

## Mission

The J-3 Operations Directorate is where all the Joint Staff's planning, policies, intelligence, manpower, communications and logistics functions are translated into action.

This is the directorate that moves military forces, conducts detailed operational briefings to the national leadership and serves as the operational link between the warfighting commanders in chief and the National Command Authority.

The current global strategic landscape is characterized by regional conflicts, the threat of proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, emerging yet fragile and sometimes failing democracies, the transshipment of illicit drugs and the constant threat of terrorism. These threats place heavy demands on U.S. military forces that are compounded by routine calls for humanitarian military support. The challenges of such a complex environment require the coordinated, selective use of the unique capabilities of the U.S. armed forces.

J-3 is the hub of this many-spoked wheel, responsible for synchronizing and monitoring worldwide military operations and activities in support of a national military strategy emphasizing flexible and selective engagement.

To that end, J-3 assists the chairman in carrying out his responsibilities as the principal military adviser to the National Command Authority by developing and providing guidance to the combatant commands and by relaying communications between the authority and the unified commanders regarding current operations and plans. J-3 is involved in every aspect of the planning, deployment, execution and redeployment of U.S. strategic and conventional forces in response to worldwide crises.

Synchronizing and monitoring worldwide military activities and operations requires an organizational structure that optimizes information flow up and down the chain of command. The director for operations, a three-star flag officer, is supported by a two-star vice director and three principal deputy directors for operations -- a one-star deputy director for current operations, a two-star deputy director for national systems support and a one-star deputy director for current readiness and capabilities.

The deputy director for current operations is responsible for the National Military Command Center operations and command and control systems, ongoing current operations and future plans in support of the regional and functional commanders in chief. Five one-star deputy directors for operations and their operations watch teams manage ongoing operations and National Military Command System emergency action procedures.

The deputy director for national systems support organization provides guidance on the effective operation of national systems.

The deputy director for readiness and capabilities provides functional expertise on joint readiness and key warfighting capabilities and in the areas of special operations, reconnaissance operations, space operations, information operations, counternarcotics and nuclear operations.