

AIR FORCE OPERATIONAL TEST AND EVALUATION CENTER



MISSION

The Air Force Operational Test and Evaluation Center manages the Air Force operational test and evaluation program. The center assesses the operational effectiveness and suitability of Air Force systems under development or being modified. It recommends policy and plans, directs, evaluates, and reports on the Air Force operational test and evaluation program.

LINEAGE

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

Redesignated Air Force Operational Test and Evaluation Center, 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, 5 Feb 1991

STATIONS

Kirtland AFB, NM, 1 Jan 1974

ASSIGNMENTS

United States Air Force, 1 Jan 1974

COMMANDERS

Maj Gen Howard W. Leaf, #1978

Maj Gen Richard W. Phillips, Jr., #1983

Maj Gen George B. Harrison, #1995

Maj Gen Jeffrey G. Cliver, #1997

Maj Gen William A. Peck, #2002

Maj Gen Felix Dupre, #2003

Maj Gen Robin E. Scott, #2007
Maj Gen Stephen T. Sargeant, #2008
Maj Gen David J. Eichhorn

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

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

Approved, 25 Sep 1974

MOTTO

OPERATIONS

STRUCTURE: Five detachments at Edwards AFB, Calif., Eglin AFB, Fla., Nellis AFB, Nev., Peterson AFB, Colo., and Kirtland AFB, N.M.

The Air Force Operational Test and Evaluation Center is a direct reporting unit under Headquarters, U.S. Air Force. It is the Air Force independent test agency responsible for testing, under operationally realistic conditions, new systems being developed for Air Force and multi-service use. The commander of the Air Force Operational Test and Evaluation Center reports directly to the Air Force Chief of Staff.

The Air Force Operational Test and Evaluation Center is the Air Force agency responsible for planning, executing and reporting independent operational tests and evaluations. The agency determines the operational capabilities and limitations of Air Force and joint systems to meet warfighter mission needs. It provides operational effectiveness, suitability and evaluation expertise from concept development to system employment in support of Air Force, DOD and other government agencies.

The origin of the Air Force Operational Test and Evaluation Center can be traced to problems experienced by the U.S. military during the Vietnam Conflict where the hot and humid jungles of Southeast Asia took their toll on American weaponry. All but one of the 22 weapon systems

examined suffered from major deficiencies in the field. Some critics attribute this to the fact that only three had undergone operational test and evaluation prior to production.

By the early 1970s, pressure on the armed services to prioritize their operational test and evaluation functions proved overwhelming. The Air Force in response activated the Air Force Test and Evaluation Center at Kirtland AFB. The word “operational” was added to the center’s name in April 1983 to indicate more clearly its mission and to avoid confusion with developmental test and evaluation.

The Air Force Operational Test and Evaluation Center employs more than 1,000 military and civilian personnel, including contractors, at its headquarters on Kirtland AFB and six detachments that include locations at Kirtland, Edwards AFB, Calif., Eglin AFB, Fla., Nellis AFB, Nev., Peterson AFB, Colo. and more than 20 operating locations.

Test teams conduct tests at selected sites; collect, analyze and evaluate the data; and prepare formal reports. The teams are managed by the Air Force Operational Test and Evaluation Center and include personnel from the operating and supporting commands who will eventually employ these systems.

The Air Force Operational Test and Evaluation Center’s independent and objective evaluation of how well systems will meet operational requirements provides a vital link between the developer and user. They are key elements of the system acquisition approval process.

Operational tests are designed to address critical issues regarding a system’s performance in combat-like environments when operated by field personnel. They seek to answer questions about how safe, effective, reliable, maintainable, compatible and logistically supportable new Air Force systems will be.

The results of the Air Force Operational Test and Evaluation Center’s tests, normally conducted on prototype and pre-production models, play an important role in Air Force and DOD acquisition decisions. Test results also identify deficiencies requiring corrective action.

USAF Unit Histories
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Sources
Air Force Historical Research Agency. U.S. Air Force. Maxwell AFB, AL.