

See paragraph 9, “Service Component Commands,” below for more information on Service component commands.

- The JFC can establish **functional component commands to conduct operations**. Functional component commands can be appropriate when **forces from two or more Military Departments must operate in the same dimension or medium or there is a need to accomplish a distinct aspect of the assigned mission**. Joint force land, air, maritime, and SO component commanders are examples of functional components. (NOTE: **Functional component commands** are component commands of a joint force and **do not constitute a “joint force”** with the authorities and responsibilities of a joint force as described in this document, even when composed of forces from two or more Military Departments.) **When a functional component command employs forces from more than one Service, the functional component commander’s staff must be joint** and requires advanced planning for efficient operation. Joint staff billets for needed expertise and individuals to fill those billets should be identified. Those individuals should be used when the functional component command is formed for exercises or actual operations.

See paragraph 10, “Functional Component Commands,” for more information on functional component commands.

- Normally joint forces are organized with a **combination of Service and functional component commands** with operational responsibilities. Joint forces organized with Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marine Corps components may have **SO** (if assigned) organized as a

functional component. The JFC defines the authority and responsibilities of the Service and functional component commanders; however, the Service responsibilities (i.e., administrative and logistics) of the components must be given due consideration by the JFC.

- The JFC has full authority to **assign missions, redirect efforts, and direct coordination** among subordinate commanders. JFCs should allow Service tactical and operational assets and groupings to function generally as they were designed. The intent is to meet the needs of the JFC while maintaining the tactical and operational integrity of the Service organizations. The **following policy** for C2 of United States Marine Corps tactical air (TACAIR) recognizes this and deals with Marine air-ground task force (MAGTF) aviation during sustained operations ashore.

•• **The MAGTF commander will retain OPCON of organic air assets.**

The primary mission of the MAGTF aviation combat element is the support of the MAGTF ground combat element. During joint operations, the MAGTF air assets normally will be in support of the MAGTF mission. The MAGTF commander will make sorties available to the JFC, for tasking through the joint force air component commander (JFACC), for air defense, long-range interdiction, and long-range reconnaissance. Sorties in excess of MAGTF direct support requirements will be provided to the JFC for tasking through the JFACC for the support of other components of the joint force or the joint force as a whole. Nothing herein shall infringe on the authority of the geographic combatant or subordinate JFC in the exercise of OPCON to assign missions, redirect efforts (e.g., the

reapportionment and/or reallocation of any MAGTF TACAIR sorties when it has been determined by the JFC that they are required for higher priority missions), and direct coordination among the subordinate commanders to ensure unity of effort in accomplishment of the overall mission, or to maintain integrity of the force.

NOTE: Sorties provided for air defense, long-range interdiction, and long-range reconnaissance are not “excess” sorties and will be covered in the air tasking order. These sorties provide a distinct contribution to the overall joint force effort. The JFC must exercise integrated control of air defense, long-range reconnaissance, and interdiction aspects of the joint operation or theater campaign. Excess sorties are in addition to these sorties.

2. Unified Command

A unified command is a **command with broad continuing missions under a single commander**, is composed of forces from two or more Military Departments, and is established by the President through the Secretary of Defense and with the advice and assistance of the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs

of Staff (see Figure V-2). The unified commander can adapt a **command structure** using any of the following **six options**: **subordinate unified command**; **JTF**; **functional component**; **Service component**; **single-Service force** (normally the combatant commander assigns operations requiring a single-Service force to a Service component); or **specific operational forces** that, because of the mission assigned and the urgency of the situation, must remain immediately responsive to the combatant commander. These options do not in any way limit the commanders’ authority to organize their forces as they see fit.

a. Unless authorized by the Secretary of Defense, the **commander of a unified command will not act as the commander of a subordinate command**. For example, the commander of a unified command also should not act as a functional component commander without prior approval of the Secretary of Defense.

b. **Criteria for Establishing a Unified Command**. When either or both of the following criteria apply generally to a situation, a **unified command normally is required to secure the necessary unity of effort**.

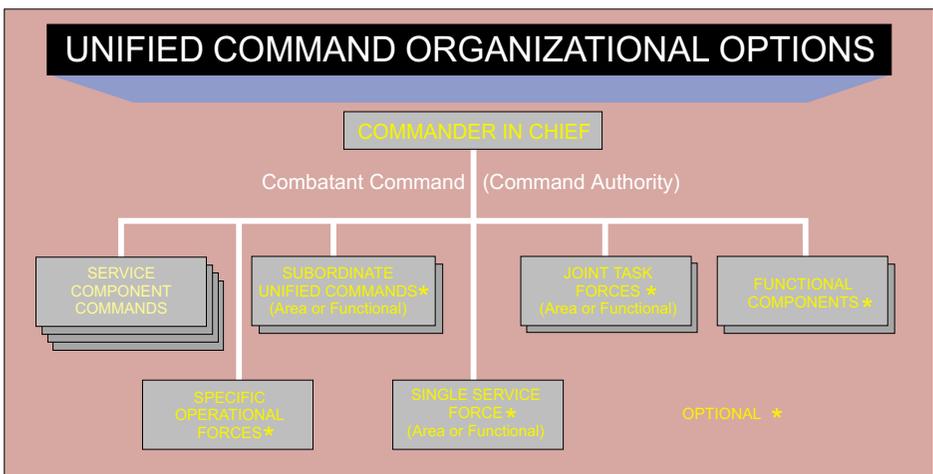


Figure V-2. Unified Command Organizational Options