

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The consistent acquisition of complex weapon systems, changing force structure, difficult manning decisions and high demand mean that military forces will often be significantly augmented with contracted support. Accordingly, Joint Force Commanders (JFC) and their staffs must be familiar with how to plan for and integrate operational contract support in joint operations. Given the increased reliance on contractors to support mission accomplishment, it is imperative to understand the role of contractors, contingency program management, requirements definition, contract support integration, contractor management and the administration of contracts at the strategic national, strategic theater, operational, and tactical level, in both contingency and deployed settings. Today, contractors make up approximately 50 percent of the total force in the U.S. Central Command (USCENTCOM) Area of Responsibility. In short, the U.S. military reliance on contractor support is likely to remain an enduring feature of future contingencies.

The primary objective of Operational Contract Support (OCS) is to orchestrate and synchronize the provision of effective and efficient contract solutions to achieve operational outcomes and support for the whole of government and mission partners in contingency operations. This complex and challenging capability requires planning for and obtaining supplies, services, and construction from commercial sources in support of joint operations. The ability to plan, organize, staff, control, lead OCS efforts and manage requirements from determination of need, development of acquisition-ready packages, through contract delivery and closure or transition, as well as contract support integration and contractor management as an integrated part of the total force are vital to operational success.

What is the OCS Functional Capabilities Integration Board (FCIB)?

The OCS Functional Capabilities Integration Board (FCIB) is a Senior Executive Service/General Officer/Flag Officer board established by the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics (USD (AT&L)) to address critical time-sensitive OCS issues directly affecting the support of contingency operations. The FCIB is chaired by the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense (Program Support) and co-chaired by the Vice Director, Directorate for Logistics, Joint Staff (J4). Other principal members of the Board include other OSD offices, Military Services and Defense Agencies. The FCIB is routinely supported by a Council of Colonels (CoC) at the O-6/GS-15 level. The CoC serves as the entry point for OCS issues. A Board Secretariat serving at the O-6/GS-15 or equivalent level functions as the principal staff advisor to the FCIB Chair and presides as Chair of the supporting CoC.