

AIR FORCE TEST AND EVALUATION CENTER

LINEAGE

Constituted as Air Force Test and Evaluation Center, and activated as a separate operating agency of the United States Air Force, on 1 Jan 1974.

Redesignated Air Force Operational Test and Evaluation Center on 4 Apr 1983

Status changed from a separate operating agency of the United States Air Force to a direct reporting unit of the United States Air Force on 5 Feb 1991

STATIONS

Kirtland AFB, NM. 1 Jan 1974

ASSIGNMENTS

United States Air Force, 1 Jan 1974

COMMANDERS

MG Wayne E. Whitlach, #1981

Maj. Gen. Howard W. Leaf

HONORS

Service Streamers

None

Campaign Streamers

None

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

None

Decorations

Air Force Organizational Excellence Awards

1 Oct 1991-31 Oct 1993

1 Jan 2000-31 Dec 2001

1 Jan 2002-31 Dec 2003

1 Jan 2005-31 Dec 2006

EMBLEM

EMBLEM SIGNIFICANCE

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

Air Force Test and Evaluation Center (AFTEC) is the Air Force's independent management agency for the operational test and evaluation of emerging weapon systems. "Basically, our charter is to test new systems in the operational environment they were designed for and to see how well they perform," says Maj. Gen. Howard W. Leaf, AFTEC Commander. "AFTEC also is charged with determining how well the system can be maintained and supported by Air Force personnel in the field once it becomes operational. Our final test results are reported directly to the Air Force Chief of Staff."

The results are reviewed and weighed by members of the Defense Systems Acquisition Review Council (DSARC) at various milestone points in the systems acquisition cycle. Results of AFTEC Initial Operational Test and Evaluation (IOT&E), or preproduction testing, are used in the DSARC decision on whether to approve full-scale production. If a production go-ahead is given, AFTEC conducts the first phase of Follow-on Test and Evaluation (FOT&E) testing, the results of which are vital to any further production decisions or system modifications. Additional FOT&E s conducted by appropriate Air Force major commands.

To manage the forty-three major Air Force OT&E programs and monitor more than 230 others, AFTEC has 233 military and sixty-five civilians, the majority of whom are stationed at AFTEC Headquarters, Kirtland AFB, N. M. This staff of operational and technical people prepares pretest documentation (including test plans), designs tests, and assists in analyzing data and preparing formal reports.

AFTEC testing is conducted at a series of test sites, such as Edwards AFB, Calif. More than 650 operational, logistical, maintenance, and training experts from using and supporting commands man AFTEC test teams that collect, analyze, and evaluate data, and have primary responsibility for preparing OT&E test reports. Final test reports, sent to the Air Force Chief of Staff, are the efforts of both the field test teams and the headquarters staff at Kirtland. A series of major milestones occurred among the AFTEC's OT&E programs during the past year. Among them were:

Successful completion of the F-16 multinational fighter IOT&E. This led to the DSARC decision to proceed with full-scale production of the aircraft. AFTEC Follow-on Test and Evaluation began after this decision.

European testing of the F-15, AWACS, and the infrared imaging radar (MR) tracker, in a series of realistic demonstrations.

Establishment of three significant AFTEC field units: Det. 1, Kapaun, Germany (near

Ramstein), to coordinate all aspects of European operational testing with allied defense agencies; Det. 2, Eglin AFB, Fla., liaison with the Tactical Air Warfare Center (TAWC), the Armament Development and Test Center (ADTC), and other defense organizations impacting on operational test and evaluation; and the MX Test Team at Norton AFB, Calif., for advanced planning of operational test and evaluation of this major Air Force weapon system.

Approval of the initial test concept for the Base Level Data Automation Systems (Phase IV).

Completion of the F-4G "Wild Weasel" program IOT&E.

Initiation of EF-111A Tactical Jamming System IOT&E at Mountain Home AFB, Idaho.

First phase of the Advanced Aerial Refueling Boom (AARB) IOT&E flight testing.

Completed IOT&E on the YC-14 and YC-15 Advanced Medium Short Takeoff transport aircraft.

Completion of preproduction prototype testing on the "stretch" YC-141B cargo aircraft.

AFTEC will continue active testing during the coming year on the principal Air Force weapon systems, with major milestones coming in such programs as the F-16, F-4G "Wild Weasel" FOT&E, Ground-Launched Cruise Missile (GLCM), AIM-9L missile, E-3A, E-4B Advanced Airborne Command Post, F-5E simulator for the Royal Saudi Air Force, EF-111A, IIR tracker, and the laser Maverick missile.

Air Force Test and Evaluation Center (AFTEC), headquartered at Kirtland AFB, N. M., was established on January 1, 1974, in response to DoD and congressional desires that each of the military services have an operational test and evaluation (OT&E) organization separate and distinct from the developing and operating commands. AFTEC is the USAF independent agency that furnishes OT&E information to the Air Force Chief of Staff, the Secretary of Defense, and Congress. For all programs designated by Hq. USAF, through its own independent channels, AFTEC plans, directs, controls, evaluates, and reports on OT&E and recommends OT&E policy to Hq. USAF.

The 450-person Center consists of the headquarters, four permanently established detachments, and field test teams at designated test sites. The headquarters staff primarily designs tests, prepares pretest documentation (including test plans), monitors the activities of the field test teams, assists in data analysis and evaluation, and people from AFTEC, from the various operating commands involved in the specific weapon system undergoing test (e.g., Military Airlift Command, Strategic Air Command, or Tactical Air Command), and from such supporting commands as Air Force Logistics Command and Air Training Command. An average of 600 to 800 people from these commands are normally assigned to AFTEC test teams at any specific time.

To support personnel at selected test sites, permanent detachments have been established at Kapaun AS, Germany; Eglin AFB, Fla.; and Nellis AFB, Nev. Additionally, twenty-one AFTEC

operating locations (OLs) have been established at individual testing sites. For example, an OL at Edwards AFB, Calif., serves the AFTEC test team for the air-launched cruise missile (ALCM); an OL at Dugway Proving Ground, Utah, serves the AFTEC test team for the ground-launched cruise missile (GLCM); and an OL at Columbia Falls, Me., serves the AFTEC test team for the over-the-horizon back-scatter (OTH-B) radar system. Such operating locations are established only for the duration of AFTEC's active operational testing of the system concerned. Two AFTEC liaison offices, at Hq. USAF and at the US Army's Operational Test and Evaluation Agency at Falls Church, Va., complete the unit's organizational structure.

An AFTEC initial operational test and evaluation (IOT&E), conducted under conditions that are as realistic as possible, addresses critical operational questions and issues of a system. Such testing is carried out to estimate a system's operational effectiveness and suitability while concurrently identifying deficiencies or needed modifications. Early test results, normally from tests of prototype and preproduction models, are considered in Air Force and DoD decisions during the early stages of the acquisition process.

Air Force Order of Battle
Created: 19 Sep 2010
Updated:

Sources
AFHRA