

## **53 TEST MANAGEMENT GROUP**

### **MISSION**

The 53 Test Management Group, located at Eglin accomplishes all test planning, monitoring, analysis, and reporting for operational tests executed by the other 53 groups. In addition, it provides technical and tactical expertise in the acquisition, sustainment and certification of all training devices for the Combat Air Forces. This group also provides the full range of communications and computer support for the wing.

The 53d Test Management Group is made up of four squadrons, four direct reporting detachments, one Combine Test Force and operating locations spanning eight states. The 53d TMG is responsible for planning, scheduling resources, developing support plans and agreements, monitoring and assisting in execution, gathering data, analyzing data, preparing and publishing reports, fielding recommendations and interim documents for Force Development Evaluations, Tactics Development and Evaluations and Operational Assessments within the 53d Wing.

The group is also responsible for training wing personnel in required test management skills, to include Design of Experiment, Project Manager Training, Test Team Training and Operational Risk Management. The group is the functional manager and technical expert for testing, modification, acquisition, sustainment and certification of all Combat Air Forces' aircrew training systems. In addition, the group provides communication and information systems for 53d Wing development, test and sustainment operations; enhances CAF warfighting capability by operating, protecting and maintaining computer systems critical to development and dissemination of electronic warfare software; and develops, tests and integrates vital wing command and control systems.

The group is the wing's single-point-of-contact with Air Combat Command, Air Force Materiel Command, the Air Force Operational Test and Evaluation Center and other DoD and contractor test agencies for integrating Air Force test requirements with future and ongoing wing test and real-world efforts. The group is also the wing focal point for non-EW portions of the Foreign Materiel Exploitation program. Finally, the group monitors the ACC portion of all formal FME Quick Looks and operational evaluations conducted by the 53d Electronic Warfare Group and the 53d Test and Evaluation Group.

The Operational Flight Program Combined Test Force at Eglin is composed of personnel from the 53d Test Management Group and 46th Operations Group. CTF personnel test F-15 software upgrades to enhance air combat performance, improve weapons-avionics integration, and simplify aircrew displays and controls. The OFP CTF team develops test concepts, prepares test plans, manages test execution, analyzes data, and produces test briefings, reports, and recommendations of F-15 developmental and operational tests. The CTF reports to its Air Force Materiel Command chain of command for developmental test issues and its Air Combat Command chain of command for operational test issues. The CTF has a combined annual test budget of \$16 million and evaluates multi-year acquisition programs valued at more than \$1.5 billion using 14 F-15C and 12 F-15E aircraft.

Detachment 1 of the 53d TMG, located at Barksdale Air Force Base, La., is responsible for the management of B-52H including force development evaluations, tactics development and evaluations, and software evaluations. Squadron personnel direct operational test planning and execution, as well as data gathering, analyzing, and reporting for the B-52H operated by the Combat Air Forces. Results and conclusions support DoD deployment and employment decisions.

Detachment 2 of the 53d TMG, located at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., is responsible for the management of B-2 including force development evaluations, tactics development and evaluations, and software evaluations. Squadron personnel direct operational test planning and execution, as well as data gathering, analyzing, and reporting for the B-2 operated by the Combat Air Forces. Results and conclusions support DoD deployment and employment decisions.

Detachment 3 of the 53d TMG, located at Dyess Air Force Base, Texas, is responsible for the management of B-1B including force development evaluations, tactics development and evaluations, and software evaluations. Squadron personnel direct operational test planning and execution, as well as data gathering, analyzing, and reporting for the B-1B operated by the Combat Air Forces. Results and conclusions support DoD deployment and employment decisions.

Detachment 4 of the 53d TMG, located at Creech Air Force Base, Nev., is responsible for the management of MQ-1 and MQ-9 including force development evaluations, tactics development and evaluations, and software evaluations. Squadron personnel direct operational test planning and execution, as well as data gathering, analyzing, and reporting for the MQ-1/9 operated by the Combat Air Forces. Results and conclusions support DoD deployment and employment decisions.

#### **LINEAGE**

57 Test Group and activated established, 1 Nov 1991  
Inactivated, 1 Aug 1997  
Redesignated 53 Test Management Group, 30 Jul 2002  
Activated, 1 Oct 2002

#### **STATIONS**

Nellis AFB, NV, 1 Nov 1991-1 Aug 1997  
Eglin AFB, FL, 1 Oct 2002

## **ASSIGNMENTS**

57 Fighter Wing (later, 57 Wing), 1 Nov 1991

53 Wing, 1 Oct 1996-1 Aug 1997

53 Wing, 1 Oct 2002

## **WEAPON SYSTEMS**

F-111, 1992

A-10, 1992

F-15, 1992

F-16, 1992

F-4, 1993

None, 2002

## **COMMANDERS**

Col Richard S. Mather, 1 Nov 1991

Col Ted J. Carter, 1993-unkn

Unkn-1 Aug 1997

Col Douglas C. Hayner, 1 Oct 2002

Col Stephen C. Fairbairn, 22 Jun 2004

Col Thomas Berghoff, 4 Aug 2006

Col Christopher P. Monahan, 8 Aug 2008

## **HONORS**

### **Service Streamers**

### **Campaign Streamers**

### **Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

### **Decorations**

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards

1 Jun 1995-[1 Oct 1996]

1 Jun 2002-31 May 2004

1 Jun 2004-31 May 2006

## **EMBLEM**

Group will use the wing emblem with the group designation in the scroll.

## **MOTTO**

## **OPERATIONS**

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USAF Unit Histories  
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Sources  
Air Force Historical Research Agency. U.S. Air Force. Maxwell AFB, AL.