

# AIR FORCE OPERATIONAL TEST AND EVALUATION CENTER



## **LINEAGE**

Air Force Test and Evaluation Center, established and activated, 1 Jan 1974  
Redesignated Air Force Operational Test and Evaluation Center, 4 Apr 1983

## **STATIONS**

Kirtland AFB, NM

## **ASSIGNMENTS**

## **COMMANDERS**

MG Howard W. Leaf, #1978

MG Richard W. Phillips, Jr., #1983  
MG George B. Harrison, #1995  
MG Jeffrey G. Cliver, #1997  
MG William A. Peck, #2002  
MG Felix Dupre, #2003  
MG Robin E. Scott, #2007  
MG Stephen T. Sargeant, #2008

## **HONORS**

### **Service Streamers**

### **Campaign Streamers**

### **Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

### **Decorations**

-The Air Force Organizational Excellence Award:

--Air Force Operational Test and Evaluation Center, Kirtland AFB, N.M., from Jan. 1, 2007-  
Dec. 31, 2008.

## **EMBLEM**

### **EMBLEM SIGNIFICANCE**

### **MOTTO**

### **NICKNAME**

## **OPERATIONS**

Test and evaluate new weapon systems in realistic battlespace environments to provide decision-makers accurate, balanced, and complete assessments of effectiveness, suitability, and mission capability Maintain an operational focus, from concept development to system fielding, to ensure warfighters have the right tools to win tomorrow's battles

## **STRUCTURE**

Five detachments at Edwards AFB, Calif., Eglin AFB, Fla., Nellis AFB, Nev., Peterson AFB, Colo., and Kirtland AFB, N.M.

Established as the Air Force Test and Evaluation Center, and activated as a separate operating agency on January 1, 1974. Effective February 5, 1991, the status of this organization changed from a separate operating agency to a direct reporting unit.

Air Force Operational Test and Evaluation Center Established as Air Force Test and Evaluation Center, and activated as a separate operating agency, on 1 January 1974. Redesignated Air Force

Operational Test and Evaluation Center on 4 April 1983.

Sargeant Receives White Trophy: The Air Force and Air Force Association presented the 2009 Gen. Thomas D. White Space Trophy to Maj. Gen. Stephen Sargeant, commander of the Air Force Operational Test and Evaluation Center at Kirtland AFB, N.M., for making the most outstanding contribution to the nation's aerospace progress over the preceding year. Among his accomplishments, Sargeant created a new space OT&E model that provides decision-makers timely and accurate data on new space systems and has been included in the DOD instruction that covers operation of the defense acquisition system. The National Geographic Society established the award in 1961 and presented it through 1996, when sponsorship transferred to AFA's Gen. B.A. Schriever-Los Angeles Chapter.

The Air Force Operational Test and Evaluation Center is a direct reporting unit under Headquarters, U.S. Air Force. It is the Air Force independent test agency responsible for testing, under operationally realistic conditions, new systems being developed for Air Force and multi-service use. The commander of the Air Force Operational Test and Evaluation Center reports directly to the Air Force Chief of Staff.

The Air Force Operational Test and Evaluation Center is the Air Force agency responsible for planning, executing and reporting independent operational tests and evaluations. The agency determines the operational capabilities and limitations of Air Force and joint systems to meet warfighter mission needs. It provides operational effectiveness, suitability and evaluation expertise from concept development to system employment in support of Air Force, DOD and other government agencies.

The origin of the Air Force Operational Test and Evaluation Center can be traced to problems experienced by the U.S. military during the Vietnam Conflict where the hot and humid jungles of Southeast Asia took their toll on American weaponry. All but one of the 22 weapon systems examined suffered from major deficiencies in the field. Some critics attribute this to the fact that only three had undergone operational test and evaluation prior to production.

By the early 1970s, pressure on the armed services to prioritize their operational test and evaluation functions proved overwhelming. The Air Force in response activated the Air Force Test and Evaluation Center at Kirtland AFB. The word "operational" was added to the center's name in April 1983 to indicate more clearly its mission and to avoid confusion with developmental test and evaluation.

"The Air Force Operational Test and Evaluation Center employs more than 1,000 military and civilian personnel, including contractors, at its headquarters on Kirtland AFB and six detachments that include locations at Kirtland, Edwards AFB, Calif., Eglin AFB, Fla., Nellis AFB, Nev., Peterson AFB, Colo. and more than 20 operating locations."

Test teams conduct tests at selected sites; collect, analyze and evaluate the data; and prepare formal reports. The teams are managed by the Air Force Operational Test and Evaluation Center

and include personnel from the operating and supporting commands who will eventually employ these systems.

The Air Force Operational Test and Evaluation Center's independent and objective evaluation of how well systems will meet operational requirements provides a vital link between the developer and user. They are key elements of the system acquisition approval process.

Operational tests are designed to address critical issues regarding a system's performance in combat-like environments when operated by field personnel. They seek to answer questions about how safe, effective, reliable, maintainable, compatible and logistically supportable new Air Force systems will be.

The results of the Air Force Operational Test and Evaluation Center's tests, normally conducted on prototype and pre-production models, play an important role in Air Force and DOD acquisition decisions. Test results also identify deficiencies requiring corrective action.

#### Air Force Operational Test and Evaluation Center

Commander: Maj. Gen. David J. Eichhorn

Headquarters: Kirtland AFB, N.M.

Web address: [www.afotec.af.mil](http://www.afotec.af.mil)

#### Mission

Test and evaluate new weapon system capabilities in operationally realistic battlespace environments to provide fact-based, decisionquality data to inform decision makers on a range of accurate, balanced and timely assessments of effectiveness, suitability and mission capability. From concept development to system fielding, AFOTEC maintains an operational focus ensuring our Airmen, and often joint and coalition partners, receive the capabilities required to complete their missions more effectively and with less risk.

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Air Force Order of Battle

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Sources

AFHRA