1. Mission. As the Air Force’s Operational Test Agency (OTA), AFOTEC evaluates the capability of systems to meet warfighter needs by planning, executing, and reporting independent operational assessments, tests, and evaluations. From concept development to system fielding, AFOTEC evaluates a system’s overall operational mission capability, under realistic conditions, as determined by effectiveness, suitability, and other operational considerations, and assesses operational impacts in future and current battlespace environments.

2. Command. AFOTEC:

   2.1. Is a direct reporting unit responsible to the Chief of Staff of the United States Air Force (CSAF) as delegated by the Secretary of the Air Force (SECAF).

   2.2. Executes policy from HQ USAF Director of Test and Evaluation.

   2.3. Is authorized direct communication concerning operational test and evaluation (OT&E) matters between the AFOTEC Commander, other USAF major commands (MAJCOM), heads of DOD components, Service OTAs, and other government agencies.
3. **Responsibilities.** The AFOTEC Commander:

3.1. As an independent OTA, participates in the Air Force acquisition process without undue influence by development agencies, development contractors, users, or other external agencies.

3.2. Independently leads the planning, execution, and reporting of operational assessments, tests, and evaluations on Air Force acquisition programs, to include new and existing systems, modification programs, commercial-off-the-shelf items, non-developmental items, and tailored acquisitions, with consideration given to emergent joint service, allied, and other agency mission capabilities.

3.3. Leads the personnel, facilities, property, and funds organic to AFOTEC, and exercises control of operational test events using personnel and resources allocated to AFOTEC.

3.4. When directed, manages and/or participates in the planning, conduct, and reporting of multi-Service, multi-agency, DOD, and Air Force operational test activities.

3.5. Engages in early and continuous involvement with the acquisition logistics and user communities to reduce program risk and deliver mission capable systems to the warfighter sooner and at reasonable cost. Early involvement includes supporting operational capability requirements development, assisting the shaping of the acquisition strategy, influencing system design and development by providing feedback, and appropriate participation in integrated T&E activities to ensure systems are ready for dedicated operational testing.

3.6. Supports Air Force and joint warfighters in the formulation, development, demonstration, and assessment of concepts, doctrines, mission needs, and requirements for the development of new capabilities to support Joint Urgent Operational Needs (JUON) and Joint Emergent Operational Needs (JEON) requirements, and joint or Service technology experimentation.

3.7. Provides evaluation of a system’s overall mission capability as determined by effectiveness, suitability, and other operational considerations to assist in filling warfighter capability gaps across the full range of Air Force and selected joint and allied initiatives.

3.8. Provides OT&E information and expertise to MAJCOMs, other DOD components, Air National Guard, Air Force Reserve, CSAF, SECAF, Combatant Commands, Office of the Secretary of Defense, Congress, and other government agencies.

STEPHEN W. WILSON
General, USAF
Vice Chief of Staff