



Is Centralized Control and  
Decentralized Execution Still Valid?  
Yes, but It Needs Revitalized

PHILOSOPHICAL DISSERTATIONS

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There exists a strong debate among many airmen today more than the interpretation of the Air Force's centralized control and decentralized execution tenant. Buchanan's lecture to the pupil class detailed his experiences as an air component commander.<sup>2</sup> This led to numerous student queries addressing the application form (or misapplication) of the tenant during recent operations in Afghanistan and Iraq. This debate was highlighted lately at three separate Air flow Command and Staff University (ACSC) lectures.<sup>3</sup> Finally, throughout a lecture from Lt Col Brian Searcy detailing his experiences as Director of Combat Operations during Afghanistan surroundings operations in 2005, he declared that Phase IV operations are inherently more centralized and that now "is a fact of life".<sup>1</sup> Lt Gen (ret) Walter E. Next, Gen (ret) Gregory S. "Speedy" Martin stated during his lecture to the ACSC course the tenant is highly recommended even more as "centralized distribution". He briefly mentioned the issues over centralized control and decentralized execution.<sup>4</sup> He went on to indicate that future data hyperlink technology will allow operational levels of leadership to have very detailed information from tactical level assets. This includes such items as "gasoline readings". General, these lectures provided exceptional examples why there is normally confusion among airmen today over centralized control and decentralized execution.



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