

Air and Space Operations Center (AOC)

Proficiency Code: A

The primary mission of the Air and Space Operations Center (AOC) is to provide the Joint Forces with the tools necessary to fight and win a major theater war (MTW) within the scope and coordination of all land, sea and air forces. It provides the capability to exercise the Air Force distinctive capabilities of information superiority, global attack, air and space superiority, precision engagement, rapid global mobility and agile combat. An AOC may be regional or functional, aligning with the purpose of the unified command they support.

The use of the AOC in support of cyberspace operations is growing and changing as rapidly as cyberspace itself. Not only must AOCs incorporate land, sea, air and space forces to support the Joint Force Air Component Commander (JFACC), they must also incorporate cyberspace operations to affect those very domains for which they execute missions. However, each AOC may differ slightly in its mission planning and execution so considerations to accommodate the cyber mission must be looked at through all levels of operations conducted in the AOC. Due diligence must be given to the intertwining effects cyberspace has across the other domains, particularly when implementing cyberspace efforts to the overall JFACC mission.

Cyberspace operators assigned to an AOC will integrate cyberspace effects for the respective Commander Air Force Forces (COMAFFOR)/JFACC. These cyberspace forces execute cyber missions through a cyber-tasking order (CTO). The CTO provides guidance for synchronized global and theater joint air, space and cyberspace operations. The CTO meshes with the air tasking order (ATO) to ensure collaborative generation of both cyberspace and AOC operations.