



AETF ORGANIZATION

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- The basic building block of an air expeditionary task force (AETF) is the squadron; however, a squadron normally does not have sufficient resources to operate independently. Thus, the smallest AETF is normally an air expeditionary group (AEG); larger AETFs may be composed of several expeditionary wings.
- Within an AETF, the AETF commander organizes forces as necessary into wings, groups, squadrons, flights, detachments, or elements to provide reasonable internal spans of control, command elements at appropriate levels, and to retain unit identity.
- *For more complete discussion of internal AETF organization and designation of expeditionary and provisional units, see [Annex 3-30, Command and Control](#).*
- **Expeditionary Elements below Squadron Level.** The Air Force may deploy elements below the squadron level for specific, limited functions. These include individuals and specialty teams such as [explosive ordnance disposal](#) (EOD) teams, military working dog teams, security forces, liaison teams, etc. They may deploy as part of an AETF or independently of other Air Force units, in remote locations, and may operate directly with other Services.
- NOTE: Recent experience has revealed that tracking small, remotely located Air Force elements, especially in the distributed environment encountered in [irregular warfare](#), has posed challenges for the Air Force component headquarters.
 - ✦ These challenges may range from lack of administrative support to improper employment of small units and individual Airmen in tasks for which they have not been trained.
 - ✦ The COMAFFOR staff should take special efforts to maintain effective oversight of such elements in order to fulfill proper ADCON oversight.