

Contracting Unity of Effort (CUE)

The purpose of this research is to investigate how to successfully achieve CUE in the CENTCOM AOR and the implications for other combatant commands in similar contingency situations. Unity of effort is closely related to unity of command and is necessary to achieve effective and efficient processes during military operations. As a subset of unity of effort, CUE addresses the unique challenges of contingency contracting where multiple agencies have contracting authority in a given AOR. Contracting authority is not the same as command authority. Contracting authority gives the contracting officer the authority to obligate the United States government, whereas command authority gives a combatant commander the authority to employ forces.

In the CENTCOM AOR, numerous contracting agencies operate in Afghanistan, each with its own contract authority, but these agencies have very little coordination without a procurement common operating picture. In contrast, there is only one overarching operational command authority in the CENTCOM AOR, with a clear chain of command, to help accomplish common objectives and achieve operational unity of effort.



FINDINGS

- Create organizations that help Operational Contract Support (OCS) synchronization at the combatant command and service levels.
- Establish clear contracting command and control for any given operation.
- Institutionalize OCS to create more efficient OCS planning, training, and execution.
- Improve existing OCS tools and processes.