Air Combat Command
Expeditionary Warfare

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ACC/A3-MA
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This Briefing is:
UNCLASSIFIED
Overview

- U. S. Air Force and Air Combat Command Core Functions
- Air and Space Expeditionary Force Concept
- Air and Space Expeditionary Force Transition
- Lessons learned
- The future impact of budget constraints
- Capability Challenges
Air Force Core Functions provide a framework for balancing investments across Air Force capabilities.” – Secretary Donley FY12 Posture Statement
“Air Force Core Functions provide a framework for balancing investments across Air Force capabilities.” – Secretary Donley FY12 Posture Statement
ACC as Force Provider

As of Jun 2013

Providing Forces for Joint and Combined Operations
Service Comparison
(AEF Concept)

10 Carrier Strike Groups
7 MEUs
10 Divisions

10 AEFs
- AEF 1/2
- AEF 3/4
- AEF 5/6
- AEF 7/8
- AEF 9/10

C2
Aircraft
ECS
Equipment
Air and Space Expeditionary Force (AEF) Concept

- Air and Space Expeditionary Force (AEF) Concept – a means to provide Air Force forces and support on a rotational, and thus a relatively more predictable basis
- Methodology to organize, train, equip, deploy, sustain, and reconstitute rapidly responsive forces
- Designed to better manage the rotation of forces, improve stability, and spread the deployments more evenly across the Air Force
  - Concept used to globally manage force flow, and pulls from a roster of over 250 thousand members vice the 80 thousand on mobility status in 1997
- Expeditionary structure built from capability packages across Combatant Command and USAF force pool
AEF Tasked Organizations

- Numbered Expeditionary Air Force (NEAF)
  - COMAFFOR / JFACC (NAF/CC)
  - More than one AEW / AEG
- Air & Space Expeditionary Wing (AEW)
  - Owns the base
  - May have subordinate AEGs at other bases
- Air & Space Expeditionary Group (AEG)
  - Normally, smallest AETF
  - Normally, tenant
- Air & Space Expeditionary Squadron (AES)
  - Basic warfighting organization
  - AETF building block

USAF provides task organized forces to Combatant Commanders as Air & Space Expeditionary Task Forces (AETFs) identified as NEAFs, AEWs, AEGs, & AESs
How the Air Force Organizes Capabilities (Wings/Groups/Squadrons - Total Force)

Total Wings:
- Expeditionary (Rotational)
  - Wings: 8-10
- In-Place
  - Wings: 23

AF Forces (Types)
- Strike
- Mobility
- Special Operations
- C2ISR
- Space-Cyber
- Agile Combat Support
- Demand Force
AEF Concept Execution (1999-2007)

- Supply-based, globally focused force generation model
- 10 AEF Packages organized into 5 AEF Pairs
  - Each package contained a range of Air Force capabilities
  - Most Air Force deployable capes were assigned to an AEF package
  - Each AEF package had a vul period for deployment (3-4 months)
  - Surge up to 12 months
- Provided an expeditionary structure created from prepackaged capabilities across AF and Combatant Command force pools
- A major combat operation would reach forward in rotation scheme for forces outside of their vul periods
The AEF Cycle
(Rotational Schema)

A 20-month CYCLE with one 4-month ROTATION

- Predictability / stability preserved
- Maintains a **sustained** high-level of readiness
- 14-month training period and 2-month mission-specific deployment preparation

Key to maintaining and sustaining combat capability
AEF Surge Capability

- Medics, Comm, CE, SF, IN, ATC, LD/HD Assets

Force Commitment:
- 2 AEFs
- 2 AEFs
- 2 AEFs
- 2 AEFs

Time:
- Trigger Point
- SSC
- Max surge

Sustainable Indefinitely
Refined AEF Concept (Current)

- Differing demands on specific capabilities forced longer deployments in some critically manned/resourced areas
- Tempo Band methodology developed to address issues
  - Align AEF battle rhythms
  - Capabilities placed into different bands to address supply and demand issues associated with the specific capability
  - Further increased predictability and stability
  - Synchronize with 12-month Global Force Management (GFM) planning cycle
- Changes driven by a demand-based focus
  - Force structure cuts – smaller, less capable AEF packages
  - High Ops Tempo continually required reaching forward to task capabilities
  - Tour lengths increased to 6 months

Demand-based
# Tempo Bands

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**Enabler**

1:4; 4-Month Vulnerability Period

1:2; 6-Month Vulnerability Period

1:3; 6-Month Vulnerability Period

1:4; 6-Month Vulnerability Period

1:5 ARC Mob-to-Dwell; 6-Month Vulnerability Period / 9-Month Mobilization

1:1; 6-Month Vulnerability Period

1:4 ARC Mob-to-Dwell; 6-Month Vulnerability Period / 9-Month Mobilization
AEF Transition (2014 and Beyond)

• Implement AEF course correction “Post Afghan withdrawal”
  • Migrate to larger group (teaming) structure from fewer Units
  • Simplify and synchronize Battle Rhythms
  • Improve scheduling stability
  • Create better teaming at deployed locations

• AF must make difficult choices
  • Focus on high-end ROMO and missions only AF can perform?
  • Adjust institutional battle-rhythm to maximize expeditionary capabilities and capacity for crisis response (expand Global Response Force)?
  • Greater reliance on Air Reserve Component utilization?
  • Less forward-based Active Component force structure?

Reset AF back to supply-based, global AEF focus
AEF Transition

SSC  |  Crisis  |  MTW  |  Reconstitution

Full Mobilization

1:1 Deploy to Dwell, 1 year tours and Partial Mobilization

1:2 Deploy to Dwell, 6 month tours and Selective Mobilization

1:5 Deploy to Dwell 3 month tours

Time

Max surge

Surge (Sustainable)
Lessons Learned

• 20+ years of CENTCOM/AFCENT focus has had an impact
  • Demand driven
  • Unconstrained supplemental funding
• Readiness is now a critical issue - AF can no longer meet and sustain demand
• Sequestration environment magnifies issues
  • Fiscal uncertainty
• Air Reserve Component access/utilization
• Custom, tailored capability packages create additional challenges
  • Reduces unit teaming
  • Too flexible…Joint Staff ‘Easy Button’
  • Hard to say “no”…easy to routinely break the “AEF Concept” with units and individuals
Impact of Decreasing Budgets

- Decreased quality training and exercises
- Increased difficulty training across the full ROMO
- Increased use of high fidelity simulation and distributed mission operations
- Increased time required for preparation prior to deployment
- Increased rotational readiness issues
- Increased necessity for joint and coalition cooperation
- Increased requirement for fully integrated operations
A2/AD Operating Environment

Ensure Dominance
Capability Challenges

- Expeditionary combat mission ready forces
  - Air Force as the rapid reaction global reach force
  - Realistic and rigorous Flag Exercises
  - Participation in joint and combined exercises
- Key on core functions that are primarily provided by the Air Force
  - Air superiority, precision attack, and long range strike
  - Persistent ISR and C2
  - Rapid mobility and deployment
- Maintaining Dominance
  - Increasingly challenging operational environment (A2/AD)
  - Balancing recapitalization and modernization
Questions?
Air and Space Expeditionary Task Force (AETF)

• A tailored package of air, space, and cyberspace capabilities established for a temporary period of time to perform a specified mission

• AETF organizations
  • Numbered Expeditionary Air Force (NEAF) – The largest AETF organization made up of multiple expeditionary wings
  • Air Expeditionary Wing (AEW) – A deployed wing, or portion of a Wing with a command element, and subordinate groups or squadrons
  • Air Expeditionary Group (AEG) – Can be assigned to an AEW or directly to an AETF that may contain a broad range of functions
  • Air Expeditionary Squadron (AES) – The basic operational unit that provides specific combat capabilities (Air Superiority, Precision Attack, Command and Control, etc.)
  • Expeditionary Elements – Small units or individuals deployed to provides specific capabilities (Security, EOD, etc.)
Core Functions

- **Air Superiority**
  - "degree of dominance in the air battle of one force over another which permits the conduct of operations... without prohibitive interference by the opposing force"

- **Global Precision Attack**
  - "the ability to hold at risk or strike rapidly and persistently, with a wide range of munitions, any target and to create swift, decisive, and precise effects across multiple domains"

- **Global Integrated ISR**
  - "the synchronization and the integration of the planning and operation of sensors, assets and processing, exploitation, dissemination systems across the globe to conduct current and future operations"

- **Personnel Recovery**
  - "the sum of military, diplomatic, and civil efforts to Prepare for and execute the recovery and reintegration of isolated personnel"

- **Command & Control**
  - "the exercise of authority and direction by a properly designated commander over assigned and attached forces in the accomplishment of the mission... performed through an arrangement of personnel, equipment, communication, facilities, and procedures"

ACC Core Function Teams – Develop Service Core Function Strategies