

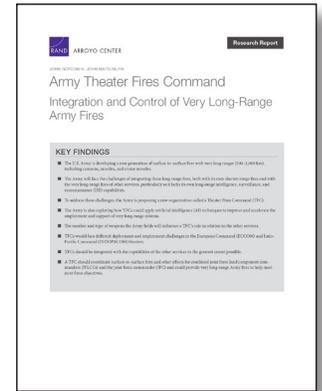


# Army Theater Fires Command

## Integration and Control of Very Long-Range Army Fires

John Gordon IV and John Matsumura

[www.rand.org/t/RRA809-1](http://www.rand.org/t/RRA809-1)



The U.S. Army is developing a new generation of surface-to-surface fires with very long ranges. Because of the range of these new Army weapons, there will be major implications for joint coordination and planning. To help address integration and control challenges, the Army proposed creating the Theater Fires Command. The authors assess how the command can operate as part of a joint force, as well as challenges in different theaters.



### RESEARCH QUESTIONS

- How can a TFC operate as part of a larger joint force?
- What are the possible missions the TFC could conduct given the capabilities that the Army envisions including in the organization?
- What are the possible roles for the TFC in both the EUCOM and INDOPACOM regions?



### KEY FINDINGS

- The U.S. Army is developing a new generation of surface-to-surface fires with very long ranges (500–2,000 km), including cannons, missiles, and cruise missiles.
- The Army will face the challenges of integrating these long-range fires, both with its own shorter-range fires and with the very long-range fires of other services, particularly as it lacks its own long-range intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance capabilities.
- To address these challenges, the Army is proposing a new organization called a TFC.
- The Army is also exploring how TFCs could apply artificial intelligence techniques to improve and accelerate the employment and support of very long-range systems.
- The number and type of weapons the Army fields will influence a TFC's role in relation to the other services.

*continued on back*

- TFCs would face different deployment and employment challenges in the EUCOM and INDOPACOM theaters.



## RECOMMENDATIONS

---

- Conduct a joint assessment of Army TFC and other service long-range systems for Europe and the Pacific.
- Continue to take a modular approach to the TFC organization. There could be a need to tailor the TFC organization for Europe and the Pacific because of the role the TFC would have in relation to the other services, basing options, and other factors.
- Continue to explore possible technology options for the TFC, including artificial intelligence, sensors, and weapons.
- TFCs should be integrated with the capabilities of the other services to the greatest extent possible.
- A TFC should coordinate surface-to-surface fires and other effects for combined joint force land component commanders and the joint force commander and could provide very long-range Army fires to help meet joint force objectives.

