

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

**AIR COMBAT COMMAND  
MISSION DIRECTIVE 533**



**25 JANUARY 2024**

***Mission Directive***

**53D WEAPONS EVALUATION GROUP  
(53 WEG)**

**COMPLIANCE WITH THIS PUBLICATION IS MANDATORY**

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OPR: 53 WG/CC

Certified by: HQ ACC A5/8/9  
(Maj Gen Christopher J. Niemi)

Pages: 5

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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 WEG. This mission directive applies to 53 WEG 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. Weapons System Evaluation Program (WSEP) is derived from CSAF-Plan 53; 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 WEG provides tactical advantage to the warfighter at the speed of relevance by evaluating combat air force squadrons' employment of precision air-to-air, air-to-ground weapons, and air battle management command and control. Additionally, provides threat-representative, full scale, and subscale aerial targets for weapons testing and evaluation. The 53 WEG serves as the higher headquarters for five squadrons: 53d Test Support Squadron, 81st Air Control Squadron, 82d Aerial Targets Squadron, 83d Fighter Weapons Squadron (83 FWS), and 86 FWS.

**2. Command.**

2.1. The 53 WEG is an ACC Group organized under the 53d Wing and subordinate to the US Air Force Warfare Center (USAFWC). ACC/A3T provides oversight for WSEP and ACC/A589 provides oversight for 53 WEG OT&E processes and Aerial Targets program. 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 WEG 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 WEG and subordinate units are direct liaison authorized (DIRLAUTH) to directly consult or coordinate with organizations outside the chain of command to align priorities across the WESP and test and evaluation, tactics development, and integration across its assigned aircraft and weapons 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 WEG/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, AFSOC, and internal customers as directed. Additionally, the 53 WEG supports forward-based combat air forces assigned to Air Force Components: AFCENT, AFSOUTH, PACAF, and USAFE.

3.2. Plan, manage, execute and support WSEP and OT&E activities as directed by ACC. Specifically, the 53 WEG will be manned, equipped, and funded to command, organize, manage, supervise, and evaluate 53 WEG assigned missions.

3.3. Conduct WSEP activities for sister-service and international partners as directed by ACC.

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

3.5. Lead the planning, execution, and reporting of operational air-to-air weapons system evaluations under the COMBAT ARCHER Program.

3.6. Lead the planning, execution, and reporting of operational precision-guided air-to-surface weapons system evaluations under the COMBAT HAMMER Program.

3.7. Lead the planning, execution, and reporting of operational Command and Control Air Battle Management evaluations under the COMBAT AXE Program

3.8. Conduct planning, execution, and retrieval of aerial targets supporting operational assessments, tests, and evaluations for WSEP, HHQ, and MAJCOM-assigned tests.

3.9. Conduct CAF Air Force-Force Generation assessments as part of WSEP, report findings to supported NAF Commander and 53 WG/CC.

3.10. 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.

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

**AFSOC**—Air Force Special Operations Command

**AFSOUTH**—Air Force Southern Command

**CAF**—Combat Air Forces

**COMACC**—Commander, Air Combat Command

**CSAF**—Chief of Staff of the Air Force

**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

**WSEP**—Weapon System Evaluation Program