

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

**DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE  
POLICY DIRECTIVE 10-35**



**5 JANUARY 2021**

**Operations**

**AIR FORCE SPECIAL WARFARE**

**COMPLIANCE WITH THIS PUBLICATION IS MANDATORY**

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This policy is consistent with Headquarters Air Force Mission Directive 1-54, *Deputy Chief of Staff, Operations*. It establishes overarching policy for the Air Force Special Warfare (AFSPEWAR) community, describes AFSPEWAR capabilities, and identifies responsibilities for organizing, training, and equipping AFSPEWAR. It applies to individuals at all levels, including Regular Air Force, Air Force Reserve, Air National Guard, and United States Space Force. 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. Refer recommended changes and questions about this publication to the office of primary responsibility using the AF Form 847, *Recommendation for Change of Publication*; route Air Force Forms 847 from the field through the appropriate functional chain of command. This publication may not be supplemented.

**SUMMARY OF CHANGES**

This publication has been completely revised and should be reviewed in its entirety. Major changes include: **paragraphs 1, 2, and 3**, which have been updated to incorporate AFSPEWAR terminology. References updated to include latest source information.

**1. Overview.** AFSPECWAR is the Department of the Air Force's offensive ground force that specializes in air-ground-space-cyber integration in hostile, denied, and politically sensitive environments to achieve air, space, and cyber dominance. AFSPECWAR Airmen comprise the Guardian Angel, Tactical Air Control Party, and Special Tactics weapon systems. These Airmen are employed to: (1) gain global access; (2) provide precision strike; and (3) conduct personnel recovery across the spectrum of conflict and the multi-domain battlefield.

1.1. **Global Access** . The establishment of access to permissive, contested, degraded, and operationally limited environments to project air, space, and cyber power to achieve joint force objectives.

1.2. **Precision Strike** . The full kinetic and non-kinetic potential of ground, air, space, and cyber power to successfully find, fix, and bring effects against an objective or capability.

1.3. **Personnel Recovery.** The sum of military, diplomatic, and civil efforts to prepare for and execute the recovery and reintegration of isolated US military personnel, Department of Defense (DoD) civilian personnel, DoD contractor personnel, or other personnel and sensitive items as designated by the President or Secretary of Defense. The four functions of personnel recovery are: preparation, planning, execution, and adaptation. The five personnel recovery execution tasks are: report, locate, support, recover, and reintegrate.

**2. Policy.** The Department of the Air Force will:

2.1. Organize, train, and equip AFSPECWAR forces to support DoD and US Government efforts to prepare for and conduct operations in contested, denied, operationally limited, and permissive environments under any environmental conditions.

2.2. Establish the AFSPECWAR enterprise, with participation from all applicable Department of the Air Force functions, to coordinate and synchronize this cross-functional mission and:

2.2.1. Develop strategy, policy, plans, concepts, and doctrine to execute the AFSPECWAR missions and ensure the Department of the Air Force implements related DoD strategy, policy, plans, concepts, and doctrine.

2.2.2. Manage and sustain the manpower, human performance, training, equipment, facility, and other resource requirements needed to prepare for, conduct, and sustain AFSPECWAR operations in coordination with the lead commands.

2.2.3. Identify gaps in AFSPECWAR operational capabilities and address shortfalls with appropriate Department of the Air Force offices and commands.

2.2.4. Ensure full spectrum readiness inspections assess the capability of forces to execute AFSPECWAR operations and activities.

2.2.5. Ensure AFSPECWAR research and development efforts are nested in, or coordinated with, the Office of the Secretary of Defense, Defense Threat Reduction Agency, Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, Air Force Research Laboratory, and lead commands.

2.2.6. Coordinate AFSPECWAR activities and operations with combatant commands, sister services, and the Joint Staff.

### 3. Roles and Responsibilities.

3.1. **Air Force Special Warfare Directorate (AF/A3S).** Executes AFSPECWAR management responsibilities outlined in Headquarters Air Force Mission Directive 1-54.

3.2. **Lead commands.** Lead commands for AFSPECWAR weapon systems are delineated as follows:

3.2.1. Air Combat Command is lead command for the Guardian Angel and Tactical Air Control Party weapon systems in accordance with Air Force Policy Directive (AFPD) 10-9, *Lead Command Designation and Responsibilities for Weapon Systems*. Air Combat Command will ensure the respective forces are organized, trained, and equipped to conduct personnel recovery, integrate joint fires, and conduct precision strike.

3.2.2. Air Force Special Operations Command is lead command for the special tactics weapon system in accordance with AFPD 10-9. Air Force Special Operations Command will ensure forces are organized, trained, and equipped to conduct global access, precision strike, and personnel recovery.

3.2.3. Air Force Materiel Command is the lead command for capabilities development, acquisition, and life-cycle management of AFSPECWAR equipment. Air Force Materiel Command will ensure interoperability, maximize standardization, and capitalize on opportunities for synergy across the AFSPECWAR enterprise.

3.2.4. Air Education & Training Command will execute responsibilities in accordance with Air Force Mission Directive 3, *Air Education and Training Command*. Air Education & Training Command will optimize AFSPECWAR recruiting, accessing, and institutional training to meet validated service requirements in compliance with Air Force Specialty-specific Career Field Education and Training Plans. Air Education & Training Command will develop courses that leverage commonalities of training across the AFSPECWAR mission areas.

3.2.5. Major Commands with assigned AFSPECWAR forces will organize, train, and equip sufficient AFSPECWAR Airmen to meet unit type code requirements to accomplish missions in support of combatant commander objectives.

BARBARA M. BARRETT  
Secretary of the Air Force

**Attachment 1****GLOSSARY OF REFERENCES AND SUPPORTING INFORMATION*****References***

HAFMD 1-54, *Deputy Chief of Staff, Operations*, 8 September 2015

AFMD 3, *Air Education and Training Command*, 19 November 2019

AFPD 10-9, *Lead Command Designation and Responsibilities for Weapon Systems*, 8 March 2007

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

***Prescribed Forms***

N/A

***Adopted Forms***

AF Form 847, *Recommendation for Change of Publication*

***Abbreviations and Acronyms***

**AFPD**—Air Force Policy Directive

**AFSPECWAR**—Air Force Special Warfare

**DoD**—Department of Defense