

CHAPTER 2
COMMAND AND CONTROL IN THE THEATER OF OPERATIONS

2-1. USACE Support in Theater. USACE is a unique MACOM in three respects:

a. USACE has a DOD contract construction agent (CCA) execution mission to support the unified command commander in chief (CINC) and the service component commanders.

b. USACE is a stovepipe organization. The Commander, USACE, through the chain of command, has command and control of all USACE assets. The forward deployed USACE commander may provide augmentation to deployed engineer headquarters units.

c. In addition to its own execution missions, USACE provides general support to Army engineer units and direct support to Army support commands and engineer units with facilities and construction missions through USACE's TCMS and topographic engineer support responsibilities.

2-2. Command and Control (C2). The USACE forward deployed theater command can function in a number of C2 structures. The theater structure is determined by the CINC. The supporting USACE forward commander must play a role in advising the CINC and Army component commander in regards to the most effective place for the USACE forward command within the theater C2 structure. EP 500-1-2, USACE Support in the Theater of Operations discusses theater C2 and organization(s) for contingency missions.

a. It is the responsibility of the supporting USACE commander to advise the theater command on C2 for the USACE forward command given the anticipated missions and organizations to be supported.

b. The USACE major subordinate command (MSC) commander will then provide his recommendations on the USACE concept of operations, including C2, to the Commander, USACE as follows:

(1) In the deliberate planning process, the concept of operations and C2 are included in the support plan transmitted to CECW-OE-P.

(2) For crisis planning and preparation for deployment, the concept of operations and C2 are transmitted to the D/MP through the HQUSACE EOC.

c. Authority and approval for placing a USACE subordinate command under the operational control of another command resides solely with the Commander, USACE. With approval from the Commander, USACE; the USACE Division/district commander may create and place a USACE forward element² under the operational control (OPCON) of another command.

²For purposes of this regulation, the term "forward element" refers to the USACE organization operating in theater to support a contingency. The element may be a Division or district headquarters or a deployed team from one of those organizations.