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Operations

ALTERNATE COMMAND ELEMENT (ACE)

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This instruction implements AFD 10-1, Mission Directive, and it provides policies, certification requirements, training guidance, and reporting procedures for ACE personnel and operations onboard the host airborne platform within the 7 AF Area of Responsibility. It focuses primarily on the E-3 Airborne Warning and Control System (AWACS), but other Command and Control (C2) platforms may be tasked to host an ACE and guidance in this instruction will also apply to those platforms. Additional reference materials to be used in conjunction with this instruction include MCR 55-33, AFI 11-2E3, and AFTTP 3-1 (Volumes 1, 15, and 26). This instruction applies to all active duty, activated United States Air Force Reserve (USAFR) members, and Federalized Air National Guard (ANG) units tasked by the Air Component Command.

SUMMARY OF REVISIONS

This document is substantially revised and must be completely reviewed.

1. Duties and Responsibilities:

1.1. General. Positioning the Alternate Command Element (ACE) onboard C2 aircraft provides the Commander Air Component Command (CACC) with the ability to delegate command and control of Air Component Command (ACC) forces to the ACE when the Korean Air Operations Center (KAOC) or other key elements of the Korean Theater Air Control System are limited, degraded, or non-existent. The ACE can also provide on-scene representation when specific authority has been delegated by the CACC or Director of Combat Operations (DCO). Once authority has been delegated/assumed, the ACE maintains centralized control of ACC forces to prosecute the current ITO as planned, exploits opportunities in a changing battle space, and facilitates the reestablishment of normal command channels with the KAOC. AWACS and JSTARS are the primary platforms for ACE employment, but ACE team members should be familiar with other airborne C2 platforms that might

support ACE team employment. 7AF/CC may also elect to position the ACE afloat, or at another ground command element such as CP-Tango.

1.2. ACE Activation. The CACC will request activation of the ACE UTC as early as possible during crisis action planning. The CACC will provide the ACE with specific mission tasking and guidance on ACE responsibilities and authorities via the Integrated Tasking Order (ITO) or in a separate message. See ANNEX-A for sample message. Each on-coming DCO-A will receive an updated briefing from the DCO prior to each flight, to include the CMD/CFC Intent, the CACC's objectives, and the CGCC's intended scheme of maneuver. See [Attachment 1](#) for a sample tasking message.

1.3. ACE Configuration. The ACE is comprised of four teams and an ACE Support Cell. Each ACE team is commanded by an O-6 (or highly qualified O-5) DCO-A and is manned by three Duty Officers. Members of each ACE Team will be selected to ensure a cross-section of Operational (Fighter, Attack Bomber) and Air Battle Management experience. Officers detailed to ACE duty from 607 AOG and 7AF will also employ as primary ACE team members. The ACE Support Cell will include Intelligence Officers and C2 Technicians from the 701 COS.

1.3.1. Additional ACE Duty and Liaison Officers. The ACE team will employ additional duty and liaison officers as required to meet mission tasking. Duty and liaison officers will be highly qualified in their weapons systems/specialty and have a Secret security clearance (TS/SCI clearance is desired). AOC experience is highly desired. Types of duty and liaison officers include, but are not limited to, the following:

- 1.3.1.1. Tanker Duty Officer.
- 1.3.1.2. Electronic Warfare Duty Officer.
- 1.3.1.3. Combat Search and Rescue Duty Officer.
- 1.3.1.4. Combined Unconventional Warfare Task Force Duty Officer.
- 1.3.1.5. US Army/US Navy/US Marine Corps Liaison Officer.
- 1.3.1.6. Republic of Korea Air Force Liaison Officer.

1.4. Mission Execution. The ACE is responsible to the CACC/DCO to be continuously prepared to assume command and control of Air Component Command combat operations in the event the KAO is unable to execute, or delegates, that function.

1.5. General Responsibilities:

1.5.1. The ACE will:

- 1.5.1.1. Be thoroughly briefed on the CACC's plan to support the CMD/CFC's objectives/intent, know the current ITO flow and priorities, and be familiar with the Master Air Attack Plan (MAAP) for the next day and the Single Prioritized Integrated Target List (SPITL) for the following day.
- 1.5.1.2. Monitor and evaluate execution of the ITO and make recommendations for successful mission accomplishment .
- 1.5.1.3. Know the applicable ROE cold.

1.5.2. Team Member Responsibilities. The DCO-A is the leader of each ACE team. Specific duties and responsibilities once ACE team authority has been assumed or delegated include, but are not limited to, the following :

1.5.2.1. Monitor all aspects of the campaign and provide direction of the air operation.

1.5.2.2. Direct the air operation IAW with tasked objectives and authority delegated by the CACC/DCO.

1.5.2.3. Monitor, evaluate, and coordinate specific mission functions (i.e., tanker resources, airborne alert interdiction tasking, etc.).

1.5.2.4. Provide guidance to mission participants on ROE.

1.5.2.5. Maintain communications, if possible, with all appropriate agencies and aggressively attempt to re-establish communication with the KAOC if communication is lost.

1.6. Mission Planning. The ACE Support Cell will primarily conduct ACE mission planning, with assistance as required from off-duty ACE Team members. Support Cell responsibilities will include, but are not limited to, updating electronic copies of the current ITO, the next day's ITO (if available), the next day's MAAP, and the SPITL for the following day. The ACE team will provide a team roster and any special requirements to the host platform Mission Crew Commander (MCC) prior to the step briefing.

1.6.1. Intelligence Briefings. ACE Intelligence Officers (IOs) will coordinate with the KAOC intelligence cell to receive a copy of the daily intelligence briefing presented to the CACC at the KAOC. The ACE IO will present this briefing to the on-coming ACE team prior to each mission. The ACE IO will coordinate all ACE issues with peninsula and off-peninsula intelligence sources during mission planning and following the mission debrief. If the communications connectivity exists, the ACE IO will address intelligence issues for the ACE once authority has been assumed.

1.7. Consoles, Equipment, and Mission Materials. The host platform Mission Crew Commander (MCC) is the final authority on console allocation and radio access for ACE members. As a minimum, the ACE will require one UHF securable radio to conduct the mission. Access to theater C2 SATCOM net and HF Messenger system will also be required. Further communication access and console allocation will be determined by the MCC in coordination with the DCO-A and consider host platform and ACE mission tasking priorities. Each ACE Team will step to the aircraft with at least two classified laptop computers and all required connectors and cables, as well as any required forms, aircrew aids, individual equipment (headsets, flight gear, etc.), and any other equipment required for ACE mission preparation and employment. ACE mission planners will build and maintain an electronic ACE Flyaway Kit containing the following items as a minimum :

1.7.1. 7 AF Instruction 10-102, Alternate Command Element.

1.7.2. All applicable ROE.

1.7.3. Applicable Theater Supplements.

1.7.4. All Special Instructions (SPINs).

1.7.5. ITO and ITO Breakouts (current and following, if available).

1.7.6. Mission Logs.

- 1.7.7. FalconView with bases, points, lanes, orbits, tracks, CAPs, etc.
- 1.7.8. Communication Plan.
- 1.7.9. Standard Combat Load listing.
- 1.7.10. Package briefs and DCO tasking.
- 1.7.11. Daily Master Air Attack Plan (MAAP) .ppt briefing.
- 1.7.12. ACE Aircrew Aids/Checklists, Emergency Action Lists (EAL) and Crisis Action Procedures (CASOPS).

2. Manning and Flight Management Qualifications.

2.1. Manning. The four ACE teams will come from the 701 COS Alternate Command Element. Potential DCO-A's will be selected by 10 AF/CC and approved by 7 AF/CC. 10 AF/CC will designate one DCO-A as the Commander, Alternate Command Element, who will be responsible for the selection, training, certification and operational guidance of the 7 AF ACE teams. The ACE Support Cell Intelligence Officers and C2 Technicians will also come from the 701 COS/ACE. Unit Type Code (UTC) will identify ACE team manning to support applicable OPLANS.

2.2. Qualifications. ACE team members will meet the criteria described in Section 1.3 and whenever possible will be assigned to active flying billets. Aircrew members must be qualified for unrestricted flight duty and maintain both a current physiological training and a current class III or higher flight physical. ACE team members will also maintain currency in host platform egress training and refresher water survival.

3. Training:

3.1. General. All Initial Qualification, Mission Qualification, and Continuation Training for the ACE will be IAW the 701 COS Annual Training Plan. 7 AF and 607 AOG personnel assigned to ACE duty will follow the 701 COS Training Plan to the degree practicable. The Commander, Alternate Command Element is responsible for the content and currency of the ACE portion of the Annual Training Plan.

3.2. Training Records. Each unit will maintain individual training records for their assigned personnel. Once mission qualification training requirements are complete, each unit will prepare a letter for the 701 COS/CC and 607 AOG/CC's signature appointing the individual as an ACE team member. Copies of this letter will be placed in the individual's training record and sent to the host unit Operations Readiness Center (ORC). Units will also send a letter stating each ACE team member's mandatory training qualification dates to the host unit ORC .

3.2.1. Academic and Ground Training. Completion of initial and continuation training, egress, life support refresher training, altitude chamber, and flight physical will be documented in the individual's training record.

3.3. Training Reports. The 701 COS/CC will submit a semi-annual training status report to 607 AOG/CC identifying all ACE trained personnel and the duty position(s) for which they have been certified. 701 COS/CC will certify ACE team members following completion of initial training, and will coordinate initial/continuation training for their personnel with the host unit IAW any host unit's directives

4. Administration:

4.1. Resources. The 607 AOG/DOK will be the executive manager of the 7 AF ACE Program providing program oversight to the 701 COS ACE element. The 701 COS/ACE will execute administration of the ACE program.

4.2. Logistical Support. Logistical support during OPLAN execution will be provided by the host unit and will include office space, access to secure and non-secure communications, classified material storage, and other appropriate administrative support for ACE mission accomplishment identified by the ACE Support Cell. 607 AOG/DOK will coordinate logistical support issues with the host unit.

4.3. Flight Authorizations. The applicable Wing Commander must authorize host platform training flights in accordance with AFI 11-401, Flight Management. This can be accomplished by coordination for blanket approval or on a case-by-case basis. Individuals will coordinate training requirements and desired training dates with the host wing or delegated authority no later than two weeks prior to the desired training date. CACC will direct supporting C2 host platform units to support the ACE as required following activation to support contingencies or OPLAN execution.

4.4. Waivers/Deviations. The procedures and requirements of this instruction will not be changed or waived unless approved by 7 AF/CC. Authority to waive continuation-training requirements is the 607 AOG/CC. Requests for deviations or waivers from the procedures in this instruction will be forwarded to 607 AOG/CC .

4.5. Recommended Changes. All recommended changes to this instruction will be made to 607 AOG/DOK.

4.6. Reviews. Review of this instruction will be in accordance with AFI 37-160, Volume 7, and The Air

Force Publications and Forms Management—Publications Libraries and Sets.

4.7. Supplements. Units may publish supplements to this regulation to establish detailed procedures for ACE operations and training in their area of responsibility. Copies of all supplements will be sent to 607 AOG/CC for approval prior to publication and then distributed to other units, 607 AOG/DOK, 7 AF, and HQ PACAF.

LANCE L. SMITH, Lieutenant General, USAF
Commander, Seventh Force

Attachment 1

SAMPLE ACE TASKING MESSAGE

UNCLASS

FROM ACC OSAN AB KOR//CACC//
TO COMUSFK SEOUL KOR//FKJ3/FKJ4/FKJ5/SDMTT//
HQ PACAF HICKAM AFB HI//CC/CV/DO/DOX/CAT//
CINC UNC CFC SEOUL KOR//CC/CJ3/CJ5/DMT//
USTRANSCOM LNO WASHINGTON DC//
INFO USTRANSCOM SCOTT AFB IL//CC/CV/DO/DOX//
15AF TRAVIS AFB CA//CC/CV/DO/DOX//

BT
SUBJ/UTC MOVEMENT RERQUEST AND TASKIG (U)//

NARR/THIS IS AN EXERCISE BEVERLY SHIELD MESSAGE.
(U) THIS IS A REQUEST FOR MOVEMENT OF BATTLESTAFF UTCS WHICH SUPPORT OUR
AFFOR/AOC OPERATIONS. RECENT GEO-POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN THE KOREAN
THEATER OF OPERATIONS INDICATE OFFENSIVE NORTH KOREAN POSTURING OF MILI-
TARY FORCES. ACCORDING TO THE RK MND, NK SOCIETY HAS ACHIEVED A CURRENT
STATE OF READINESS THAT CAN FACILITATE FULL WAR MOBILIZATION .

GENTEXT/SITUATION/

1. (U) BASED ON INDICATIONS AND WARNING, ADDITIONAL FORCES ABOVE THOSE IDEN-
TIFIED IN CFC OPLAN 5155-98 ARE NEEDED FOR DETERRENCE ON THE KOREAN PENIN-
SULA. IAW ACC CASOP A8AG286, REQUEST THE MOVEMENT OF THE FOLLOWING UTCS :

Table with 2 columns: Tasking Element Name, Tasking Element ID. Rows include ACC ADVON TEAM (7CCB1), DIRMOBFOR (8AAGBO), INTELLIGENCE (KDTTGH), COMMUNICATIONS (7BBC5), and ALTERNATE COMMAND ELEMENT (ACE) (7BB5C).

1. (U) ACC ACTION OFFICER IS MAJ BAGGO, 7AF/A-55, DSN 784-4825.
1. (U) ALTERNATE COMMAND ELEMENT IS TO PROCEED DIRECTLY TO KADENA AB,
JAPAN. THE ACE WILL PROVIDE ON-SCENE REPRESENTATION WHEN SPECIFIC AUTHOR-
ITY HAS BEEN DELEGATED BY THE CACC OR CHIEF OF COMBAT OPERATIONS (CCO).
ONCE AUTHORITY HAS BEEN DELEGATED/ASSUMED, THE ACE WILL MAINTAIN CEN-
TRALIZED CONTROL OF ACC FORCES TO PROSECUTE THE ITO AS PLANNED AND FACILI-
TATE THE REESTABLISHMENT OF NORMAL COMMAND CHANNELS WITH THE KAOC.

UNCLASS