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SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE**

AIR FORCE MISSION DIRECTIVE 14

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**AIR FORCE OPERATIONAL TEST AND
EVALUATION CENTER (AFOTEC)**

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This Directive states the mission, command, and responsibilities for Air Force Operational Test and Evaluation Center (AFOTEC). Refer recommended changes and questions related to this publication to the Office of Primary Responsibility using the AF Form 847, *Recommendation for Change of Publication*; route AF Forms 847 from field units through the appropriate chain of command. Ensure all records generated as a result of processes prescribed in this publication adhere to Air Force Instruction 33-322, *Records Management and Information Governance Program*, and are disposed in accordance with the Air Force Records Disposition Schedule, which is located in the Air Force Records Information Management System.

SUMMARY OF CHANGES

This Air Force Mission Directive (AFMD) has been revised to include significant test integration responsibilities. Major changes include direction to partner with external organizations and facilitate Department of the Air Force (DAF) initiatives to integrate and modernize developmental test, operational test, and operational training activities.

1. Mission. As the Department of the Air Force's Operational Test Agency (OTA), AFOTEC evaluates the capability of systems to meet warfighter needs by planning, executing, and reporting independent operational assessments, tests, and evaluations. From concept development to system fielding, AFOTEC evaluates a system's overall operational mission capability, under realistic conditions, as determined by effectiveness, suitability, and other operational considerations, and assesses operational impacts in future and current battlespace environments. AFOTEC will

continue to act as the OTA for space systems until the United States Space Force (USSF) establishes its own OTA.

2. Command. The AFOTEC Commander:

2.1. Commands the Air Force Operational Test and Evaluation Center, a direct reporting unit (DRU) responsible to the Chief of Staff of the Air Force (CSAF) as delegated by the Secretary of the Air Force (SecAF). As a DRU, AFOTEC has many of the same administrative and organizational responsibilities as other Air Force major commands (MAJCOM).

2.1.1. Directly reports to the CSAF on the independent planning, execution, analysis, and results of Air Force Operational Test and Evaluation (OT&E) programs.

2.1.2. Directly reports to the Chief of Space Operations (CSO) on the independent planning, execution, analysis, and results of USSF OT&E programs.

2.2. Executes Department of the Air Force (DAF) test and evaluation policy and guidance from Director of Test and Evaluation (AF/TE) for both USAF and USSF.

2.3. Is authorized direct communication concerning OT&E matters between the AFOTEC Commander, other USAF MAJCOMs, USSF field commands (FLDCOMs), heads of Department of Defense (DoD) components, Service OTAs, System Program Offices (SPO), and other government agencies.

3. Responsibilities. The AFOTEC Commander:

3.1. As an independent OTA, participates in the DAF acquisition process without undue influence by development agencies, development contractors, users, or other external agencies.

3.2. Independently leads OT&E on DAF acquisition programs, to include new and existing systems, modification programs, commercial-off-the-shelf items, non-developmental items, and tailored acquisitions, with consideration given to emergent joint service, allied, and other agency mission capabilities.

3.3. Leads the personnel, facilities, property, and funds organic to AFOTEC, and exercises control of operational test activities using personnel and resources allocated to AFOTEC. Collaborates with the Security, Special Program Oversight and Information Protection office (SAF/AZ) to gain required Special Access Program (SAP) authorities as required.

3.4. When directed, leads, manages and/or participates in multi-Service, multi-agency, DoD, and DAF operational test activities.

3.5. Assesses experimentation and prototyping initiatives; determines military utility in realistic operational environments. Develops and refines integrated test strategies for transitioning assigned experimentation activities as they advance to programs of record.

3.6. Executes adaptive, relevant testing through early and continuous OT&E involvement, tailored to the situation, and provides continuous and cumulative feedback to the user, acquisition, and logistics communities. Proactively integrates with contractor and developmental test communities to reduce program risk and deliver combat capability to the joint warfighter quickly while assuring system effectiveness and suitability. Adaptive, relevant testing includes supporting operational capability requirements development, shaping the acquisition strategy, and influencing system design and development.

3.7. Partners with the Air Force Test Center (AFTC), United States Air Force Warfare Center (USAFWC), and applicable USSF organizations to facilitate DAF efforts to integrate and modernize developmental test, operational test, and operational training activities where synergies occur.

3.7.1. Streamlines test infrastructure, execution, and reporting initiatives to maximize efficiency, align efforts, and minimize acquisition timelines while maintaining independent operational evaluations providing critical insight and influence throughout the program lifecycle.

3.7.2. Leads collaborative efforts for development of an enterprise-level, multi-range, multi-Service, multi-major defense system-capable battle-shaping system to support open air integrated testing, operational training, and tactics development.

3.7.3. Develops and streamlines digital knowledge exchange between test organizations, acquisition and requirements offices (Headquarters Air Force (HAF), MAJCOMs, and FLDCOMs), SPOs, warfighting communities, and other partners.

3.8. Supports DAF and joint warfighters to develop, demonstrate, and assess concepts, doctrines, mission needs, and requirements for the development of new capabilities to support Joint Urgent Operational Needs, Joint Emergent Operational Needs requirements, and joint or Service technology experimentation.

3.9. Provides evaluation of a system's overall mission capability as determined by effectiveness, suitability, and other operational considerations to assist in filling joint warfighter capability gaps across the full range of DAF and selected joint and allied initiatives.

3.10. Provides OT&E information and expertise to DAF, MAJCOMs and FLDCOMs, other DoD components, Air National Guard, Air Force Reserve, CSAF, CSO, SecAF, Combatant Commands, Office of the Secretary of Defense, Congress, and other government agencies.

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