

**BY ORDER OF THE
SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE**

AIR FORCE POLICY DIRECTIVE 11-3

27 SEPTEMBER 2023

Flying Operations

AIRCREW FLIGHT EQUIPMENT



COMPLIANCE WITH THIS PUBLICATION IS MANDATORY

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This publication provides basic policy applicable to the maintenance, acquisition, sustainment and training for Regular Air Force, Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve Aircrew Flight Equipment functions. This publication does not apply to the United States Space Force. Refer recommended changes and questions about this publication to the office of primary responsibility (af.a3.th@us.af.mil) using the DAF Form 847, *Recommendation for Change of Publication*; route DAF Forms 847 from the field through the appropriate functional 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. This publication may not be supplemented.

SUMMARY OF CHANGES

This directive has been revised and should be reviewed in its entirety. The revision includes updates for organizational changes and references.

1. Overview.

1.1. The Aircrew Flight Equipment (AFE) program encompasses the support of aircrew, Special Warfare Airmen, and approved passengers. The term AFE is also used to describe equipment related to the specialty's core mission and customers.

1.2. Enhancing aircrew and Special Warfare Airmen performance while protecting and sustaining human life during operations is of great importance to the Air Force. The Air Force must have effective aircrew flight equipment and training to increase full operational effectiveness through improved performance and to preserve lives under emergency conditions. Finally, an AFE specific data system must be in place to ensure global equipment accountability, maintenance tracking and management, and provide total force visibility and support for life cycle management of aircrew flight equipment. This directive establishes policies for the maintenance, tracking, acquisition, and sustainment of aircrew flight equipment.

2. Policy.

2.1. The Air Force will establish, develop, field, track, maintain, sustain, and improve aircrew flight equipment as identified by user-validated/established operational requirements, operational deficiencies, suggestions, and aircraft mishap recommendations to enhance performance, minimize loss of life, and reduce support cost.

2.2. The Air Force will maintain aircrew flight equipment in optimum condition and train aircrew, Special Warfare Airmen, and passengers in procedures to ensure the most effective use of their equipment.

3. Roles and Responsibilities.

3.1. The Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Acquisition, Logistics, and Technology (SAF/AQ) will provide oversight of the acquisition and sustainment of validated aircrew flight equipment.

3.2. The Deputy Chief of Staff, Operations (AF/A3) will:

3.2.1. Provide oversight of AFE operations, to include, but not limited to, manpower, training, equipment, quality assurance, and general operations guidance and procedures.

3.2.2. Approve departmental publications within this series that establish guidance and procedures and assign responsibilities for implementing the policy in this Directive.

3.2.3. Establish procedures and systems for the proper total force life cycle management (from requirements to disposal) and tracking of aircrew flight equipment.

3.3. The Assistant Secretary of the Air Force, Installations, Environment and Energy (SAF/IE) is responsible for policy, resource advocacy, and oversight of the Occupational Safety and Health Program as it pertains to the AFE Program.

3.4. Major commands, Field Operating Agencies, Direct Reporting Units, and the Air Reserve Components will:

3.4.1. Identify AFE resource requirements, evaluate AFE program effectiveness and implement policies designed to ensure the qualification and training of assigned personnel.

3.4.2. Serve as lead command/agency for weapons systems as identified in Department of the Air Force Policy Directive (DAFPD) 10-9, *Lead Command/Lead Agent Designation and Responsibilities for United States Air Force Weapon Systems, Non-Weapon Systems,*

and Activities. Lead command assignments for specific AFE items/types will be listed in 11-3-series publications.

FRANK KENDALL
Secretary of the Air Force

Attachment 1

GLOSSARY OF REFERENCES AND SUPPORTING INFORMATION

References

DAFPD 10-9, *Lead Command/Lead Agent Designation and Responsibilities for United States Air Force Weapon Systems, Non-Weapon Systems, and Activities*, 25 May 2021

DAFI 90-160, *Publications and Forms Management*, 14 April 2022

AFI 33-322, *Records Management and Information Governance Program*, 23 March 2020

DAFI 90-160, *Publications and Forms Management*, 14 April 2022

Adopted Forms

DAF Form 847, *Recommendation for Change of Publication*

Abbreviations and Acronyms

AFI—Air Force instruction

AFPD—Air Force Policy Directive

DAF—Department of the Air Force

DAFPD—Department of the Air Force Policy Directive

Office Symbols

AF/A3—Deputy Chief of Staff, Operations

AF/A3TH—Aircrew Performance Division

SAF/AQ—Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics

SAF/IE—Assistant Secretary of the Air Force, Installations, Environment and Energy

Terms

Aircrew Flight Equipment—*Flight equipment encompasses all equipment that was formerly known as aircrew life support equipment and is part of the 412A life support system.*