

# The Tactical Air Control Party in the Kill Chain

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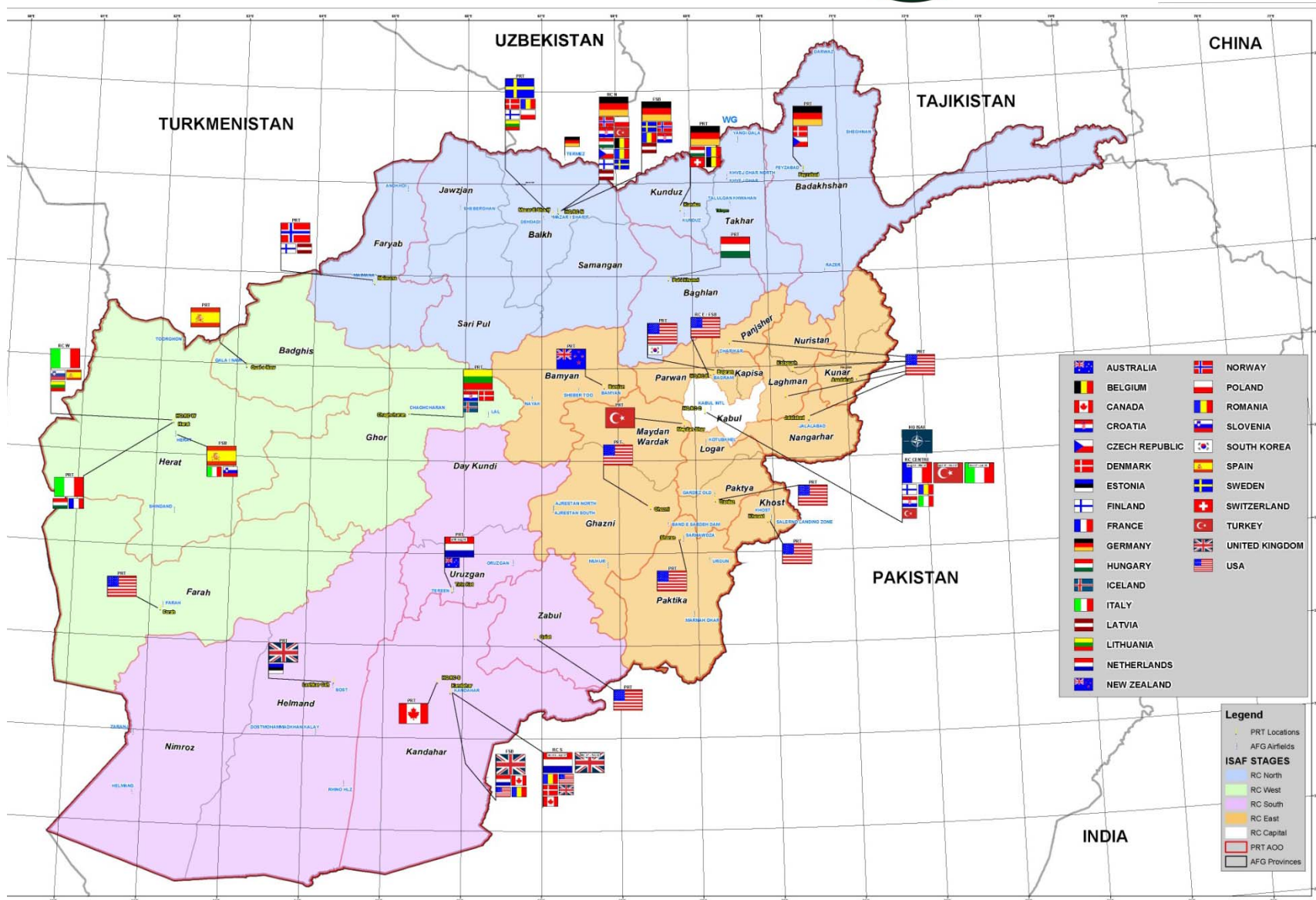
Joint Terminal Air Controller



# The Tactical Air Control Party in the Kill Chain

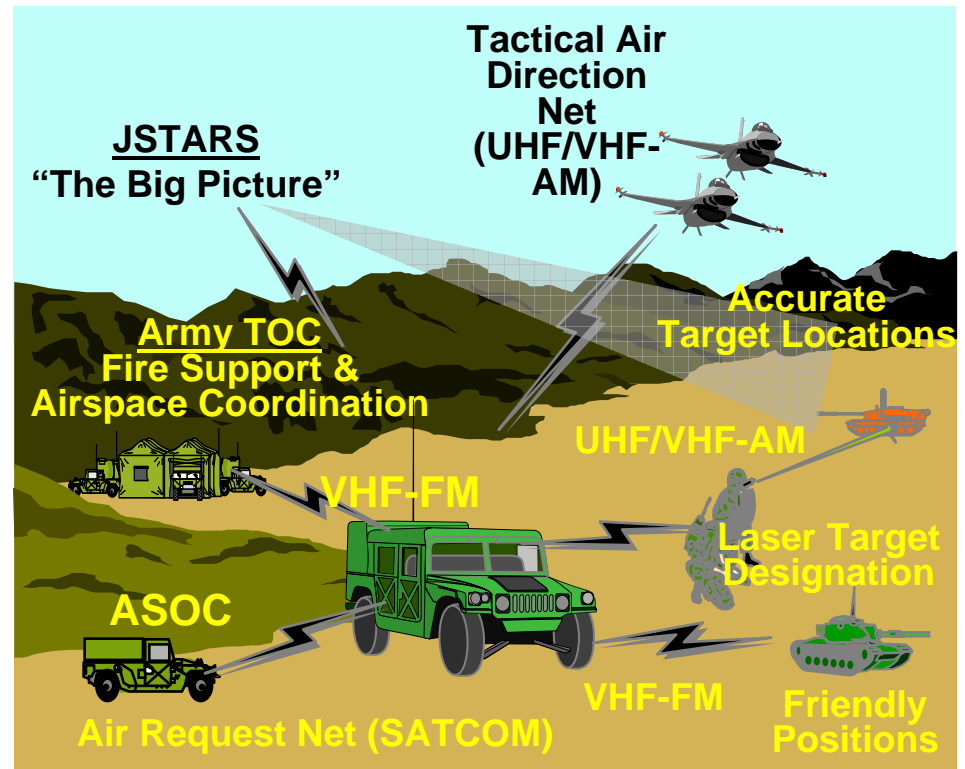
- Context
  - International Security Assistance Force (ISAF)
  - Tactical Air Control Party
- Division / Brigade Operations
  - Deliberate / Time Sensitive Target (TST)
- Battalion / Company Operations
  - Equipment
  - Time Sensitive Target / Troops in Contact (TIC)

# ISAF



# Tactical Air Control Party (TACP)

- Team of two minimum
  - JTAC and apprentice
- Advise, Assist, Control (Type 1, 2, 3)
- Critical to airpower employment in AOR
- Involved in kill chain at every step



# Division/Brigade Operations

- Largely a resourcing mission
  - Facilitate the targeting solution
  - Prioritize competing demands
  - Bridge between ISAF, CENTCOM, CAOC
- Maintained own target folders
  - Often initiate kill chain, hand off to lower
  - Might engage - commander dependent
  - All target folders approved by ISAF



# Division/Brigade Operations

- A success story in two parts
  - Long time target of interest
- Fixed with a combination of cueing techniques
- Tracked by FMV feed, handed off to striker
- Engaged “remotely” (Type 2 CAS)



# Battalion/Company Operations



# Equipment





# Hampered Kill Chain

## Track - Engage

- Air assault into Helmand Valley; dismounted assault to seize the city
- Three companies, scout platoon and the battalion ACP receive effective fire
- Fixed wing aircraft on station
  - Unable to deconflict friendly positions
  - AH-64 arrived and provided the necessary assistance to vector CAS fires onto enemy
- What would have helped
  - Ability to identify friendly positions without requiring grids or building numbers
  - The ability to mark day or night to provide pilots a reference point

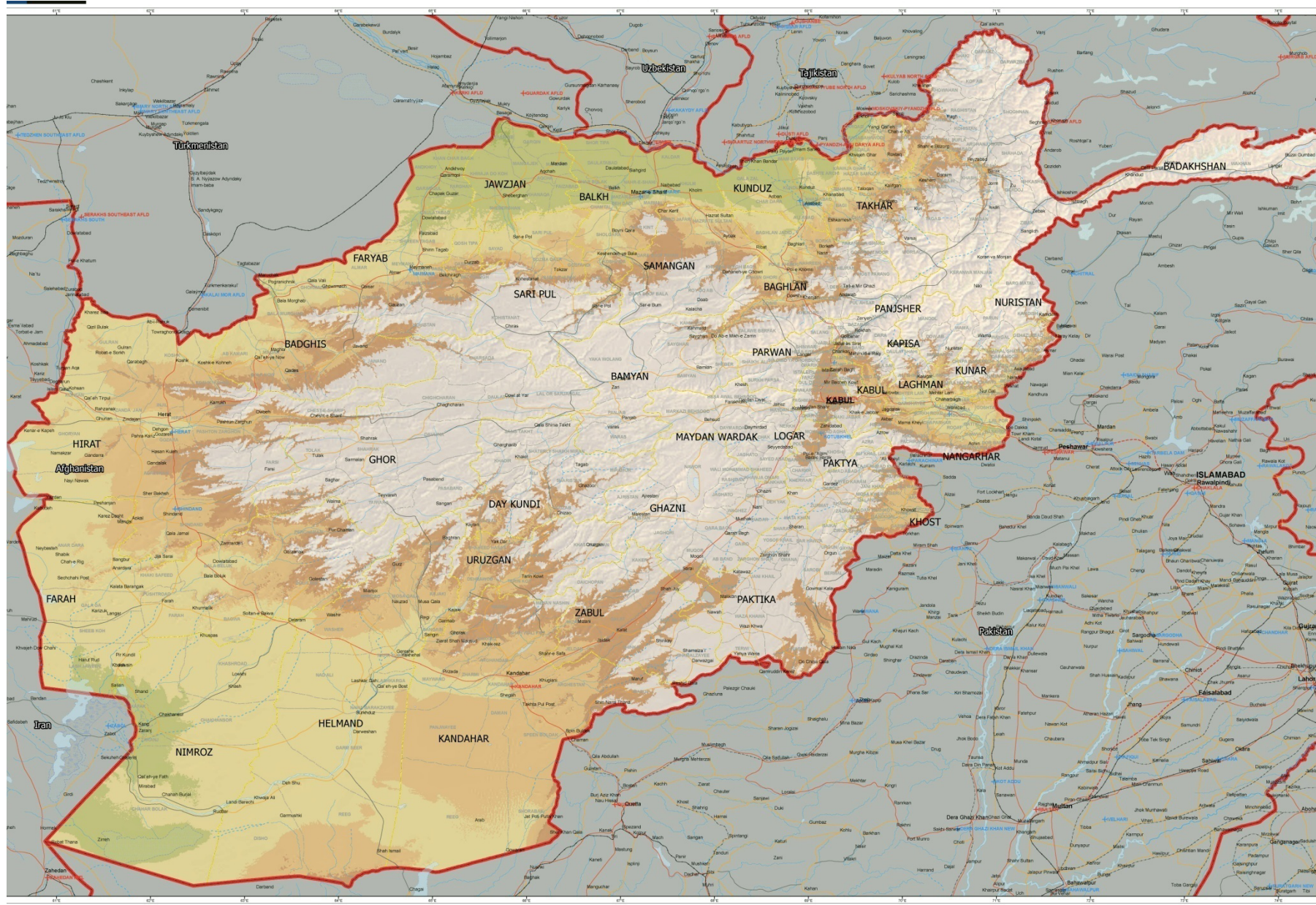
# Successful Kill Chain

- Company isolated and under heavy contact
- Fixed wing on station due to prior TIC
- JTAC located at Battalion TOC
- Jtac provided rough coordinates to aircraft as they were inbound to tgt area and coordinated for target mark via 105mm artillery and 81mm mortars
- Pilot quickly identified target positions and engaged
- Rotary wing arrived and further enhanced effectiveness

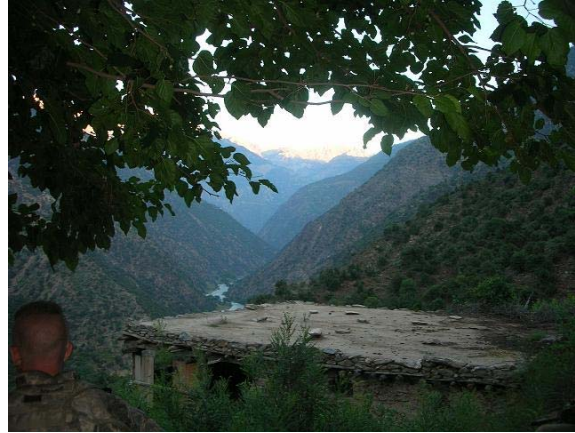
# Questions?



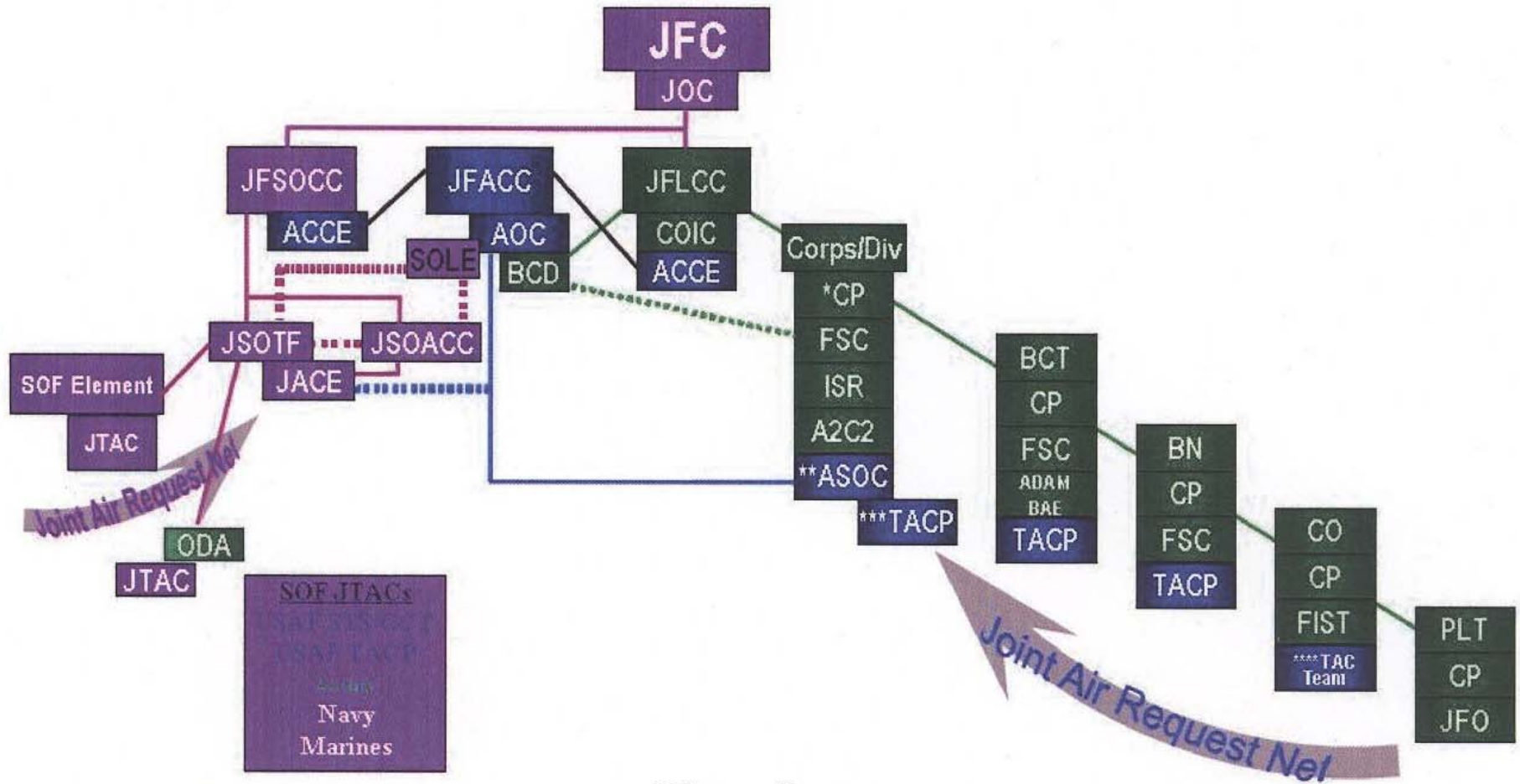
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# Terrain



# Tactical Air Control Party (TACP)



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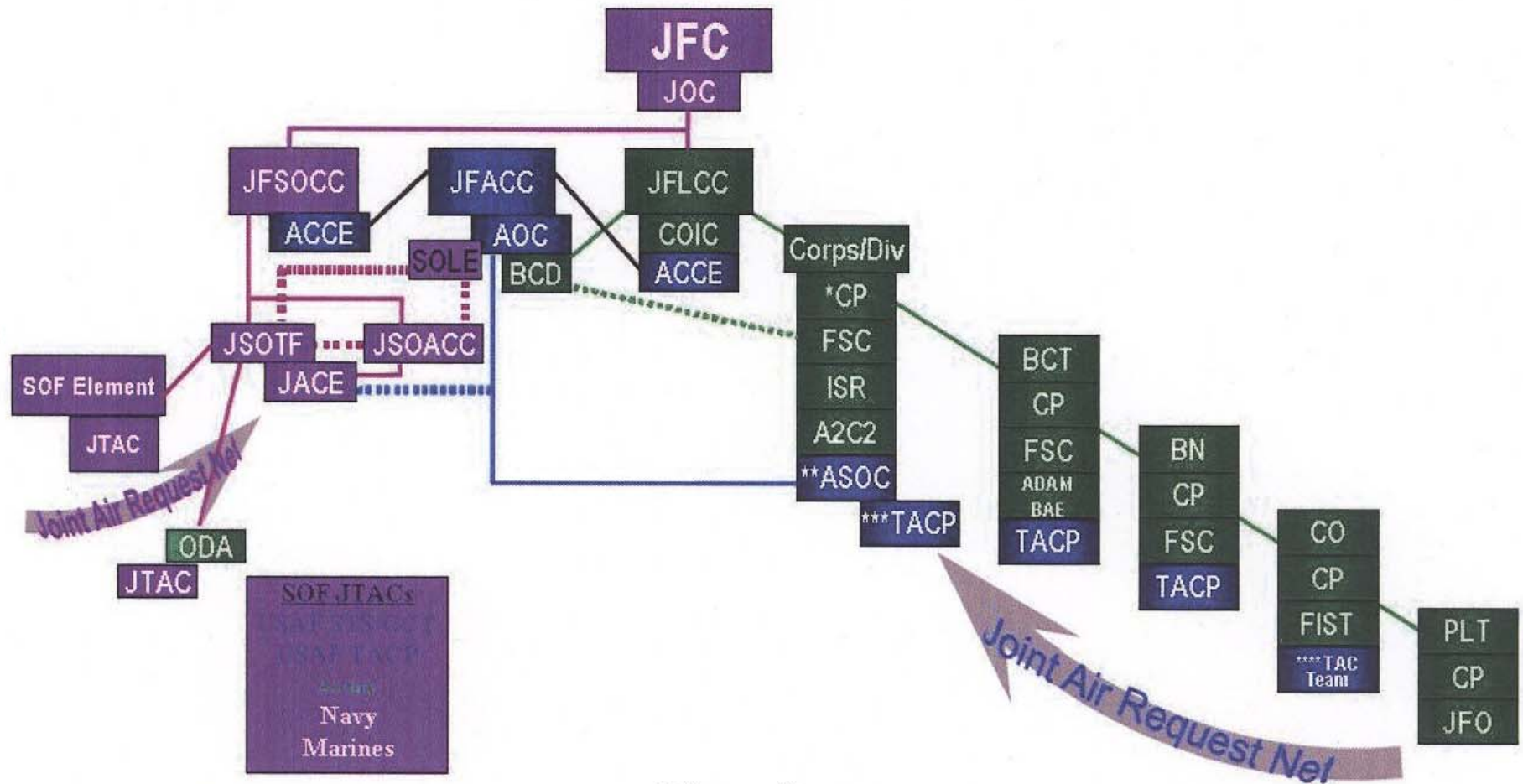








# Tactical Air Control Party (TACP)



# TACP Employment

Tactical Air Direction  
Net  
(UHF/VHF-AM)

JSTARS  
"The Big Picture"

Army TOC  
Fire Support &  
Airspace Coordination

Accurate  
Target Locations

UHF/VHF-AM

VHF-FM

Laser Target  
Designation

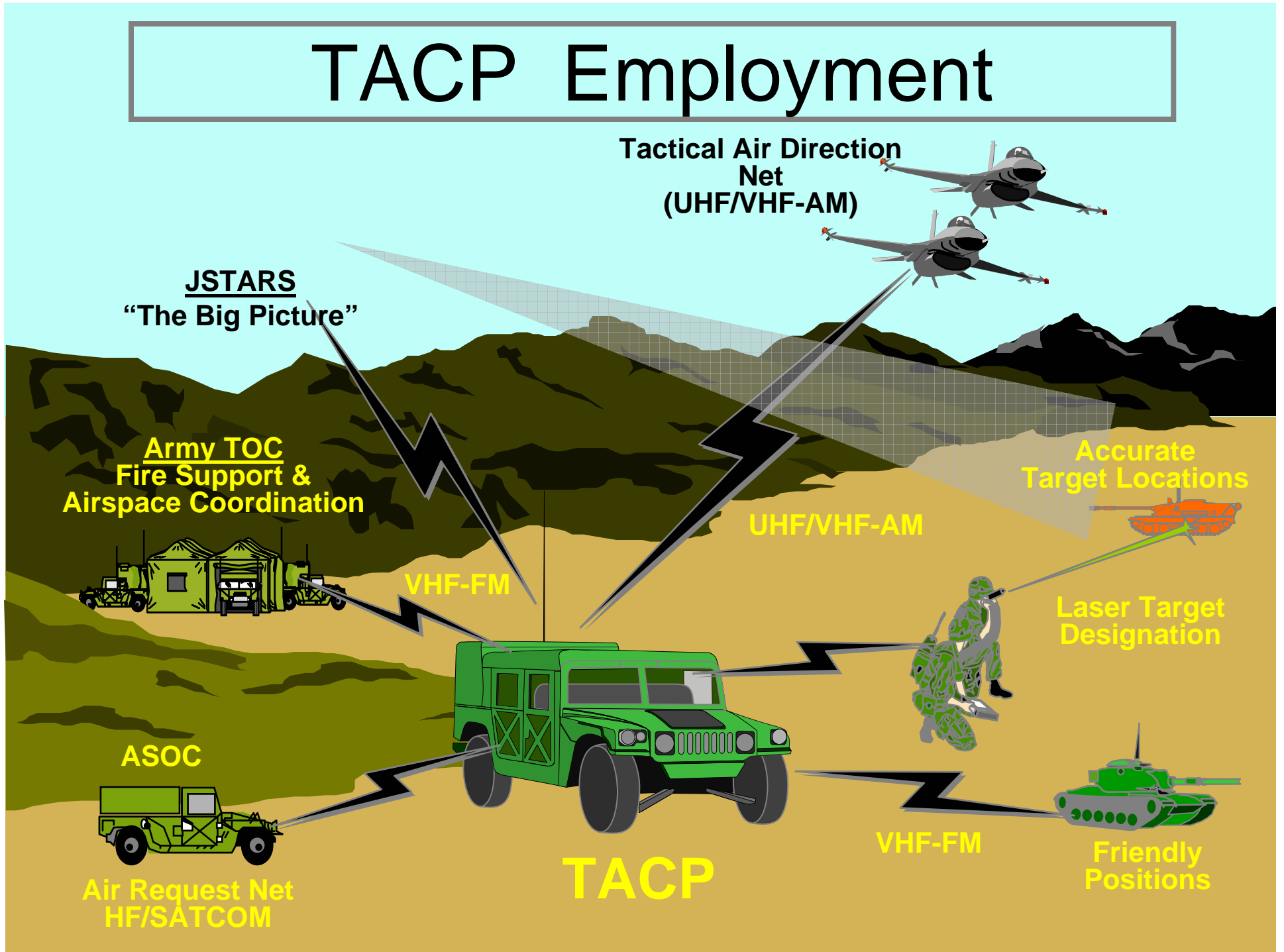
ASOC

Air Request Net  
HF/SATCOM

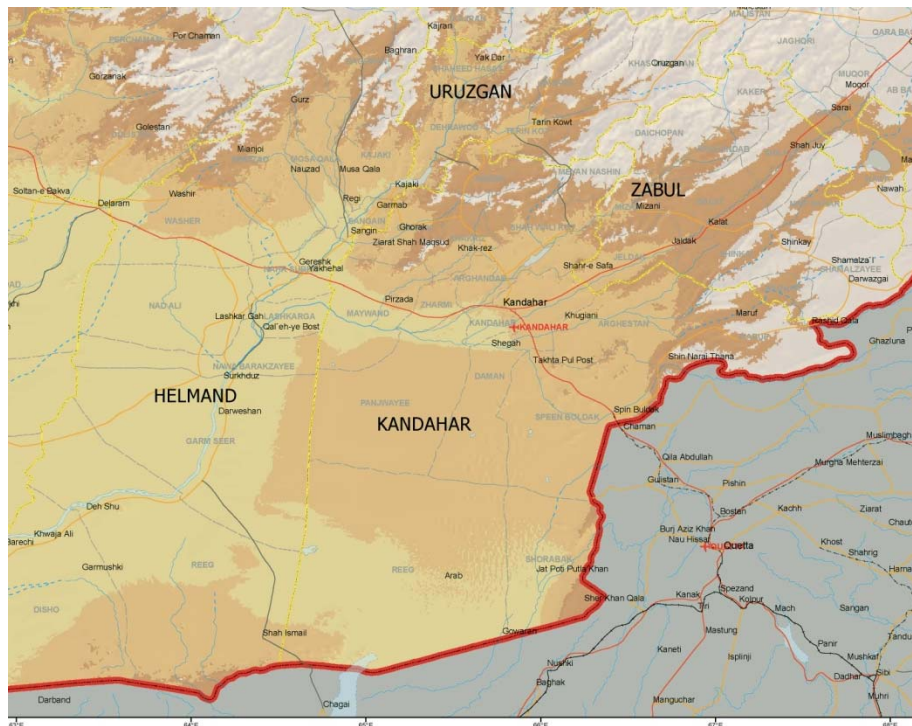
**TACP**

VHF-FM

Friendly  
Positions



# Geography/RC-South



# Geography/RC-East

