



SOURCING AND REACHBACK

Last Updated: 21 December 2015

Combat support (CS) forces with their capabilities are principally organized and resourced in unit type codes (UTCs) that are incorporated into air expeditionary task forces (AETFs).¹ UTCs are used to describe the personnel and materiel presented to the commander, Air Force forces (COMAFFOR), as part of the AETF. The scalable nature of UTCs allows CS to tailor support requirements with force modules. A force module is a grouping of operational and combat support forces with their accompanying equipment and supplies that are modular and scalable for an operation. This capability enhances the flexibility and usefulness of Air Force forces during any form of operation. The current AETF presentation is in the form of six different force modules: Open the Airbase, Command and Control, Establish the Airbase, Generate the Mission, Operate the Airbase, and Robust the Airbase. The force modules are composed of multiple UTCs, which are tailored for deployment based on needed capabilities. This allows CS to deploy with the smallest required footprint to support the mission. Reachback to the continental United States and rear overseas locations is used for those capabilities not brought forward and can include major command (MAJCOM), depot, field operating agency, or commercial support.

CS capabilities can be presented individually or in combination, depending on the specific requirement. For example, CS capabilities can also be used to support security cooperation engagements and the individual country plans of partner nations. These capabilities are presented to the COMAFFOR in UTCs especially designed to support security cooperation engagements. In addition, CS capabilities supporting security cooperation engagements should be deployed with the smallest required footprint to support the mission and should rely on reachback for additional support as required.

Reachback

There are many locations for CS reachback. They include component MAJCOM, component numbered Air Force, and Air Staff agencies as well as the various functional communities field operating agencies, and centers.

¹ For more information and definitions of force modules, see AFI 10-401, [Air Force Operations Planning and Execution](#).