

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

*Air Force Mission Directive 27*

**28 NOVEMBER 2012**



**AIR FORCE FLIGHT STANDARDS AGENCY  
(AFFSA)**

**COMPLIANCE WITH THIS PUBLICATION IS MANDATORY**

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This publication delineates the mission, chain of command and responsibilities of the Air Force Flight Standards Agency (AFFSA). AFFSA is a Field Operating Agency organized under the Deputy Chief of Staff, Operations, Plans and Requirements, Headquarters, United States Air Force. This AFMD supports AF Policy Directive 11-2, *Aircraft Rules and Procedures* and AF Policy Directive 13-2, *Air Traffic, Airfield, Airspace and Range Management*. Ensure that all records created as a result of processes prescribed in this publication are maintained in accordance with AFMAN 33-363, *Management of Records*, and disposed of in accordance with the Air Force Records Disposition Schedule (RDS) located at <https://www.my.af.mil/afrims/afrims/afrims/rims.cfm>

**SUMMARY OF CHANGES**

This publication has been updated to capture changes that occurred as a result of the flight inspection mission transfer to AMC, adds the USAF Operational Support Facility (OSF) mission and responsibility for Air Traffic Control (ATC) and Landing Systems (ATCALs) system management, clarifies AFFSA's role as an ATCALs maintenance provider and simplifies the description of unit responsibilities.

**1. Mission.** The Air Force Flight Standards Agency's mission is to maximize effectiveness of USAF global air operations and ensure USAF access to worldwide airspace in all weather conditions.

**2. Command.** The AFFSA Commander:

2.1. Reports directly to the HAF Director of Bases, Ranges and Airspace (AF/A3O-B).

2.2. Commands personnel assigned to AFFSA; organizes, trains and equips AFFSA personnel with appropriate resources and infrastructure to accomplish the AFFSA mission as contained herein (or as directed) and prepares deployable personnel and assets to support combat, combat support and contingencies as directed.

### 3. Responsibilities.

3.1. Serves as USAF Lead Command IAW AFI 10-901, *Lead Operating Command—Communications and Information Systems Management*, for fixed and deployable Airfield Operations (AO) systems and software. Airfield Operations systems include both ATCALs and Airfield Management (AM):

3.1.1. Provides Requirements Management for AO systems and software. This includes developing and processing Joint Capabilities Integration and Development System (JCIDS) and other requirements documents, program management directives, maintenance concepts and engineering change proposals for ATCALs and AM systems, addressing user requirements in all matters affecting the development, acquisition, testing, modification and logistical support of fixed-base and deployable ATCALs.

3.1.2. Monitors and analyzes performance results against operational needs by using predetermined standards to ensure user requirements are satisfied and initiates corrective actions as necessary. This includes prioritizing ATCALs and other AO programs and modifications as co-chair of the Product Improvement Working Group and advising the ATCALs Single Manager and MAJCOMs in matters affecting logistics support of ATCALs equipment. Provides system management support for AO systems and software.

3.1.3. Operates the USAF operational support facility for ATC radar automation systems; provides software, hardware and technical support services for other USAF ATC automation and AM operations systems.

3.1.4. Prepares and presents Program Objective Memorandum initiatives to the designated Core Function Lead Integrator and Air Force Corporate Structure.

3.2. Serves as DoD requirements lead for fixed-base ATC radar, automation and communications switching systems under the National Airspace System (NAS) Modernization Program.

3.3. Plans, conducts and reports on operational test and evaluation of Acquisition Category (ACAT) III ATCALs.

3.4. Provides USAF/DoD-level subject matter expertise on AO and instrument procedures systems and policies to various groups within the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), International Civil Aeronautical Organization (ICAO) and North Atlantic Treaty Organization, to include Head of Delegation duties.

3.5. Formulates and publishes standardized AO operating criteria and instructions to include AM, ATC and instrument procedures development for USAF total force fixed-base and contingency/wartime missions while ensuring interoperability with applicable FAA, service, joint, ICAO and coalition guidance. Evaluates and submits recommendations for requests for waivers, generates USAF-level flying instructions and manuals, flight procedures criteria, aeronautical information, and operational guidance for all USAF aircraft.

3.6. Serves as the HAF OPR for the Airfield Operations Certification Inspection (AOCI) outlined in AFI 13-204, Volume 2, *Airfield Operations Standards and Evaluations* and AFI 90-201, *Inspection Program*. Augments MAJCOM IG and functional inspection teams as required.

3.7. Serves as the DoD lead agency for military flight data policy and procedures.

3.8. Recognizes outstanding airmen by conducting quarterly Lt Gen Gordon A. Blake Aircraft Save Award and Aircraft Assist Awards Boards, the annual US Air Force AO Awards Boards and the Col Joseph B. Duckworth Annual USAF Instrument Award Board.

3.9. Provides USAF focal-point for ATCALS maintenance by managing and executing regional maintenance center, Specialized Communications Team (SCT) and ATCALS evaluation activities. Performs maintenance on ATCALS USAF-wide via the regional maintenance centers. Resolves complex or unusual technical problems and provides enhanced system-specific technical training to USAF technicians and operators.

3.10. Provides wind turbine modeling/evaluation and operational recommendations for USAF, ANG and AFRC fixed and deployable locations.

3.11. Maintains survey capability to support ATCALS siting, modeling and analysis for ATC radar, navigational aids and communications systems.

3.12. Ensures AFFSA pilots remain current, proficient and qualified in NC-21A aircraft to maintain relevancy and credibility by flying conventional, Area Navigation (RNAV), Required Navigation Performance (RNP), Reduced Vertical Separation Minima (RVSM), Ground-Based Augmentation System (GBAS) and Space-Based Augmentation System (SBAS) procedures. Relays, through first-hand experience, current requirements and expectations in the rapidly changing US NAS. Remains credible in air traffic procedures (USAF/FAA/ICAO), USAF flying procedures and global air operations in order to:

3.12.1. Ensure proper development, implementation and refinement of worldwide USAF flying rules and procedures.

3.12.2. Conduct Operational Safety, Suitability and Effectiveness (OSS&E) evaluations of US NAS and USAF ATCALS systems; emerging navigation, communication, surveillance, cockpit displays and landing systems; and support and sustain advances in civil technology with military applications.

3.12.3. Conduct Instrument Refresher Program unit support and staff assistance visits and other pertinent mission-related temporary duty as necessary.

3.12.4. Conduct other flying operations in support of active air defense missions, homeland defense, airfield suitability evaluation; and currency, upgrade and familiarization flights as necessary.

3.13. Manages non-procedural data for USAF entries in DoD Flight Information Publication program.

3.14. Conducts the USAF AIS, the premier USAF instrument flight education program, in order to train and certify qualified individuals as Instrument Refresher Course Instructors and to keep USAF pilots abreast of latest USAF, FAA and ICAO standards and guidance.

3.15. Promotes USAF aviation safety by:

3.15.1. Providing Accident Investigation Board (AIB) technical expertise and/or securing primary and/or conditional ATC/AM/ATCALs/Ops Safety Investigation Board (SIB) members, as required.

3.15.2. Reviewing final SIB reports for concurrence and/or providing comment for the Memorandum of Final Evaluation regarding any SIB Recommendations tasking AFFSA or USAF/A3/5 affecting flying operations, AM, ATC, or instrument procedures services.

3.15.3. Performing the function of Flight Safety Officer for USAF A3/5, to include membership on the HAF Mishap Working Group and the preparation of briefings for the Vice Chief of Staff of the Air Force's semi-annual HAF Mishap Review Board.

3.15.4. Facilitating unmanned aerial system and remotely-piloted aircraft (RPA) operations in the NAS by developing operations, procedures and standards in coordination with MAJCOMs, other services, the FAA, joint and coalition entities as required, and ensuring ATCALs support this integration.

3.16. In coordination with the NextGen LSO, develops requirements, standards, procedures and timelines to evaluate, analyze and implement new and emerging technologies such as NextGen, Communications, Navigation and Surveillance/Air Traffic Management (CNS/ATM) and other AO systems to enable global access for continued USAF aeronautical operations.

3.16.1. Liaises with, and provides assistance to, the DoD NextGen Lead Service Office and NextGen program office.

3.16.2. Operates as the USAF Next Generation Air Transportation System (NextGen) lead for matters pertaining to airfield operations.

3.17. Evaluates current/emerging cockpit avionics/displays, data processing systems and instrument flight technology implementation via Cockpit Working Groups and cockpit endorsement for AF/A3O.

3.18. Enters into agreements (Memorandums of Agreement (MOAs), Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) and Federal Reimbursable Agreements (FRAs)) with agencies listed in paragraph 4 as required to conduct business outlined in this AFMD.

**4. Direct Communications are authorized** with the FAA, Joint Staff, HAF, MAJCOMs, units, Army, Navy, Coast Guard, Marines, National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA), depots, systems telecommunications engineering managers (STEMs) and joint/coalition forces on matters relating to:

4.1. Requirements and sustainment management and planning, programming and budgeting of DoD- and USAF-wide AO acquisition or modernization programs.

4.2. Standardization and evaluation of procedures for ATC, AM, ATCALs, flight crews, airfield surveys, instrument procedures and Remote Maintenance Centers.

4.3. Other matters as necessary or as directed by USAF/A3O-B or higher authority.

HARRY C. DISBROW, SES, DAF  
Associate DCS, Operations, Plans, and  
Requirements

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

AFPD 10-1, *Mission Directives*, June 2002

AFI 10-101, *Format and Content of Mission Directives*, February 2003

AFI 10-601, *Operational Capabilities Requirements Development*, July 2010

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

AFI 10-901, *Lead Operating Command—communications and Information Systems Management*, March 2001

AFPD 11-2, *Aircrew Operations*, January 2012

AFI 11-201, *Flight Information Publications*, March 2009

AFI 11-202 Volume 3, *General Flight Rules*, October 2010

AFI 11-210, *Instrument Refresher Program*, February 2005

AFI 11-230, *Instrument Procedures*, March 2010

AFPD 13-2, *Air Traffic Control, Airspace, Airfield and Range Management*, August 2007

AFI 13-204, *Airfield Operations Procedures and Programs*, September 2010

AFMAN 23-110, *USAF Supply Manual*, April 2009

AFI 99-103, *Capabilities-Based Test and Evaluation*, February 2008

MPTO 00-33A-1001, *General Communications Activities Management Procedures and Practice Requirements*, November 2011

TO 0025-108, *Depot Purchased Equipment Maintenance*, June 2012

***Abbreviations and Acronyms***

**AFFSA**—Air Force Flight Standards Agency

**AIB**—Accident Investigation Board

**AIS**—Advanced Instrument School

**AM**—Airfield Management

**AO**—Airfield Operations

**ATC**—Air Traffic Control

**ATCALs**—Air Traffic Control and Landing Systems

**CNS/ATM**—Communications, Navigation, Surveillance/Air Traffic Management

**DoD**—Department of Defense

**FAA**—Federal Aviation Administration

**HAF**—Headquarters Air Force

**ICAO**—International Civil Aviation Organization

**JCIDS**—Joint Capabilities Integration & Development System

**MAJCOM**—Major Command

**NAS**—National Airspace System

**NATO**—North Atlantic Treaty Organization

**NGA**—National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency

**OSS&E**—Operational Safety, Suitability and Effectiveness

**OSF**—Operational Support Facility

**OT&E**—Operational Testing and Evaluation

**RNAV**—Area Navigation

**RNP**—Required Navigation Performance

**RPA**—Remotely Piloted Aircraft

**SCT**—Specialized Communications Team

**SIB**—Safety Investigation Board

**SME**—Subject Matter Expert

**STEM**—Systems telecommunications engineering managers