

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

**DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
POLICY DIRECTIVE 99-1**



24 JUNE 2025

Test and Evaluation

TEST AND EVALUATION

COMPLIANCE WITH THIS PUBLICATION IS MANDATORY

ACCESSIBILITY: Publications and forms are available for downloading or ordering on the e-Publishing website at www.e-Publishing.af.mil

RELEASABILITY: There are no releasability restrictions on this publication

OPR: AF/TEP

Certified by: AF/TE
(Mr. Christopher M. Wilcox)

Supersedes: DAFPD99-1, 21 May 2021

Pages: 7

This Department of the Air Force Policy Directive (DAFPD) implements policies in Department of Defense Instruction (DoDI) 5000.89, *Test and Evaluation*. This document also implements policies in Department of Defense Directive (DoDD) 5000.01, *The Defense Acquisition System*, DoDD 3200.11, *Major Range and Test Facility Base (MRTFB)*, DoDD S-3325.01, *Foreign Materiel Program (FMP) (U)*, DoDI 5000.75, *Business Systems Requirements and Acquisition*, and DoDI 5010.41, *Joint Test and Evaluation (JT&E) Program*. This DAFPD applies to all Regular Air Force, United States Space Force (USSF), Air Force Reserve, Air National Guard, and other Department of the Air Force (DAF) individuals or organizations that plan and/or conduct Test and Evaluation (T&E) activities. Ensure all records generated as a result of processes prescribed in this publication adhere to Air Force Instruction (AFI) 33-322, *Records Management and Information Governance Program*, and are disposed in accordance with the 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 (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 or extended.

SUMMARY OF CHANGES

This publication has been primarily changed to reflect the designation of Space Training and Readiness Command (STARCOM) as the USSF Operational Test Agency (OTA).

1. Overview.

1.1. Air and Space T&E Policy. This DAFPD establishes overarching USAF and USSF policy to ensure T&E is fully and effectively integrated throughout the Department of Defense (DoD) acquisition system. T&E provides detailed information on the progress of the system design, compliance with contractual requirements, combat capability, and the ability to be sustained once fielded. T&E activities also aid in identifying and managing the risks involved in developing, producing, operating, and sustaining systems and capabilities. Test expertise must be applied 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, sustainment, 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 DAF acquires and maintains meet operational capability requirements.

1.2. Integrated Life Cycle Management. Integrated Life Cycle Management is the acquisition and sustainment framework for all DAF acquisition programs as outlined in Department of the Air Force Instruction (DAFI) 63-101/20-101, *Integrated Life Cycle Management*. It governs all aspects of infrastructure, resource management, and business systems necessary for successful development, testing, production, fielding, and sustainment of materiel and services to satisfy validated warfighter requirements. The T&E 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.

1.3. Developmental Testing and Evaluation (DT&E) and Operational Testing and Evaluation (OT&E). DT&E is conducted throughout the acquisition and sustainment processes to assist engineering design and development, verify developer compliance with contractual requirements, and provide data for use by operational test organizations to verify operational suitability, effectiveness, survivability, and lethality, as applicable, of the system in development. OT&E is an independent assessment of the operational effectiveness, suitability, survivability, and lethality, as applicable, of the system under development. Integrated testing is not a separate category but assists test management to develop 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 developmental and operational test activities and events to provide shared data. This supports the independent analysis, evaluation, and reporting by all stakeholders, particularly systems engineering, developmental (contractor and government), and operational T&E communities. Live fire T&E is used to assess the vulnerability, lethality, and survivability of the system. Live-fire T&E shall be treated as an integrated test activity to include both developmental and operational testing.

2. Policy.

2.1. Organizations with T&E roles and responsibilities will:

2.1.1. Operate, maintain, and improve T&E facilities, including the Major Range and Test Facility Base and the United States Air Force Test Pilot School, in support of Air Force, USSF, DoD, and other user requirements.

2.1.2. Continually evaluate test infrastructure requirements and capabilities to ensure critical test infrastructure is available when needed, avoiding unnecessary duplication of test resources in accordance with DoDD 3200.11.

2.1.3. Support the Office of the Secretary of Defense-sponsored JT&E Program through participation in all phases of its process in accordance with DoDI 5010.41, *Joint Test and Evaluation (JT&E) Program*.

2.1.4. Maintain a Weapon System Evaluation Program for continuous evaluation of fielded weapon system capabilities.

2.1.5. Conduct T&E activities to:

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

2.1.5.2. Provide essential information to decision makers and determine whether systems are operationally effective, suitable, survivable, and safe for intended use. T&E results will inform the decision process before proceeding beyond low-rate initial production and/or fielding as stated in Title 10 United States Code (USC) §4172, *Major systems and munitions programs: survivability testing and lethality testing required before full-scale production*.

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

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

2.1.5.5. Employ integrated testing to the maximum extent practical.

2.1.5.6. Provide T&E expertise and insight to acquisition professionals and requirements developers to help ensure user-provided operational requirements and concepts are clear, measurable, and testable.

2.1.5.7. Use only verified, validated, and accredited modeling and simulation tools when appropriate to assess performance, reduce risk, or mitigate resource limitations. Dedicated operational T&E will not evaluate exclusively using computer modeling, simulation, or an analysis of information contained in program documents.

2.1.5.8. Incorporate appropriate intelligence information into T&E planning to accurately portray threat environments, capabilities, and vulnerabilities.

3. Roles and Responsibilities . DAF T&E organizations must plan and conduct T&E in collaboration with other program stakeholders. As such, the following organizational responsibilities are established.

3.1. Executive, Test and Evaluation (AF/TE):

3.1.1. Serves as the chief T&E advisor to CSAF, VCSAF, CSO, VCSO and their Staffs.

3.1.2. Develops T&E policy, establishes test guidance, advocates for test resources to support weapons system development, and resolves DT&E and OT&E programmatic issues.

3.1.3. Provides guidance, direction, and oversight for all matters pertaining to the formulation, review, and execution of T&E plans, policies, programs, and budgets.

3.1.4. Manages the test infrastructure for the DAF and USSF through a cooperative arrangement with USSF and the Office of the CSO (Space Staff) to ensure adequate T&E facilities, resources, and expertise are available to support system life cycle T&E activities.

3.1.5. Acts as the lead and point of contact for the DAF Foreign Materiel Program. Establishes and, in cooperation with the Deputy Chief of Staff for Intelligence, Surveillance Reconnaissance, and Cyber Effects Operations (AF/A2/6), implements the Foreign Materiel Program for the DAF to support DoD's program in accordance with DoDD S-3325.01.

3.1.6. Serves as the DAF test enterprise cross-functional authority responsible for strategic oversight and force development advocacy related to T&E occupational requirements for both the USAF and USSF. The cross-functional authority will identify cross-functional billets and associate the proficiency levels and the training and experience development needed to successfully conduct the T&E mission.

3.1.7. Advocates for test resources that support capability development prototyping and experimentation activities.

3.2. The Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics (SAF/AQ) and Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Space Acquisition and Integration (SAF/SQ):

3.2.1. Serve as their respective Service Acquisition Executives.

3.2.2. Ensure T&E responsibilities are documented in system program documentation and carried out accordingly.

3.2.3. Ensure that all major defense acquisition programs are supported by a chief developmental tester and by a lead developmental T&E organization.

3.3. USAF major commands (MAJCOM), USSF STARCOM or Direct Reporting Units (DRU) executing developmental T&E:

3.3.1. Implement policies for developmental T&E 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 as stated in 10 USC §4172.

3.4. The Operational Test Agencies (OTA):

3.4.1. Report directly to the chief of the military service on operational T&E programs as designated.

3.4.1.1. The Air Force Operational Test and Evaluation Center (AFOTEC) reports directly to the Chief of Staff of the Air Force (CSAF) on United States Air Force (USAF) programs. AFOTEC is established as USAF's independent OTA.

- 3.4.1.2. STARCOM reports directly to the Chief of Space Operations (CSO) on space programs. STARCOM is designated as USSF's independent OTA but is responsible for all operational test for USSF. The OTA vs. Operational Test Organization (OTO) distinction does not apply to USSF.
- 3.4.2. Plan, conduct, and report on operational T&E for Major Defense Acquisition Programs, programs on the T&E oversight list managed by Director, Operational Test and Evaluation (DOT&E) and jointly used by Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering (USD(R&E)) as per DoDI 5000.89, and other high-interest DAF programs as directed. The T&E oversight list can be located on the Office of the Secretary of Defense DOT&E website (<https://www.dote.osd.mil>).
- 3.4.3. Publish reports on the results of these evaluations and provide evaluations of each system's overall mission capability as determined by effectiveness, suitability, and other operational considerations.
- 3.4.4. Identify and advocate for OT&E infrastructure and workforce needs to the implementing MAJCOMs, USSF STARCOM, and DAF.
- 3.5. USAF MAJCOMs that execute OT&E:**
- 3.5.1. In addition to supporting the joint warfighter, are responsible for the operational testing of systems that are not the responsibility of AFOTEC.
- 3.5.2. Plan, conduct, and report on operational T&E for programs of record where AFOTEC is not the lead operational test and evaluation organization; select programs on the T&E oversight list and other high-interest DAF programs as directed.
- 3.5.3. When AFOTEC declines or is unable to do so, conduct OT&E activities (such as force development evaluations) and develop, warfighter tactics, techniques, and procedures.
- 3.5.4. Publish reports on the results of these evaluations, characterizing the system's overall mission capability as determined by effectiveness, suitability, and other operational considerations.
- 3.5.5. Execute Weapon System Evaluation Program activities in a realistic operational environment to assess weapon system effectiveness, identify deficiencies, and recommend corrective actions.
- 3.5.6. Identify and advocate for OT&E infrastructure and workforce needs to the implementing USAF MAJCOMs and AF/TE.
- 3.5.7. Assist the implementing commands with maintaining test infrastructure to support the DAF test enterprise.

TROY E. MEINK
Secretary of the Air Force

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

10 USC § 4172, *Major systems and munitions programs: survivability testing and lethality testing required before full-scale production*

10 USC § 9081, *The United States Space Force*

DoDD 3200.11, *Major Range and Test Facility Base (MRTFB)*, 15 October 2018

DoDD S-3325.01, *Foreign Materiel Program (FMP) (U)*, 30 December 2011

DoDD 5000.01, *The Defense Acquisition System*, 28 July 2022

DoDI 5010.41, *Joint Test and Evaluation (JT&E) Program*, 12 September 2005

DoDI 5000.75, *Business Systems Requirements and Acquisition*, 24 January 2020

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

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

DAFI 63-101/20-101, *Integrated Life Cycle Management*, 16 February 2024

Prescribed Forms

None

Adopted Forms

DAF Form 847, *Recommendation for Change of Publication*

Abbreviations and Acronyms

AFI—Air Force Instruction

AFOTEC—Air Force Operational Test and Evaluation Center

DAF—Department of the Air Force

DAFI—Department of the Air Force Instruction

DAFPD—Department of the Air Force Policy Directive

DoD—Department of Defense

DoDD—Department of Defense Directive

DoDI—Department of Defense Instruction

DOT&E—Director, Operational Test and Evaluation

DRU—Direct Reporting Unit

FMP—Foreign Materiel Program

JT&E—Joint Test and Evaluation

MAJCOM—Major Command

MRTFB—Major Range Test Facility Base

OPR—Office of Primary Responsibility

OTA—Operational Test Agency

STARCOM—Space Training and Readiness Command

T&E—Test and Evaluation

USAF—United States Air Force

USSF—United States Space Force

USC—United States Code

Office Symbols:

AF/A2/6—Deputy Chief of Staff for Intelligence, Surveillance Reconnaissance, and Cyber Effects Operations

AF/TE—Director of Test and Evaluation

AF/TEP—Test and Evaluation Policy and Programs Division

CSAF—Chief of Staff of the Air Force

CSO—Chief of Space Operations

DOT&E—Director, Operational Test and Evaluation

OUUSD(R&E)—Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering

SAF/AQ—Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics

SAF/SQ—Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Space Acquisition and Integration

Space Staff—Office of the Chief of Space Operations

STARCOM—Space Training and Readiness Command

USSF—United States Space Force