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## The unified command plan and combatant commands: Background and issues for congress.

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**Abstract :** The Unified Command Plan (UCP) and associated Combatant Commands

(COCOMs) provide operational instructions and command and control to the Armed Forces and have a significant impact on how they are organized, trained, and resourced areas over which Congress has constitutional authority. The UCP is a classified executive branch document prepared by the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff (CJCS) and reviewed and updated every two years that assigns missions; planning, training, and operational responsibilities; and geographic areas of responsibilities to COCOMs. Functional COCOMs operate world-wide across geographic boundaries and provide unique capabilities to geographic combatant commands and the Services while Geographic COCOMs operate in clearly delineated areas of operation and have a distinctive regional military focus. There are currently nine COCOMs: USSOCOM: U.S. Special Operations Command, MacDill Air Force Base, FL. USSTRATCOM: U.S. Strategic Command, Offutt Air Force Base, NE. USTRANSCOM: U.S. Transportation Command, Scott Air Force Base, IL. USAFRICOM: U.S. Africa Command, Kelley Barracks, Stuttgart, Germany. USCENTCOM: U.S. Central Command, MacDill Air Force Base, FL. USEUCOM: U.S. European Command, Patch Barracks, Stuttgart, Germany. USNORTHCOM: U.S. Northern Command, Peterson Air Force Base, CO. USPACOM: U.S. Pacific Command, Camp H.M. Smith, HI. USSOUTHCOM: U.S. Southern Command, Miami, FL. This report provides information on the history, mission, and operational considerations for each of these organizations as well as a brief discussion of current issues associated with the UCP and these commands.

**Descriptors :** \*COMMAND AND CONTROL SYSTEMS , \*NAVAL PLANNING , \*NAVAL VESSELS(COMBATANT) , CONGRESS , EXECUTIVE ROUTINES , GEOGRAPHIC AREAS

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