

CHAPTER 2

Theater Composition

This chapter describes the current Unified Command Structure, the operational chain of command, and the typical organizations and missions found at the theater level. Only by understanding who the supported customers are, can signal support commanders and staffs properly plan for, prioritize, and allocate signal support. FM 100-16 and FM 100-20 provide in-depth coverage of the topics that are briefly covered in this chapter.

UNIFIED COMMANDS

2-1. A theater may have many organizations deployed that are unified and consist of armed forces from two or more US services and supporting commands, interagency activities, and combined forces. They assist in planning and support of the unified operations to the unified Commander-in-Chief (CINC) or his designated force commander. All efforts in the theater contribute to the CINC's intent and concept of operations. The National Command Authority (NCA) supports the combatant CINC by providing service component commands. NCA directs other Department of Defense (DOD) agencies and CINCs to support the combatant CINC as necessary. This support comes in the form of funding, personnel, and equipment.

2-2. The Army Service Component Command (ASCC) commander is charged with Title 10 responsibility and provides Army forces to the CINC that are trained, equipped, and tailored into force packages to enable the CINC to accomplish his mission.

2-3. The effective use of the nation's armed forces requires a unity of effort in the operation of diverse military resources. This goal is achieved through the following:

- Strategic direction of the armed forces.
- Operation under unified commands.
- Integration into an efficient team of land, sea, and air forces.
- Prevention of unnecessary duplication of efforts or resources.
- Coordination of operations.
- Effective combined (US and allied) operations.

2-4. A unified command contains two or more component services and is established by the President, through the Secretary of Defense, with the advice and assistance of the Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff (CJCS). Figure 2-1 shows a generic theater operational organization.

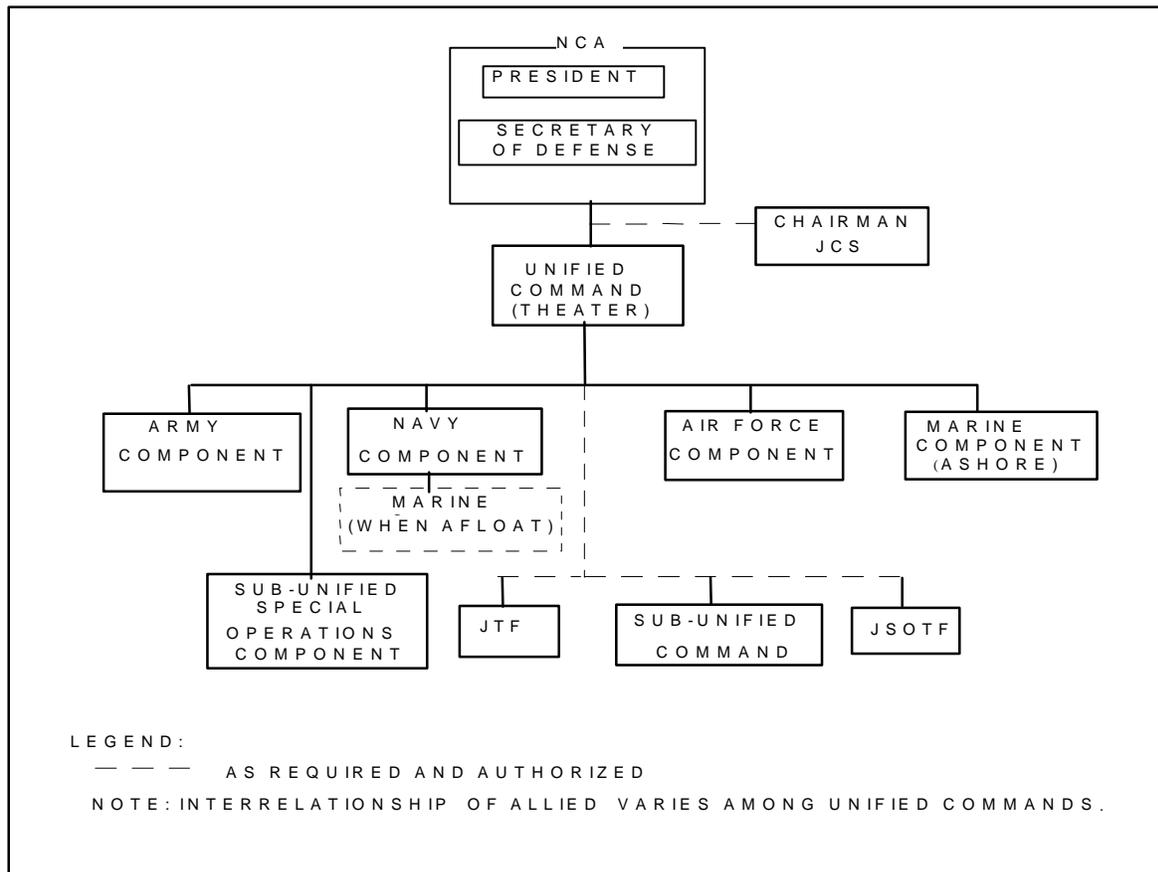


Figure 2-1. Generic Theater Operational Organization

2-5. The CINC exercises combatant command through any of the following:

- Service component commanders.
- Functional component commanders.
- A commander of a subordinate unified command.
- A single service force commander.
- The commander of a Joint Task Force (JTF).
- Directly over specified operational forces.

CINC STAFF

2-6. Each CINC has a joint staff organization. The CINC organizes his joint staff as necessary to carry out the duties and responsibilities with which he is charged. Members of the joint staff ensure that the joint commander understands the tactics, techniques, capabilities, needs, and limitations of the component parts of the force. Figure 2-2 illustrates a generic joint staff.

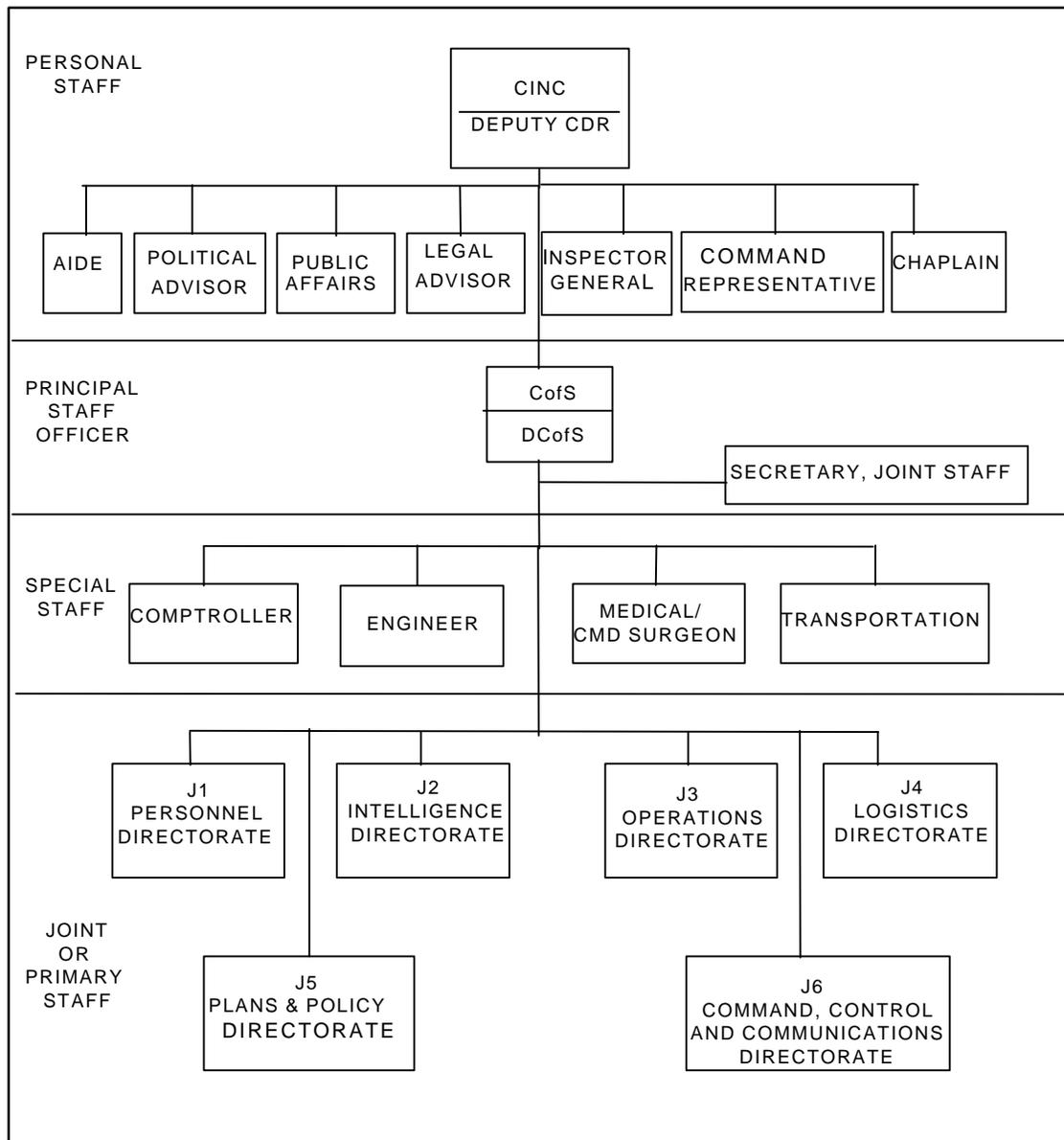


Figure 2-2. Generic Joint Staff

2-7. For joint communications management, the combatant command or JTF J6 directorate or equivalent office is responsible for joint communication management. Joint communications management provides centralized control with decentralized execution. It exercises dynamic technical control over theater communications systems and coordinates their interfaces with the Defense Communications System (DCS)/Defense Information Systems Network (DISN) and other combatant commands' communications systems. The combatant command or JTF J6 directorate or equivalent office manages all joint communications (defined as circuits, systems, procedures, facilities, services, and equipment) that:

- Support the CINC or JTF commander and their operations facilities
- Support other joint commands in the Joint Operations Area (JOA).
- Interface with the components of the joint commands. Provided connectivity to the DCS/DISN, commercial communications systems, or allied communications systems.
- Provide connectivity to the Command, Control, Communications, and Computers (C4) systems of the other combatant commands.

2-8. In order to manage tactical communications systems deployed in support of joint operations and exercises, the combatant command or JTF J6 directorate or equivalent office establishes a Joint Communication Control Center (JCCC). Designated signal elements of the ASCC and the Theater Signal Command (TSC) deploys as part of the JTF to provide the expertise and capability necessary to plan and manage the Echelons Above Corps (EAC) functions for the JCCC. Service components and subordinate joint commanders must also establish C4 control centers to serve as single points of responsibility for joint C4 matters. The JCCC exercises staff supervision over C4 control centers belonging to deployed components and subordinate commands. Army, Air Force, Marine, and Joint Special Operations Task Force (JSOTF) components communications control centers are normally referred to as systems control (SYSCONS), and the JSOTF uses a JCCC that is subordinate to the JTC JCCC. The Navy refers to this as the Technical Control (TECHCON). Additional discussion of the JCCC organization can be found in Chapter II, CJCSM 6231.01 and .01A.

2-9. As the JTF grows in accordance with the mission so does the need for additional signal support. Signal support must be capable of meeting the increasing demands of the JTF. This is also true for the service component. Usually the JCCC tasks the TSC through the ASCC to plan, engineer, and manage connectivity to the JTF, JTF's higher headquarters, and lateral to the service components.

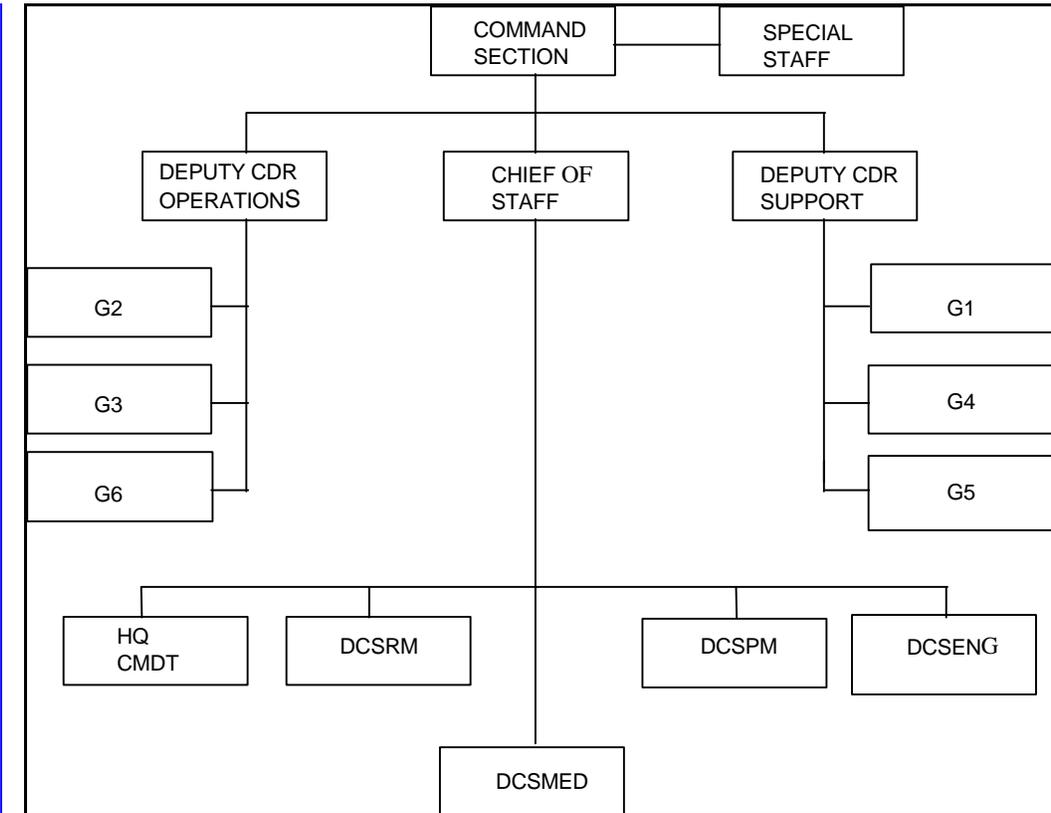
DEFENSE INFORMATION SYSTEMS AGENCY (DISA)

2-10. The DISA plans, engineers, and manages communications and information processing systems that serve the federal government. The J6 must coordinate closely with DISA concerning the CINC's communications requirements to ensure that DISA can expand and reconfigure communications capabilities to meet the CINC's timetable. DISA provides personnel to the JCCC, as designated in DISA contingency plans. The DISA is responsible for planning, engineering, and exercising operational direction and management control for the worldwide Defense Communications System (DCS). DISA employs communications resources at designated DCS/DISN entry stations and gateways to terminate long-haul tactical trunks and circuits from the joint operations area. DISA ensures that the required entry stations, gateways, and switching centers have the appropriate equipment and cryptographic devices to terminate tactical Headquarters (HQ) circuits deployed worldwide. This agency is also responsible for systems engineering and technical support of high-priority signal systems established for Command and Control (C2) of our military forces. DISA also manages the Defense Satellite Communications System (DSCS) through the US Army

Space Command's Regional Space Support Center (RSSC) to meet the requirements established by the Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS) and the Secretary of Defense (SECDEF). The DISA RSSC is also the systems' architect for all military Satellite Communications (SATCOM) systems.

COMPONENT COMMANDS

2-11. The Army service component serves as the senior Army echelon in a theater and is the ASCC of a unified command. US Army Central (USARCENT) is an example of an ASCC. It includes the service component commander and all army personnel, organizations, units, and installations that have been assigned to the unified command. The Army's operational-level organizations assist and augment tactical (corps and division) organizations. The CINC may designate an Army Force (ARFOR) commander as a subordinate Joint Force Command. The designation may be as a subunified commander, a Joint Forces Land Component Commander (JFLCC), or a Commander of the Joint Task Force (CJTf). Based on the ASCC structure, the Army JFC must reexamine the responsibilities and capabilities in order to perform the three tasks of the operational-level commander. Establishing a joint headquarters under these circumstances will be a unique extension of the joint linkage task. Most US Army forces within the theater are placed under the command of the CINC and are Operational Control (OPCON) to the ASCC commanders. Army organizations in the theater are flexible and vary from theater-to-theater based on the mission, enemy forces, unique geography, political environments, and the CINC's intent as outlined in his campaign plan. The ASCC's mission is assigned by the theater CINC, based on his selection of combatant command options, and may be a combination of logistical and operational missions or exclusively logistical. Other levels of command assist in the performance of theater functions (for example, subordinate logistical and/or operational echelons). Figure 2-3 illustrates a doctrinal ASCC headquarters organization. Further information is found in FM 100-7.



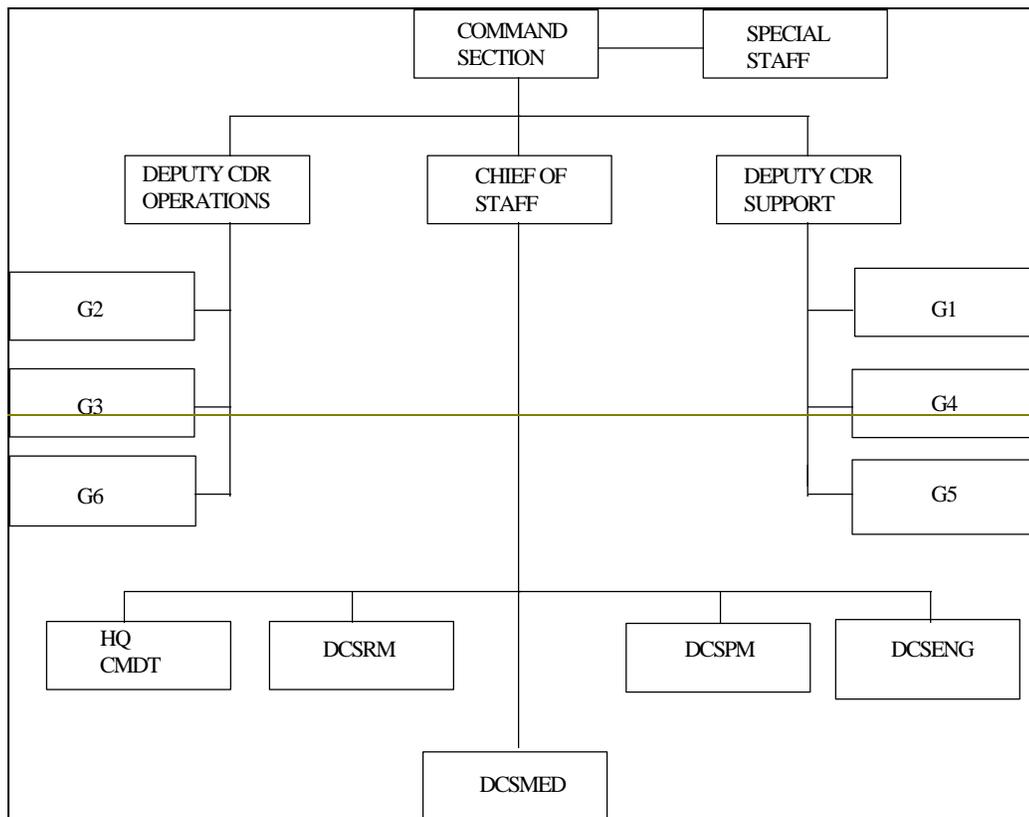
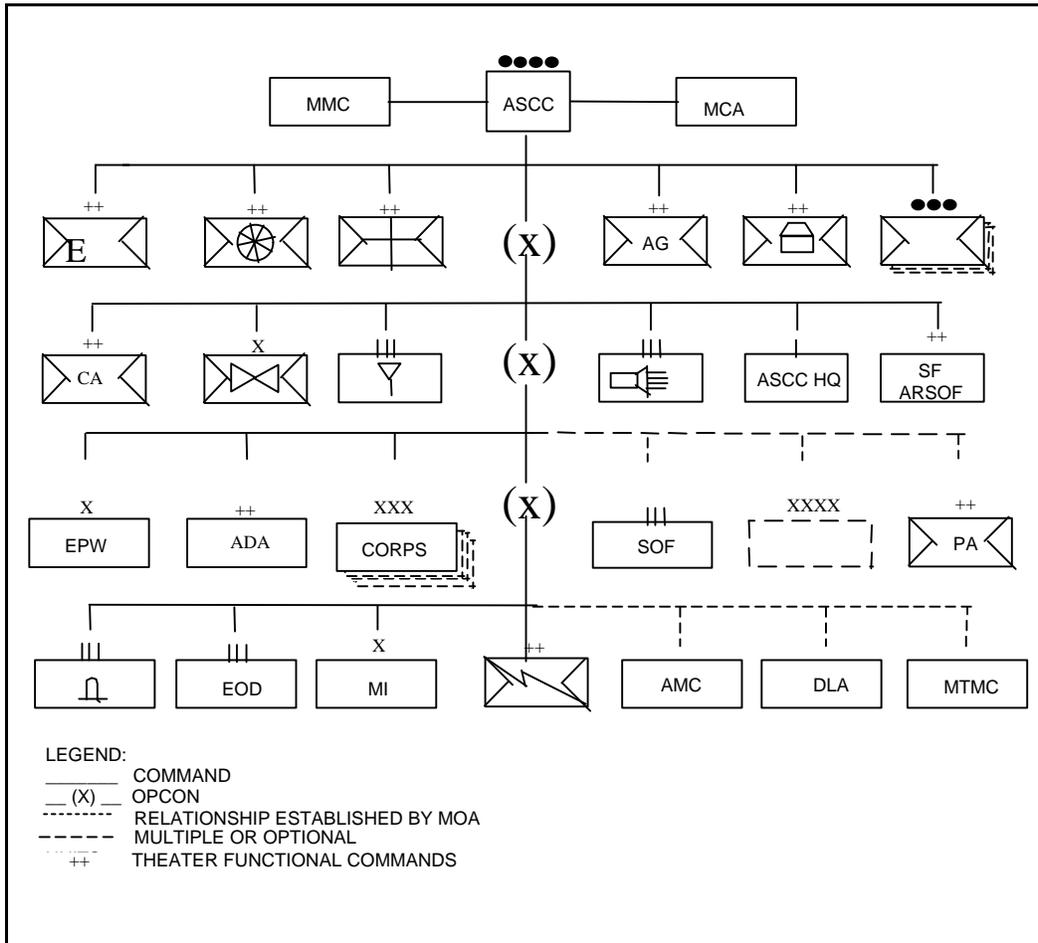


Figure 2-3. Generic ASCC Headquarters

2-12. The Theater Signal Officer (TSO) is dual-hatted as the TSC commander and as the ASCC G-6. A separate staff exists at ASCC headquarters, called the Deputy Chief of Staff for Information Management (DCSIM) to perform operational planning functions and day-to-day signal support to the ASCC. The TSC provides the operational element for communications support in the theater. The DCSIM is composed of TSC personnel assigned to the G-6 ASCC.

MAJOR SUBORDINATE COMMANDS OF THE ASCC

2-13. The ASCC, staff, and organizational structures provide for centralized planning and coordination. The structure also provides for decentralized execution by a combination of subordinate area-oriented and functional organizations (see Figure 2-4). The ASCC headquarters manages Combat Support (CS) and Combat Service Support (CSS) operations by establishing broad plans and policies for guidance to Major Subordinate Commands (MSCs).



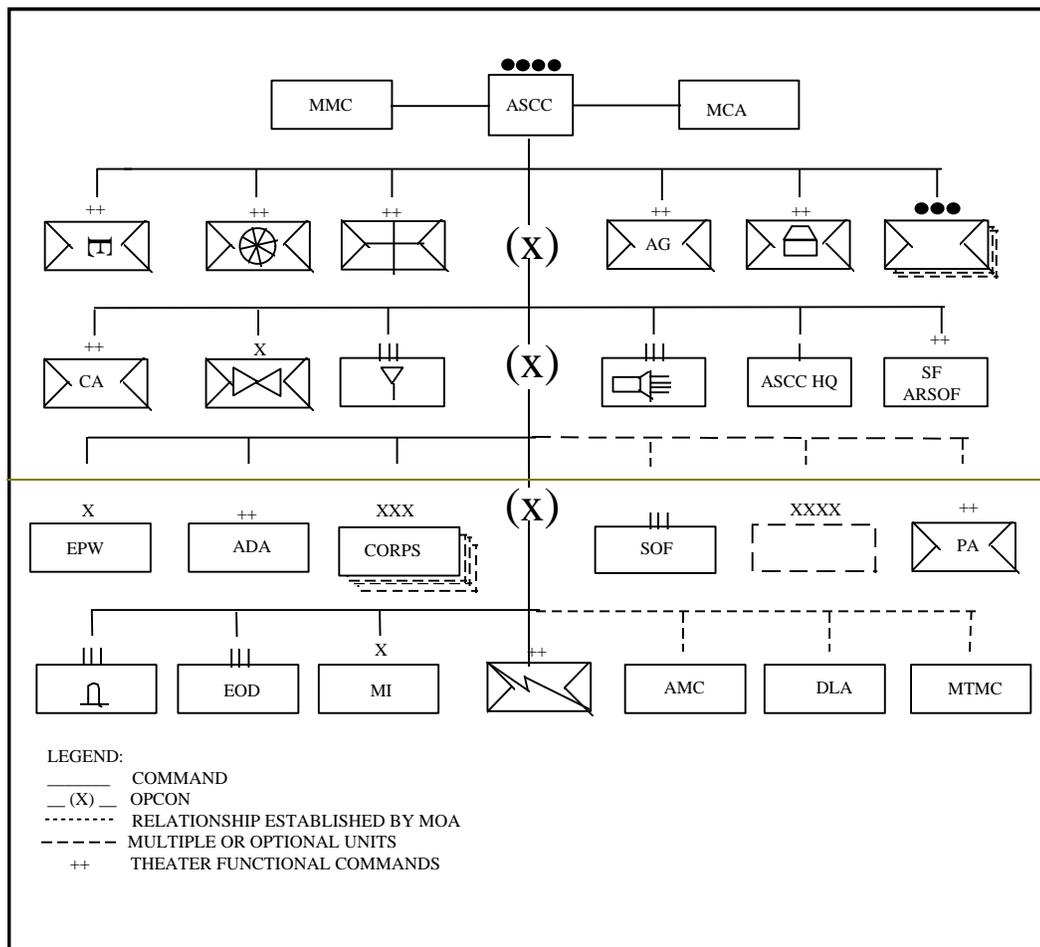


Figure 2-4. Functional Organizations

THEATER ARMY AREA COMMAND (TAACOM)

2-14. The TAACOM provides supply, maintenance, and services to the ASCC subordinate commands, the corps, and units located in or passing through its support area.

TRANSPORTATION COMMAND (TRANSCOM)

2-15. The TRANSCOM provides Army transportation services to the theater. It provides support in the functional areas of staff assistance, mode operations, and terminal services.

ENGINEER COMMAND (ENCOM)

2-16. The Engineer Command (ENCOM) provides general troop and contractual construction support, topographic support, and real property maintenance activity technical supervision or sustaining support to the area command. It also provides combat engineering to the corps on a tasked basis, as required.

PERSONNEL COMMAND (PERSCOM)

2-17. The PERSCOM directs and coordinates personnel services, administrative management, and morale support activities. It also directs, coordinates, and provides postal services, enemy Prisoner of War (POW) internment, and control and internment of US military prisoners to the theater when augmented with units.

MEDICAL COMMAND (MEDCOM)

2-18. The MEDCOM provides medical support within the Communications Zone (COMMZ). It also provides C2, staff planning, supervision of operations, medical supply control, training and administration of hospital centers, and medical groups engaged in COMMZ-level medical support.

THEATER FINANCE COMMAND (TFC)

2-19. The TFC provides policy and technical guidance for all finance and accounting activities in the theater currency. It is also responsible for centralized support of theater currency funding, commercial accounting, foreign national pay and appropriated and nonappropriated fund accounting. The TFC exercises OPCON over the area finance support centers when assigned.

THEATER SIGNAL COMMAND (TSC)

2-20. The TSC provides communications support to the ASCC, ARFOR, and joint forces. The TSC also provides an integrated communications network that links out-of-theater communications systems to the theater. The integrated communications network also links each of the MSC's by interfacing to customer provided voice, data, and video equipment.

MILITARY INTELLIGENCE BRIGADE

2-21. The Military Intelligence Brigade provides interrogation, controlled collections, counterintelligence, Signal Intelligence (SIGINT), Imagery Intelligence (IMINT), and all-source analysis.

THEATER ARMY MATERIEL MANAGEMENT CENTER (TAMMC)

2-22. The TAMMC is the nerve center of most supply and maintenance operations. It provides centralized management for the decentralized activities of the TAACOM. The TAMMC ensures visibility of critical items and balanced maintenance efforts and serves as the prime interface with the Continental United States (CONUS) sustaining base.

TA DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF (DCOFS)

2-23. The TA DCofS operates the Theater Army Movement Control Agency (TAMCA) for Logistics. It provides theater-wide movement management services in coordination with its allied and host nation counterparts. This agency is the primary link between the theater and CONUS transportation agencies.

CIVIL AFFAIRS COMMAND (CACOM)

2-24. The CACOM provides staff support to a Special Operations Command (SOC), other component services, and the joint theater staff as required and commands attached civil affairs units.

AIR DEFENSE COMMAND (ADCOM)

2.25. The ADCOM provides the Army's contribution to theater air missile defense in joint and multinational operations. The senior Army air defense commander provides the majority of Army rear area theater air defense and active missile defense forces.