Joint Air Component C2 Exercise, Training, and Integration (JETI)

The JETI program is run by the 505th Combat Training Squadron (CTS), part of the 505th Command and Control Wing located at Hurlburt Field, Fl, which is in turn a subordinate unit of the U.S. Air Force Air Warfare Center at Nellis AFB, Nev. The 505 CTS supports 10 COCOM exercises and 40 joint and coalition command and control (C2) exercises, model and simulation (M&S) tests, and AOC/AFFOR training events worldwide every year, with ACC’s BLUE FLAG being the premier annual event.

The Joint National Training Capability (JNTC) expanded the BLUE FLAG accreditation in 2011 to include all joint air component exercise support under JETI. The goal of the program is to provide joint/coalition operational-level C2 units with doctrinally correct air, space and cyberspace products, services and capabilities to meet joint training requirements using realistic, high-fidelity constructive models and simulations, innovative scenario design, exercise control, and coordinating agency emulation.

The 505 CTS provides academic/seminar training, focusing on the people, processes, and systems used by Air Operations Centers and Air Force Forces staffs. This is followed by a computer-assisted exercise using actual friendly and enemy orders of battle, contingency and war plans, and theater-focused tactics, techniques and procedures in a simulated environment. Participants are given maximum flexibility in managing the deployment and employment of forces, thus allowing joint/coalition player actions to influence the battle outcome.

The goal is to train commanders and staff officers on C2 systems and processes so that, in a war emergency, they can immediately participate in conducting operational-level warfare and make smart decisions during the critical first days of an engagement. Training during the exercises is in five primary areas: command, control, communications, intelligence/surveillance/reconnaissance, and the complex coordination of these elements in a joint context.

Exercise planners research friendly and enemy force structures, communications capabilities, logistics support, command and control procedures, and current plans and directives. The 505 CTS relies on theater advisors and training audience interaction for validation of exercise scenarios and proper location and interaction of participating assets and wartime command and control structure.

The first BLUE FLAG exercise was conducted in December 1976 at Shaw AFB, SC as the operational-level corollary to RED FLAG. In 1985, the Air Defense Simulation was incorporated to replicate friendly air defense forces against enemy air forces. By the 1990s, quantum advances in capabilities enabled the portrayal of theater-wide air warfare with distributed training, communications and networking to multiple remote locations on separate continents. The 505 CCW now engages in worldwide integrated air and missile attack and defense with ground and maritime interaction using the Joint Training and Experimentation Network (JTEN), Test and Training Enabling Architecture (TENA), Joint Land Component Constructive Training Capability (JLCCCTC) and Joint Live Virtual Constructive (JLVC) federations, and the Air Space and Cyber Constructive Environment (ASCCE) suite of M&S including Air Warfare Simulation (AWSIM) as well as many other joint training enablers.

The 505 CCW, through JETI, supports joint/coalition exercises in every COCOM including JUDICIOUS RESPONSE, AUSTERE CHALLENGE, TERMINAL FURY, ARDENT SENTRY, PANAMAX, EMERALD WARRIOR, WARFIGHTER, JAVELIN THRUST, and various experiments such as JTFEX, JEFX, and SIMEX. The 505 CCW continues as the only wing capable of simulating full-scale Air Operations Center warfare for both joint and combined forces.

(Current as of Feb 2013)