This Air Force Policy Directive implements policies in Department of Defense Directive S-3325.01, Foreign Materiel Program (U), and is consistent with Department of Defense Directive 5000.01, The Defense Acquisition System, DoD Instruction 5000.02, Operation of the Defense Acquisition System and DoD Instruction 5000.75, Business Systems Requirements and Acquisition. This Air Force Policy Directive establishes broad policy and direction for all Air Force test and evaluation activities, organizations, and infrastructure. This Air Force Policy Directive applies to all Air Force organizations that plan and/or conduct test and evaluation activities, including the Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve. This publication may not be supplemented or extended. Ensure that all records created as a result of processes prescribed in this publication are maintained in accordance with (in accordance with) Air Force Manual 33-363, Management of Records, and disposed of in accordance with the Air Force Records Information Management System Records Disposition Schedule. Refer recommended changes and questions about this publication to the Office of Primary Responsibility using AF Form 847, Recommendation for Change of Publication; route AF Forms 847 from the field through the appropriate functional chain of command.

SUMMARY OF CHANGES

The majority of this Air Force Policy Directive’s content remains unchanged. The revision updates format to comply with AFI 33-360, Publications and Forms Management, implements guidance to streamline and clarify publications, implements new DoD Directives, and reflects updated roles and responsibilities.
1. **Overview.** This Air Force Policy Directive establishes overarching Air Force policy to ensure test and evaluation is fully and effectively integrated throughout the DoD acquisition system. Test and evaluation provides detailed progress of the system design, compliance with contractual requirements, combat capability, and the ability to be sustained once fielded. Test and evaluation activities also aid in identifying and managing the risks involved in developing, producing, operating, and sustaining systems and capabilities. Test expertise must be brought to bear at the beginning of the system life cycle to provide earliest awareness about the strengths and weaknesses of the system under development. The goal is early identification of technical, operational, and system attributes and deficiencies, so that appropriate and timely corrective actions can be developed prior to production and fielding of the system, if required. The ultimate goal is to ensure the weapon systems and support systems the Air Force acquires and maintains meet operational capability requirements.

1.1. Integrated Life Cycle Management is the acquisition and sustainment framework for all Air Force acquisition programs. It governs all aspects of infrastructure, resource management, and business systems necessary for successful development, testing, acquisition, fielding, and sustainment of systems, subsystems, end items, and services to satisfy validated warfighter requirements. The test and evaluation community is a key stakeholder in the Integrated Life Cycle Management framework and works in concert with leadership, developers, acquirers, integrators, users, and sustainers to ensure success.

1.2. Categories of Testing. There are two overarching categories of Air Force test: developmental testing and operational testing. Developmental testing is conducted throughout the acquisition and sustainment processes to assist engineering design and development. Operational testing determines the operational effectiveness and suitability of the systems under test. Integrated testing is not a separate category, but a concept for test management to be used in developing an overarching test strategy to maximize the use of assets and reduce test time and risk. Integrated testing is the collaborative planning and execution of test activities and events to provide shared data in support of independent analysis, evaluation and reporting by all stakeholders, particularly systems engineering, developmental (contractor and government), and operational test and evaluation communities.

2. **Policy.** Organizations with test and evaluation roles and responsibilities will:

2.1. Operate, maintain, and improve test and evaluation facilities, including the Major Range and Test Facility Base and the United States Air Force Test Pilot School, in support of Air Force, DoD, and other user requirements.

2.2. Continually evaluate test infrastructure requirements and capabilities to ensure critical test infrastructure is available when needed, and avoid unnecessary duplication of test resources in accordance with Department of Defense Directive 3200.11, *Major Range and Test Facility Base*.

2.3. Support the Office of the Secretary of Defense sponsored Joint Test and Evaluation Program through participation in all phases of its process in accordance with DoD Instruction 5010.41, *Joint Test and Evaluation Program*.

2.4. Maintain a Weapon System Evaluation Program for continuous evaluation of fielded weapon system capabilities.
2.5. Conduct test and evaluation activities to:

2.5.1. Reduce program risk by identifying and helping to resolve design deficiencies as early as possible and throughout the acquisition process.

2.5.2. Provide essential information to decision makers and determine whether systems are operationally effective, suitable, survivable, and safe for intended use. Test and evaluation results will inform the decision process before proceeding beyond low-rate initial production and/or fielding.

2.5.3. Support the modification, upgrade, and continued sustainment of fielded systems.

2.5.4. Be objective and free from bias and outside influences. Report through a separate chain of command than the developing or acquiring organization to enhance objectivity and to mitigate external influences.

2.5.5. Use integrated testing concepts to the maximum extent practical.

2.5.6. Provide test and evaluation expertise and insight to acquisition professionals and requirements developers to help ensure user-provided operational requirements and concepts are clear, measurable, and testable.

2.5.7. Use only verified, validated, and accredited modeling and simulation tools when appropriate to assess performance, reduce risk, or mitigate resource limitations. However, dedicated operational test and evaluation will not be based exclusively on computer modeling, simulation, or an analysis of information contained in program documents.

2.5.8. Incorporate appropriate intelligence information into test and evaluation planning to accurately portray threat environments, capabilities, and vulnerabilities.

3. Roles and Responsibilities. All Air Force test and evaluation organizations must plan and conduct test and evaluation in collaboration with other program stakeholders. As such, the following organizational responsibilities are established.

3.1. The Director of Test and Evaluation (AF/TE) is the chief test and evaluation advisor to Air Force senior leadership, responsible for developing test and evaluation policy, establishing test guidance, advocating for test resources to support weapons system development, and resolving developmental and operational test programmatic issues. AF/TE is also designated the Air Force Foreign Materiel Program Executive Agent. AF/TE:

3.1.1. Provides guidance, direction, and oversight for all matters pertaining to the formulation, review, and execution of test and evaluation plans, policies, programs, and budgets.

3.1.2. Manages the Air Force test infrastructure to ensure adequate test and evaluation facilities, resources, and expertise are available to support system life cycle test and evaluation activities.

3.1.3. Establishes and, in cooperation with the Deputy Chief of Staff for Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (AF/A2), implements the Air Force Foreign Materiel Program to support DoD’s program in accordance with Department of Defense Directive S-3325.01, Foreign Materiel Program (U).
3.1.4. As the Air Force Test Enterprise Cross Functional Authority is responsible for strategic oversight and force development advocacy related to test and evaluation occupational requirements. The Cross Functional Authority will identify cross-functional billets and associate the proficiency levels and training/experience development needed to successfully conduct the test and evaluation mission.

3.2. The Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics (SAF/AQ) is the Service Acquisition Executive. The Service Acquisition Executive:

3.2.1. Ensures test and evaluation responsibilities are documented in system program documentation and carried out accordingly.

3.2.2. Ensures that all major defense acquisition programs are supported by a chief developmental tester and by a lead developmental test and evaluation organization.

3.3. The implementing major commands (MAJCOM), Air Force Materiel Command, Air Force Space Command, and Air Force Global Strike Command:

3.3.1. Implement policies for developmental test and evaluation and manage the test infrastructure.

3.3.2. Conduct required vulnerability, survivability, and lethality tests sufficiently early in the development phase of applicable programs to allow test results to influence system design prior to major production or modification decisions.

3.4. The Air Force Operational Test and Evaluation Center (AFOTEC) is established as the Air Force’s independent operational test agency reporting directly to the Air Force Chief of Staff in accordance with Department of Defense Directive 5000.01, The Defense Acquisition System. AFOTEC:

3.4.1. Plans, conducts, and reports on operational test and evaluation for Major Defense Acquisition Programs, programs on the Director, Operational Test and Evaluation (DOT&E) Oversight List, and other high interest Air Force programs as directed.

3.4.2. Publishes reports on the results of these evaluations, and provides evaluations of each system’s overall mission capability as determined by effectiveness, suitability, and other operational considerations.

3.4.3. Identifies and advocates for operational test infrastructure and workforce needs to the implementing major commands and Director of Test and Evaluation.

3.5. Operational MAJCOMs: In addition to conducting and supporting warfighting, operational MAJCOMs are responsible for the operational testing of systems not the responsibility of AFOTEC. Operational MAJCOMs:

3.5.1. Plan, conduct, and report on operational test and evaluation for programs of record in which AFOTEC is not the lead operational test organization; select programs on the Director, Operational Test and Evaluation Oversight List, and other high interest Air Force or MAJCOM programs as directed.

3.5.2. Conduct Force Development Evaluations and other operational test activities to support life cycle management and sustainability decisions and the development of warfighter tactics, techniques, and procedures when the Operational Test Agency declines or is unable to do so.
3.5.3. Publish reports on the results of these evaluations, characterizing system's overall mission capability as determined by effectiveness, suitability, and other operational considerations.

3.5.4. Execute Weapon System Evaluation Program activities in a realistic operational environment to assess weapon system effectiveness, identify deficiencies, and recommend corrective actions.

3.5.5. Identify and advocate for operational test infrastructure and workforce needs to the implementing MAJCOMs and Director of Test and Evaluation.

3.5.6. Assist the implementing commands with maintaining test infrastructure to support the Air Force test enterprise.

HEATHER WILSON
Secretary of the Air Force
Attachment 1

GLOSSARY OF REFERENCES AND SUPPORTING INFORMATION

References
Department of Defense Directive S-3325.01, Foreign Materiel Program (U), 30 December 2011
Department of Defense Directive 5000.01, The Defense Acquisition System, 12 May 2003
DoD Instruction 5000.02, Operation of the Defense Acquisition System, Change 3, 10 August 2017
DoD Instruction 5000.75, Business Systems Requirements and Acquisition, 2 February 2017
Department of Defense Directive 3200.11, Major Range and Test Facility Base, Change 1, 29 August 2017
DoD Instruction 5010.41, Joint Test and Evaluation Program, 12 September 2005
Title 10 United States Code Section 2366

Prescribed Forms
No forms are prescribed by this publication.

Adopted Forms
AF Form 847, Recommendation for Change of Publication.