

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

**AIR FORCE MISSION DIRECTIVE 18**

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**AIR FORCES SOUTHERN (AFSOUTH)**

**COMPLIANCE WITH THIS PUBLICATION IS MANDATORY**

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This mission directive implements Department of the Air Force policy directive (DAFPD) 38-1, *Manpower and Organization*, and Air Force instruction (AFI) 38-101, *Manpower and Organization*. It states the mission, defines the command structure, and establishes the responsibilities for Air Forces Southern (AFSOUTH). In accordance with Department of the Air Force instruction (DAFI) 90-160, *Publications and Forms Management*, ensure all records generated as a result of processes prescribed in this publication adhere to AFI 33-322, *Records Management and Information Governance Program*, and are disposed in accordance with the Air Force Records Disposition Schedule, which is located in the Air Force Records Information Management System. Refer recommended changes and questions about this publication to the office of primary responsibility using the DAF Form 847, *Recommendation for Change of Publication*; route AF Forms 847 from the field through the appropriate functional chain of command. Major commands (MAJCOM)/direct reporting units (DRUs)/field operating agencies (FOAs) will forward proposed MAJCOM/DRU/FOA-level supplements to AF/A5/7, 1040 Air Force Pentagon Suite 4E1049, Washington, DC 20330-1040 or e-mail to the AF/A5/7 Workflow: [af.a5.workflow@us.af.mil](mailto:af.a5.workflow@us.af.mil).

**1. Mission.** AFSOUTH organizes, trains, and equips United States Air Force (USAF) forces for independent, joint, or combined military operations. AFSOUTH provides combatant commanders rapidly deployable, capabilities-focused expeditionary air, space, and cyberspace forces to conduct the full range of military operations. AFSOUTH also enhances western hemisphere security, promotes regional stability, and advances U.S. interests in Central America, South America, and the Caribbean. AFSOUTH is a service component command (SCC) of the USAF and the Air Force component of United States Southern Command (USSOUTHCOM).

**2. Command.**

2.1. The AFSOUTH Commander is responsible to the Chief of Staff of the Air Force (CSAF) for the administration, organization, training, and equipping of assigned and attached forces.

2.2. The AFSOUTH Commander commands USAF forces assigned and attached to USSOUTHCOM.

2.3. By direction of the CSAF, the AFSOUTH Commander exercises administrative control over assigned and attached USAF forces.

2.4. By direction of the Commander, USSOUTHCOM, exercises operational control over their respective assigned and attached USAF forces.

**3. Responsibilities.** The AFSOUTH Commander shall:

3.1. Plan, coordinate, support, and conduct employment of air, space, and cyberspace operations across the full range of military operations, including security cooperation, to achieve USSOUTHCOM objectives.

3.2. On order, provide assigned and attached USAF forces to other combatant commands.

3.3. Establish, sustain, improve, maintain, and operate bases and facilities operated by USAF throughout the USSOUTHCOM areas of responsibility.

JAMES C. SLIFE  
General, USAF  
Vice Chief of Staff

**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 38-1, *Manpower and Organization*, 20 February 2024

DAFI 90-160, *Publications and Forms Management*, 13 April 2022

***Adopted***

DAF Form 847, *Recommendation for Change of Publication*

***Abbreviations and Acronyms***

**AFI**—Air Force Instruction

**AFMD**—Air Force Mission Directive

**AFSOUTH**—Air Forces Southern

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

**DAFI**—Department of the Air Force Instruction

**DAFPD**—Department of the Air Force Policy Directive

**DRU**—Direct Reporting Unit

**FOA**—Field Operating Agency

**MAJCOM**—Major Command

**SCC**—Service Component Command

**USAF**—United States Air Force

**USSOUTHCOM**—United States Southern Command