



CURTIS E. LEMAY CENTER

FOR DOCTRINE DEVELOPMENT AND EDUCATION



ANNEX 3-59 WEATHER OPERATIONS

AIR EXPEDITIONARY TASK FORCE (WX)

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Weather personnel should deploy with their supported air expeditionary wing, group, squadron, aligned strike mission design series flying squadron(s), or agile combat support (ACS) team or other supported Army unit as part of an air expeditionary task force (AETF). The commander, Air Force forces (COMAFFOR) retains operational control (OPCON) of weather personnel supporting conventional Army units at all echelons. Tactical control (TACON) may be delegated to the supported Army commander as appropriate. Weather personnel and equipment from other units, including National Guard or Reserve forces, may be tasked to augment AETF weather.

Air Force weather capabilities supporting air expeditionary wing--level operations are normally organized, commanded, and employed as a weather flight in an expeditionary operations support squadron. In some instances, it may be best for weather personnel to be directly attached to a flying squadron in order to provide more tailored, specific environmental information in support of operations.

Air Force weather personnel assigned or attached to an AETF normally obtain weather characterization information from reachback organizations such as operational weather squadrons. Reachback operations provide the ability to reliably access weather information and resources for exploitation while minimizing the in-theater footprint.