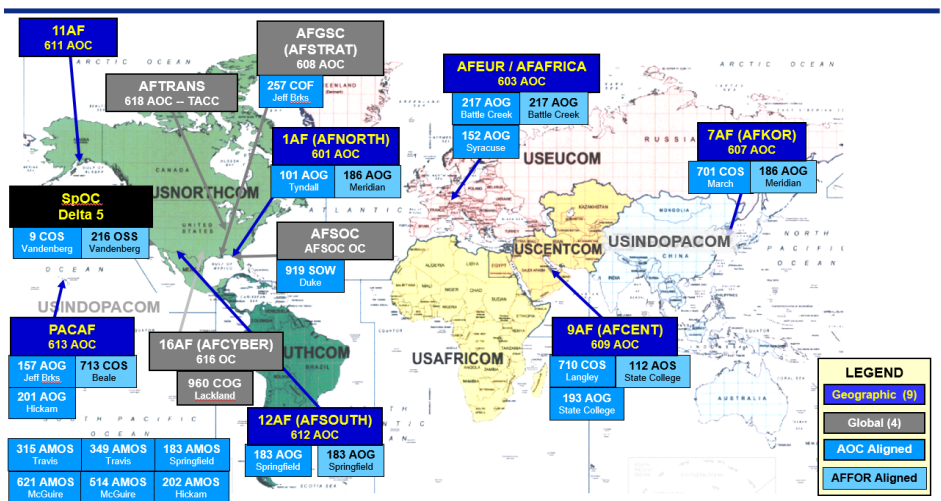
- AMD Chief
- Deputy AMD Chief Superintendent
- Air Mobility Control Team (AMCT)
- Execution Cell
- Mission Management
- Flight Management
- USAPAT Mission Planner
- Maintenance
- Airlift Control Team (ALCT)
- Airlift Plans
- DV Airlifts
- Diplomatic Clearance Requirements
- Air Refueling Control Team (ARCT)
- Aeromedical Evacuation Control Team (AECT)
- Unique Missions Support Team (AMDU)

Joint and Coalition Liaison Teams

- Marine Liaison Element (MARLE)
- Special Ops Liaison Element (SOLE)
- Battlefield Coordination Detachment (BCD, US Army)
- Naval Air Liaison Element (NALE)

Operational-level C2

A Total Force Construct



AIR COMBAT COMMAND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

115 Thompson St., Ste 121
Langley AFB, Va. 23665-1987

ACCPA.operations@us.af.mil
757-764-5007



Twitter: @aircombatcmd



Facebook: @aircombatcommand



Instagram: @aircombatcommand

