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Substantive Changes to the Unified Command Plan
1958 - 1969

22 Apr 57
N/H of JCS 1259/377

Although CINCPAC continued to be also designated CINCPACFLT, CNO gave notice on 20 Apr 57 that he had "approved revised terms of reference for the Deputy CINCPACFLT which direct that he exercise direct command of the U.S. Pacific Fleet for and in the stead of the Commander in Chief, U.S. Pacific Fleet in all matters except for:

a. The determination of major policy.
b. Military Government of the Bonin and Volcano Islands.
c. Civil Administration of the Northern Marianas Trust Territory."

In furtherance of this distinction, during Oct 57, CINCPACFLT Hq was physically separated from CINCPAC Hq.

14 Jan 58
JCS 1259/407

Effective 13 Jan 58, CINCPAC's additional designation as CINCPACFLT was terminated. The incumbent Deputy CINCPACFLT became CINCPACFLT.

The 1958 Reorganization

6 Aug 58
The Department of Defense Reorganization Act of 1958

Fulfilling recommendations made by President Eisenhower to the Congress, the Department of Defense Reorganization Act of 1958 greatly strengthened the unified command system, by adding the following language to the National Security Act of 1947:

> With the advice and assistance of the Joint Chiefs of Staff the President, through the Secretary of Defense, shall establish unified or specified combatant commands for the performance of military missions, and shall determine the force structure of such combatant commands to be composed of forces of the Department of the Army, the Department of the Navy, the Department of the Air Force, which shall then be assigned to such combatant commands by the departments concerned for the performance of such military missions. Such combatant commands are responsible to the President and the Secretary of Defense for such military missions as may be assigned to them by the Secretary of Defense, with the approval of the President. Forces assigned to such unified combatant commands or specified combatant commands shall be under the full operational command of the commander of the unified combatant command or the commander of the specified combatant command. All forces not so assigned remain for all purposes in their respective departments. Under the direction, authority, and control of the Secretary of Defense each military department shall be responsible for the administration of the forces assigned from its department to such combatant commands. The responsibility for the support of forces assigned to combatant commands shall be vested in one or more of the military departments as may be directed by the Secretary of Defense. Forces assigned to such unified or specified combatant commands shall be transferred therefrom only by authority of and under procedures established by the Secretary of Defense, with the approval of the President.

As the President had clearly stated, a main purpose of the reorganization was to establish a more direct chain of command, by ending the designation of a military department as the executive agency for each unified command. It was intended that all combat forces would normally be assigned to a unified or specified command, under the full operational command of a commander responsible to the Secretary of Defense. The Secretary would exercise his control

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by orders issued through the Joint Chiefs of Staff. In consonance with this intention the Reorganization Act deleted existing provisions that had authorized a Service Chief to command the operating forces of his Service. Thereafter each military department was to organize, equip, train, support, and administer combatant forces, but not direct their operations.

31 Dec 58
DOD Directive 5100.1

The primary implementing document was the revised version of DOD Directive 5100.1, "Functions of the Department of Defense and its Major Components," issued on 31 Dec 58. The directive spoke of the Joint Chiefs of Staff as constituting the immediate military staff of the Secretary of Defense, serving in the chain of operational command extending from the President to the Secretary of Defense, through the Joint Chiefs of Staff, to the commanders of unified and specified commands. In this area of responsibility the Joint Chiefs of Staff were called on to recommend to the Secretary of Defense the establishment and force structure of unified and specified commands and the assignment to the military departments of responsibility for providing support to such commands, and they were to review the plans and programs of the commanders. The basic planning function of the Joint Chiefs of Staff was also directly related to the operational command responsibility, by the statement of the duty:

> To prepare strategic plans and provide for the strategic direction of the armed forces, including the direction of operations conducted by commanders of unified and specified commands and the discharge of any other function of command for such commands directed by the Secretary of Defense.

Other steps in implementation of the 1958 reorganization were embodied in the following:

5 Sep 58
JCS 1259/421

A revised version of UCP, approved by the President, was disseminated on 5 Sep 58. Changes in the text were slight, since details of the reorganization were not spelled out. They were covered by the statement, continued from the previous UCP, that the National Security Act, as amended, and DOD Directive 5100.1 delineated responsibilities and provided the basis for the establishment of unified and specified commands Except for designation of CONAD as a unified command, rather than a joint command, the list of commands was unchanged. However, issuance of the revised and approved UCP in effect "reestablished" all the commands, satisfying the new legislative provision that they were to be established by the President, through the Secretary of Defense, on the advice of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

5 Aug 58
JCS 1977/57

SecDef prescribed a phased schedule for transfer to the JCS of staff functions currently performed by military departments as executive agencies for the unified and specified commands, on dates ranging from 15 Sep 58 to 1 Jan 59.

12 Sep 58
DOD Directive 5100.3

On 12 Sep 58 he issued DOD Directive 5100.3, which designated the military department that would thereafter be responsible for the administrative and logistic support of each command:

USEUCOM	Army	CONAD	Air Force
ALCOM	Air Force	PACOM	Navy
CARIBCOM	Army	NELM	Navy
LANTCOM	Navy	SAC	Air Force

6 Oct 58
JCS 1259/425

On 6 Oct 58 the JCS directed the individual Service Chiefs to assign listed forces (actually the existing forces) to the several commands on the scheduled dates. For USEUCOM, this action had already been accomplished on 15 Sep 58.

25 Nov 58
JCS 1259/428

On 20 Nov 58 SecDef directed that the channel for guidance and direction in all public affairs matters concerning the unified and specified commands should be directly between the commands and SecDef; he designated ASD(PA) to act for him in this area of concern. In implementation, JCS instructed the commanders to address SecDef directly on public affairs matters, with info copy to JCS.

5 Feb 59
JCS 1259/455

A definition of "operational command," with accompanying guidance, was prepared by JCS and approved by SecDef for dissemination and incorporation in the next revision of UCP. It became effective 2 Feb 59. Modeled closely on the definition given the term by the House Committee on Armed Services during consideration of the Department of Defense Reorganization Act of 1958, it read as follows:

> Operational Command -- Those functions of command over assigned forces involving the composition of subordinate forces, the assignment of tasks, the designation of objectives, the over-all control of assigned resources, and the full authoritative direction necessary to accomplish the mission.

The approved guidance provided that, "within unified commands, operational command will be exercised through the Service component commanders," or through the commanders of subordinate commands, when established. Within specified commands it would be exercised through the commanders of subordinate commands established by the specified commander. Subject to this provision, the commander of a unified or specified command was authorized to "plan for, deploy, direct, control, and coordinate the actions of assigned forces." He was also to conduct joint training exercises and establish such training policies for joint operations as required to accomplish the mission; exercise directive authority in the field of logistics; establish such personnel policies as required to insure uniform standards of military conduct; exercise directive authority over all elements of his command in relationships with foreign governments, the armed forces thereof, and other agencies of the US Government; establish and coordinate policies affecting the intelligence activities of his command; and "review the recommendations bearing on the budget from the component commanders to their parent military Departments to verify that the recommendations are in agreement with his plans and programs."

23 Oct 59
JCS 1259/497

On 23 Nov 59, JCS approved and forwarded to the commanders a paper titled "Relationships between Commanders of Unified and Specified Commands and International Commands and Organizations." It listed international agreements having military implications and the existing international organizations, planning boards, and military commissions derived from or affected by such agreements; outlined the specific relationships in effect between US commanders and such agencies; tabulated the countries and organizations eligible to receive military assistance.

7 Sep 60
JCS 1259/516

The next revised UCP, and subsequent versions, contained a paragraph citing this document as an information item, "not directive upon commanders

6 Feb 60
JCS 1259/500

On 3 Feb 60, SecDef directed a series of actions with respect to command arrangements and planning responsibilities for the Middle East, pending the establishment of a Middle East Command:

CINCNELM, in his capacity as naval component commander to USCINCEUR, to be redesignated Commander in Chief, US Naval Forces, Europe (CINCUSNAVEUR).

CINCNELM to continue as commander of a specified command with the responsibilities currently assigned, and when acting in this capacity, use the title CINCNELM. The title previously used in plans and actual conduct of operations, CINCSPECOMME (Commander in Chief, Specified Command, Middle East), was no longer authorized.

CINCNELM to be assigned operational control of the Middle East Force (MIDEASTFOR), a small naval contingent stationed East of Suez.

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CINCNELM to continue to do contingency planning as directed by JCS, "to include general war planning in support of the ME-EDP /Middle East Emergency Defense Plan/," and such other contingency planning as he considered necessary for operations in his area.

CINCNELM to establish a unified staff, primarily to discharge the planning responsibilities listed above, with a Deputy Commander, CINCNELM, to direct its activities. The Deputy Commander to be a senior officer of the Army or the Air Force, in alternation.

17 Feb 60
2nd N/H of JCS
1259/421

Of the above provisions, only the CINCUSNAVEUR redesignation was immediately recorded as a change to the UCP, on 17 Feb 60. Some required no change; for instance, the CINCSPECOMME title did not appear in UCP.

1 Apr 60
JCS 1259/505, and
CINCNELM 281457Z
Jul 60 to JCS

Following JCS approval of his recommendations therefor, CINCNELM formally established his unified staff on 28 Jul 60.

7 Sep 60
JCS 1259/516

The chief amendment remaining was accomplished by issuance of the next revised UCP, on 4 Feb 61. The new version deleted the provision reserving to the JCS the overall planning responsibility for the Middle East area, stating instead that "contingency and general war planning responsibilities for the Middle East are assigned to CINCNELM."

5 Apr 60
3rd Corrig to N/H
of JCS 1259/496

On 29 Mar 60 the JCS agreed to rescind the paragraph of UCP that authorized the commander of a unified command, "in case of dire emergency, when lack of communications does not permit application to the Joint Chiefs of Staff," to assume operational control temporarily "of all or part of the forces which are scheduled for or actually engaged at the time in executing specific operational missions under war plans approved by the Joint Chiefs of Staff."

7 Sep 60
JCS 1259/516

This change was not implemented, however, until dissemination of the next revised UCP, on 4 Feb 61.

25 Nov 60 JCS 2262/56	SecDef directed the assignment to CINCLANT of responsibility for the development and maintenance of plans for the conduct of operations in Africa South of the Sahara (that is, Africa including Madagascar but excluding the general geographic areas of responsibility of USCINCEUR and the prospective Middle East Command as set forth in the current UCP).
29 Dec 60 1st N/H of JCS 2262/56	In a subsequent clarification on 29 Dec 60, SecDef indicated that it was his intention to assign responsibility for both planning and the conduct of operations in that area to CINCLANT.
30 Dec 60 JCS 2262/63	In notifying CINCLANT of this assignment on 4 Jan 61, JCS authorized him to establish a Joint Task Force to discharge his new responsibilities.
7 Sep 60 JCS 1259/516	The expansion of CINCLANT's responsibility to include Africa South of the Sahara was reflected in the next revised UCP, issued 4 Feb 61.
7 Sep 60 JCS 1259/516	Following approval by the President on 30 Dec 60, a revised UCP was disseminated on 4 Feb 61. It incorporated all changes to date, including the following that have been described in separate items:

a. Inclusion of the definition of "operational command" and, as an Annex, the "Specific Guidance on Exercise of Operational Command"

b. Deletion of the special authority of commanders "in case of dire emergency"

c. CINCLANT's responsibility with respect to Africa South of the Sahara

d. CINCNELM's responsibility for contingency and general war planning for the Middle East

e. Citation of "Relationships between Commanders of Unified and Specified Commands and International Commands and Organizations" for information purposes.

Further changes, reflecting other actions already completed, were the following:

a. The paragraph on USEUCOM had the following added statement, which in part reflected provisions of DOD Directive 5132.3, 29 Feb 60:

> For the purpose of military assistance only, the area of USCINCEUR is extended to include North Africa and the Middle East including Iran, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia.

b. The statement of CINCONAD's responsibilities was more extensive, incorporating provisions from JCS 1541/141, 1 May 58, and JCS 1541/168, 17 Nov 58, that were more explicit than the previous UCP statement that "CINCONAD's responsibilities can best be defined within the context of those of the Commander in Chief, North American Air Defense Command (CINCNORAD)." The new provision read:

> a. . . . It is not the intention of the Joint Chiefs of Staff to provide for the assumption of operational responsibility by CINCONAD for the air defense of the United States less Hawaii except in the circumstances of action by Canada or the United States which make it impossible for the Commander in Chief, North American Air Defense Command (CINCNORAD) to exercise this assigned responsibility.

b. Forces assigned to CINCONAD operating in the NORAD area are under the operational control of CINCNORAD for the accomplishment of his mission. The mission of CINCNORAD is to:

(1) Defend the Continental United States, Canada, and Alaska against air attack.

(2) Support other Continental United States and Canadian commands.

c. /continued from previous UCP/ In addition CINCONAD is responsible for the air defense of bases in Greenland, and will assist in the air defense of Mexico in accordance with the approved plans and agreements.

d. CINCONAD will be the senior U.S. officer in the headquarters, North American Air Defense Command (NORAD).

c. Reflecting arrangements instituted by JCS 2099/988, 29 Apr 60, CINCARIB's responsibility with respect to Service Training Missions was defined more explicitly:

a. . . . For purpose of Military Assistance activities and coordination of Service Training Mission Programs only, CINCARIB's area is extended to include all of Latin America and the islands of the West Indies.

b. CINCARIB, acting through his component commanders, will be responsible for undertaking the coordination necessary to insure that Service Training Mission Programs are in consonance with and in support of U.S. politico-military objectives in the area.

c. The Service component commanders of CINCARIB are responsible for the operation and control of their respective Service Training Missions and will coordinate the activities of these missions with CINCARIB.

d. Reflecting provisions of the current JSCP, JCS 1844/273, 14 May 59, the new UCP included the following paragraph on certain maritime responsibilities of CINCLANT and CINCPAC:

14. CINCLANT and CINCPAC, in coordination with adjacent U.S. Commanders in Chief, and when necessary with adjacent Allied Commanders, will develop over-all plans for, and when directed: conduct submarine, anti-submarine and mining operations; control and protect shipping throughout the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, the western and eastern portions of the Indian Ocean, and their contiguous waters. Commanders of adjacent U.S. commands will submit their plans for such operations in their areas to CINCLANT or CINCPAC, as appropriate, for integration into the latter's over-all plan. When directed, these adjacent commanders will conduct such operations in their areas.

e. Again reflecting the current JSCP, the definition of CINCPAC's general area of responsibility was expanded to include specific mention of the Republic of Korea and the Bering Sea, reading "the Pacific Ocean and the Bering Sea including the islands therein (less Aleutians), the eastern Indian Ocean area, Japan, the Republic of Korea and the countries of Southeast Asia . . . ."

Finally, as a change introduced during the revision itself, the "Principles" section of the new UCP was greatly expanded over what had appeared in JCS 1259/421. Besides citing as basic documents the National Security Act of 1947, as amended, and DOD Directive 5100.1, the section now repeated the major provisions of the 1947 Act, as amended in 1958, having to do with the establishment

and composition of unified and specified commands and the "full operational command" to be exercised by the commander. After reproducing the legislative provision that "forces assigned to such unified or specified combatant commands shall be transferred therefrom only by authority of and under procedures established by the Secretary of Defense, with the approval of the President," it added the following more explicit statement:

> b. There will be no changes in the assignment of major combat units to the unified and specified commands except upon advice of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and with the approval of the Secretary of Defense.

The section also contained direct statements of two principles already well established in practice:

> 8. In the temporary absence of the commander of a unified command from his command, the interim command will pass to the next senior officer present for duty who is eligible to exercise command regardless of service affiliation, unless a second in command has been designated by the establishing authority.
>
> 9. The officer who is assigned as a component commander may be assigned missions or tasks not within the purview of authority of the commander of a unified command. However, such missions and tasks must not conflict with and should contribute to the over-all mission of the commander of the unified command. /For example, CINCNELM's mission as a specified commander, in addition to his naval component command responsibilities as CINCUSNAVEUR./

16 Mar 61
JCS 1259/528

18 Mar 61
JCS 1259/529

23 Mar 61
6th N/H of JCS
1259/516

As directed by SecDef, on 23 Mar 61 JCS issued a change to the recently published UCP that amended the responsibility assigned to CINCLANT, which had been stated as "responsibility for the conduct of routine operations . . . in Africa South of the Sahara." The substituted language assigned responsibility to CINCLANT "for the preparation of plans for the conduct of operations" in the defined area. "Further, he will be in command of such operations in this area as are assigned to him by the Joint Chiefs of Staff."

30 Mar 61
JCS 2262/88

On 4 April 61 JCS approved TOR for JTF-4 within LANTCOM. The Commander of JTF-4 was designated the principal assistant of CINCLANT for his responsibilities with respect to Africa South of the Sahara. JTF-4 was charged with preparing detailed operations plans in support of overall CINCLANT plans for operations in Africa and with being prepared to execute such plans when ordered. JTF-4 was designed to serve as the nucleus of a theater command in Africa if establishment of such a command became desirable in the future.

11 May 61
JCS 1259/537, and
20 May 61
7th N/H of JCS
1259/516

On 19 May 61, JCS transferred responsibility for the islands in the Bering Sea from CINCPAC to CINCAL. CINCPAC remained responsible for the Bering Sea.

19 Sep 61 JCS 1259/552 28 Sep 61 JCS 1259/554	Following the President's approval in principle of establishing a unified command incorporating the forces of the Strategic Army Corps (STRAC) and the Tactical Air Command (TAC), the JCS designated LTG (soon to be GEN) Paul D. Adams, USA, the commander in chief of the new command, effective 30 Sep 61.
3 Oct 61 JCS 1259/556	On 4 Oct 61 the JCS approved the following titles: United States Strike Command (USSTRICOM) and CINCSTRIKE. On 9 Oct 61, GEN Adams assumed command of Hq, USSTRICOM.
18 Oct 61 JCS 1259/564	SecDef assigned responsibility for administrative and logistic support of USSTRICOM to the Department of the Air Force.
18 Oct 61 JCS 1259/565	On 21 Oct 61 JCS provided terms of reference for CINCSTRIKE. His mission was:

a. To provide a general reserve of combat-ready forces to reinforce other unified commands, and

b. To conduct planning for and execute contingency operations as directed by the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

CINCSTRIKE's functional responsibilities, beyond those duplicating the mission statement, were to develop joint doctrine for employment of forces assigned, to be responsible for the joint training of the forces, and to conduct joint training exercises to insure maintenance of a high level of combat effectiveness and rapid reaction capability.

17 Jan 62 JCS 1259/579, and 2 Oct 62 8th N/H of JCS 1259/516	USSTRICOM became operational on 1 Jan 62, but the various provisions relating to USSTRICOM and CINCSTRIKE were not formally added to the UCP until 2 Oct 62.
3 May 63 JCS 1259/625	On 1 May 63 SecDef approved redesignation of CARIBCOM and CINCARIB as the US Southern Command (USSOUTHCOM) and Commander in Chief, US

Southern Command (USCINCSO). The name change, with corresponding changes in component command titles, became effective 6 Jun 63.

4 Nov 63 JCS MOI 55-63	In Nov 63, component command short titles were further abbreviated to read: USARSO, USNAVSO, and USAFSO.
30 Aug 63 JCS 1259/640	On 23 Sep 63 JCS provided SecDef with two recommended changes to UCP:

a. The following revision of the definition of "operational command" that already appeared in UCP:

OPERATIONAL COMMAND - Those functions of command involving the composition of subordinate forces, the assignment of tasks, the designation of objectives and the authoritative direction necessary to accomplish the mission. Operational Command should be exercised by the use of the assigned normal organizational units through their responsible commanders or through the commanders of subordinate forces established by the commander exercising operational command. It does not include such matters as administration, discipline, internal organization, and unit training, except when a subordinate commander requests assistance. (The term is synonymous with OPERATIONAL CONTROL and is uniquely

applied to the operational control exercised by the commanders of unified and specified commands over assigned forces in accordance with the National Security Act of 1947, as amended and revised (10 USC 124)).

b. The following definition of "normal operations," to be added to UCP in conjunction with substitution of "normal operations" for "routine operations" wherever the latter appeared in the existing UCP text:

"Normal operations" is a term used to describe generally and collectively the broad functions which the commander of a unified combatant command undertakes when he is assigned responsibility for a given geographic or functional area. Except as otherwise qualified in certain Unified Command Plan paragraphs which relate to particular commands, "normal operations" of a unified commander include: planning for and execution of operations in contingencies, limited war and general war; planning and conduct of cold war activities; planning for and administration of military assistance; maintaining the relationships and exercising the directive and coordinating authority prescribed in JCS PUBS 2, 3 and 4.

20 Nov 63 JCS 1259/645	Subsequently, with presidential approval, these changes appeared in the revised UCP to be effective 1 Dec 63.
10 Sep 63 JCS 1259/637-1	On 7 Sep 63, SecDef approved a UCP amendment adding "defense against space systems" to the responsibilities of CINCONAD.
20 Nov 63 JCS 1259/645	Subsequently, with presidential approval, this change appeared in the revised UCP to be effective 1 Dec 63.
10 Oct 63 JCS 1259/634-17	On 10 Oct 63 SecDef approved a major set of changes that would involve disestablishment of CINCNELM and JTF-4 and the assignment to

CINCSTRIKE of a geographic area of responsibility, in addition to his continuing mission of providing a general reserve of combat-ready forces to augment other unified commands as directed. CINCSTRIKE would assume responsibility for the conduct of normal operations in the general area designated Middle East/Southern Asia and Africa South of the Sahara (MEAFSA), which was defined as "Africa, including the island of Madagascar, and the area of the Middle East, including the islands of the Aden Protectorate, the Red Sea, and the Persian Gulf, to the PACOM boundary including Ceylon, but excluding the general area of responsibility of USEUCOM /Turkey, and North Africa west of Egypt/." The change would be accomplished by transfer to CINCSTRIKE of the following responsibilities: (1) from CINCLANT/JTF-4, the preparation of contingency plans for and conduct of operations in Africa South of the Sahara, including Madagascar; (2) from USCINCEUR, military assistance matters in the Middle East; (3) from CINCNELM, contingency and general war planning and conduct of operations in the Middle East; (4) from the Department of the Army, military assistance matters in Africa South of the Sahara. In addition, the sea areas currently assigned to CINCNELM, beyond the defined MEAFSA area, would pass to CINCLANT's responsibility; namely, the Arabian Sea and the Bay of Bengal. Upon CINCSTRIKE's assumption of these

responsibilities, NELM and JTF-4 would be disestablished. This would terminate CINCNELM and his unified staff but leave the same officer in place in his capacity as CINCUSNAVEUR, the naval component commander under USCINCEUR.

1 Nov 63
JCS 1259/634-24

In response to concern indicated by Dept of State over use of the title "CINCSTRIKE" in politically sensitive areas such as Africa, on 31 Oct 63 SecDef proposed assignment to CINCSTRIKE of the concurrent title "USCINCMEAFSA." The latter title would be used in connection with all activities conducted in the MEAFSA area.

1 Nov 63
JCS 1259/634-25

20 Nov 63
JCS 1259/645

On 1 Nov 63 the President approved all the above changes, as part of a revised UCP to be effective 1 Dec 63. Accordingly, the new UCP omitted both the specified command, NELM, and the long-standing provision for future activation of a Middle East Command (MECOM), besides including all the provisions regarding CINCSTIKE's responsibilities in the MEAFSA area and the corresponding adjustments in other commands. Further, the revised version incorporated the following changes, already described as separate items:

a. Revised definition of "operational command."

b. Definition of "normal operations" and substitution of this term for "routine operations."

c. CINCONAD's responsibility for defense against space systems.

d. CARIBCOM redesignation as USSOUTHCOM.

No substantive changes have been detected in the period extending from issuance of the UCP effective 1 Dec 63 (JCS 1259/645) to late 1969. At the latter date, beginning with JCS 1259/715, 15 Sep 69, a major reconsideration was undertaken, culminating in a revised and approved UCP, JCS 1259/715-46, 26 Jun 71, which became effective 1 Jan 72.