

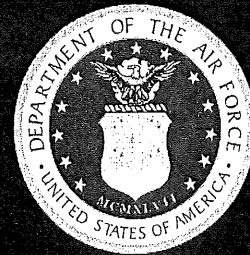
# Joint Publication 1



## Doctrine for the Armed Forces of the United States



25 March 2013

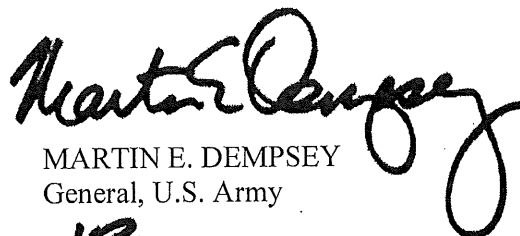


**J**oint Publication 1, *Doctrine for the Armed Forces of the United States*, is the capstone publication for all joint doctrine, presenting fundamental principles and overarching guidance for the employment of the Armed Forces of the United States. This represents the evolution in our warfighting guidance and military theory that forms the core of joint warfighting doctrine and establishes the framework for our forces' ability to fight as a joint team.

It is vital that we not only develop our military capabilities, but also strengthen the capacity of other government departments and agencies. This publication ties joint doctrine to the national security strategy and national military strategy and describes the military's role in the development of national policy and strategy. It thus provides the linkage between joint doctrine and the contribution of other government departments and agencies and multinational endeavors.

As we look globally at our posture and the associated strategic risk, it is imperative that our doctrine also rapidly adjust to reflect our wartime footing. The guidance in this publication will enable current and future leaders of the Armed Forces of the United States to organize, train, and execute worldwide missions as our forces transform to meet emerging challenges. The joint force must simultaneously think ahead at the strategic level, stay current at the operational level, and be informed by tactical level developments.

I challenge all commanders to ensure the widest distribution of this capstone joint publication and actively promote the use of all joint publications at every opportunity. I further challenge you to study and understand the guidance contained in this publication and teach these principles to your subordinates. Only then will we be able to fully exploit the remarkable military potential inherent in our joint teams.

  
MARTIN E. DEMPSEY  
General, U.S. Army  
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management, component interaction, or control over the scheme of maneuver.

*Discipline*

The JFC is responsible for the discipline of military personnel assigned to the joint organization. Each Service component in a CCMD is responsible for the discipline of that Service's component forces, subject to Service regulations and directives established by the CCDR. The Uniform Code of Military Justice is federal law, as enacted by Congress; it provides the basic law for discipline of the Armed Forces of the United States. Matters that involve more than one Service and that are within the jurisdiction of the JFC may be handled either by the JFC or by the appropriate Service component commander. Matters that involve only one Service should be handled by the Service component commander, subject to Service regulations.

**Joint Command and Control**

*Command is central to all military action, and unity of command is central to unity of effort.*

Inherent in command is the authority that a military commander lawfully exercises over subordinates including authority to assign missions and accountability for their successful completion. **Although commanders may delegate authority to accomplish missions, they may not absolve themselves of the responsibility for the attainment of these missions.** Authority is never absolute; the extent of authority is specified by the establishing authority, directives, and law.

*Combatant Command (Command Authority)*

COCOM provides full authority for a CCDR to perform those functions of command over assigned forces involving organizing and employing commands and forces, assigning tasks, designating objectives, and giving authoritative direction over all aspects of military operations, joint training (or in the case of USSOCOM, training of assigned forces), and logistics necessary to accomplish the missions assigned to the command.

*Operational Control*

OPCON is the command authority that may be exercised by commanders at any echelon at or below the level of CCMD and may be delegated within the command. OPCON is able to be delegated from and lesser authority than COCOM. It is the authority to perform those functions of command over subordinate forces involving organizing and employing commands and forces, assigning tasks, designating objectives, and giving authoritative

direction over all aspects of military operations and joint training necessary to accomplish the mission.

***Tactical Control***

TACON is an authority over assigned or attached forces or commands, or military capability or forces made available for tasking, that is limited to the detailed direction and control of movements and maneuvers within the operational area necessary to accomplish assigned missions or tasks assigned by the commander exercising OPCON or TACON of the attached force. TACON is able to be delegated from and lesser authority than OPCON and may be delegated to and exercised by commanders at any echelon at or below the level of CCMD.

***Support***

***There are four categories of support that a combatant commander may exercise over assigned or attached forces to ensure the appropriate level of support is provided to accomplish mission objectives. They are: general support, mutual support, direct support, and close support.***

Support is a command authority. A support relationship is established by a common superior commander between subordinate commanders when one organization should aid, protect, complement, or sustain another force. Support may be exercised by commanders at any echelon at or below the CCMD level. The designation of supporting relationships is important as it conveys priorities to commanders and staffs that are planning or executing joint operations. The support command relationship is, by design, a somewhat vague but very flexible arrangement. The establishing authority (the common JFC) is responsible for ensuring that both the supported commander and supporting commanders understand the degree of authority that the supported commander is granted.

***Support Relationships Between Combatant Commanders***

SecDef establishes support relationships between the CCDRs for the planning and execution of joint operations. This ensures that the supported CCDR receives the necessary support.

***Support Relationships Between Component Commanders***

The JFC may establish support relationships between component commanders to facilitate operations. Component commanders should establish liaison with other component commanders to facilitate the support relationship and to coordinate the planning and execution of pertinent operations.

***Command Relationships and Assignment and Transfer of Forces***

All forces under the jurisdiction of the Secretaries of the Military Departments (except those forces necessary to carry out the functions of the Military Departments as noted in Title 10, USC, Section 162) are assigned to