

**BY ORDER OF THE COMMANDER
AIR COMBAT COMMAND**

**AIR COMBAT COMMAND
MISSION DIRECTIVE 531**



25 JANUARY 2024

Mission Directive

**53D TEST AND EVALUATION GROUP
(53 TEG)**

COMPLIANCE WITH THIS PUBLICATION IS MANDATORY

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(Maj Gen Christopher J. Niemi)

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This mission directive (MD) implements guidance in AFI 38-101, *Manpower and Organization*. Its purpose is to prescribe unit mission, command relationship, and responsibilities of the 53 TEG. This mission directive applies to 53 TEG and subordinate Regular Air Force units and assigned civilian personnel. This MD does not apply to Air Force Reserve Command, Air National Guard, or United States Space Force units. Test and Evaluation guidance is derived by DoDI 5000.89, *Test and Evaluation* and DAFPD 99-1, *Test and Evaluation*. Ensure that all records created as a result of processes prescribed in this publication are maintained IAW AFI 33-322, *Records Management and Information Governance Program*, and disposed of IAW the Air Force Records Information Management System Records Disposition Schedule. Refer recommended changes and questions about this publication to the OPR using DAF Form 847, *Recommendation for Change of Publication*; route DAF Forms 847 from the field through the appropriate functional chain of command. This publication may not be supplemented. HQ ACC A5/8/9 is the waiver authority for wing and unit level requirements in this publication. Submit requests for waivers through the chain of command to the publication OPR for consideration.

1. Mission. The 53 TEG provides tactical advantage to the warfighter at the speed of relevance by operationally testing and evaluating advanced weapons, systems and tactics to maximize fighter, bomber, intelligence surveillance reconnaissance and combat search and rescue platforms' lethality, survivability and sustainability through integration and tactics development to enable joint, all-domain combat operations. The 53 TEG serves as the higher headquarters for eight squadrons and one direct reporting unit: 28th Test and Evaluation Squadron (28 TES), 59 TES, 85 TES, 88 TES, 418 TES, 422 TES, 556 TES, 53 TEG/Det 3, and the Operational Flight Program Combined Test Force.

2. Command.

2.1. The 53 TEG is an ACC Group organized under the 53d Wing and subordinate to the US Air Force Warfare Center (USAFWC). ACC/A589 provides oversight for 53 WG OT&E processes. USAFWC/CC reports to the ACC Commander and conducts its assigned mission for all Major Commands (MAJCOMS) plus Air and Cyber Component Commanders on behalf of the SecAF and the CSAF.

2.2. The 53 TEG will establish and maintain collaborative relationships with joint, interagency, ally, and partner organizations tasked to develop, test, field, and prepare forces to employ advanced warfighting capabilities under its purview. The 53 TEG and subordinate units are direct liaison authorized (DIRLAUTH) to consult or coordinate with organizations outside the chain of command to align priorities across test and evaluation, tactics development, and integration across its assigned aircraft, weapons and systems programs. This authority is granted to shape and influence operational and tactical warfighting efforts through the development, refinement, and integration of the USAF's most advanced capabilities, synchronizing future concepts and emerging technologies.

3. Responsibilities.

3.1. The 53 TEG/CC reports to 53 WG/CC and conducts its assigned missions by, with, and through the following MAJCOMS, Centers, and Offices: ACC, AFGSC, AFMC, AFOTEC, DOT&E, DARPA, and the Rapid Capabilities Office. Additionally, the 53 TEG supports forward-based combat air forces assigned to Air Force Components: AFCENT, AFSOUTH, PACAF, and USAFE.

3.2. Plan, manage, execute and support operational test and evaluation activities as directed by ACC. Specifically, the 53 TEG will be manned, equipped, and funded to command, organize, manage, supervise, and evaluate 53 TEG assigned missions.

3.3. Responsible for mission execution, discipline, morale, and welfare of assigned personnel.

3.4. Lead the planning, execution, and reporting of operational assessments, tests, and evaluations for HHQ and MAJCOM-assigned tests and evaluate the overall effectiveness and suitability of assigned weapons systems to meet current and emerging warfighter needs.

3.5. Conduct the CAF Foreign Materiel Exploitation evaluations.

3.6. Plan, execute, and develop joint integrated Tactics, Techniques, and Procedures at the operational and tactical level of war.

3.7. Conduct activities as directed in COMACC Plan 21: Large Force Test Event, BLACK FLAG.

3.8. Respond to assigned Combatant Commanders' Urgent Operational Need requests. Plan and execute OT&E and develop joint integrated operational testing tactics in response to urgent warfighter needs.

3.9. Support Air Force and joint warfighters in the formulation, development, demonstration and assessment of concepts, doctrines, mission needs, and requirements for the fielding of new capabilities, such as Advanced Concept Technology Demonstrations.

MARK D. KELLY, General, USAF
Commander

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

AFI 33-322, *Records Management and Information Governance Program*, 23 March 2020

AFI 38-101, *Manpower and Organization*, 29 August 2019

DAFPD 99-1, *Test and Evaluation*, 21 May 2021

DoDI 5000.89, *Test and Evaluation*, 19 November 2020

Prescribed Forms

None

Adopted Forms

DAF Form 847, *Recommendation for Change of Publication*

Abbreviations and Acronyms

ACC—Air Combat Command

AFCENT—Air Force Central Command

AFGSC—Air Force Global Strike Command

AFMC—Air Force Materiel Command

AFOTEC—Air Force Operational Test and Evaluation Center

AFSOUTH—Air Force Southern Command

CAF—Combat Air Forces

COMACC—Commander, Air Combat Command

CSAF—Chief of Staff of the Air Force

DARPA—Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency

DOT&E—Director of Operational Test and Evaluation

HHQ—Higher Headquarters

MAJCOM—Major Command

MD—Mission Directive

OPR—Office of Primary Responsibility

OT&E—Operational Test and Evaluation

PACAF—Pacific Air Forces

RCO—Rapid Capabilities Office

SAF—Secretary of the Air Force (Office)

SECAF—Secretary of the Air Force (Person)

USAFE—United States Air Forces in Europe

USAFWC—United States Air Force Warfare Center