



AIR MOBILITY DIVISION AUGMENTATION UNITS

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Theater [air operations center](#) (AOC) air mobility divisions (AMD) are manned to support day-to-day (i.e., steady-state or shape and deter operations) theater air mobility requirements. As a result, AMD augmentation units are designed to provide rapid, tailored, worldwide, operational-level [command and control](#) (C2) of intratheater air mobility assets to a theater [commander, Air Force forces](#) (COMAFFOR) when AMD operations exceed initial levels. An AMD augmentation unit extends an existing theater AOC's AMD infrastructure and presents forces to warfighting [joint force commanders](#) by focusing on meeting our nation's global air mobility requirements.

Each AMD augmentation unit presents trained personnel in the areas of airlift, air refueling, C2, logistics (airlift requirements, aerial port, and aircraft maintenance), and aeromedical evacuation planning and execution. Additionally, an active-duty air mobility operations squadron (AMOS) can provide limited MAF-centric combat airspace, intelligence, and C2 systems administration to augment an AOC's support and specialty teams.

AMD Augmentation – A Notional Phased Approach

Each AOC is sized and tailored to its specific mission/theater of operations. The AOC plans, exercises, executes, and assesses across normal shape and deter operations. Because each theater air component's allocated air mobility mission varies in size and scope, their AMD's normal manning varies widely. Planners should consider probable strategic warning as well as the response time of augmentation sources (active duty and air Reserve Component (ARC) augmentation units) when determining the availability of AMD augmentation capabilities to be used to bolster AMD operations beyond shape and deter operations. Because they are sized for theater shape and deter operations, AMD's are not standardized amongst the geographic AOCs. The AMD is normally organized with the following core teams: the airlift control team (ALCT), air refueling control team (ARCT), air mobility control team (AMCT), and aeromedical evacuation control team (AECT). Theater-specific requirements dictate the level of support necessary from each team. An AMD may not have one or more of these core teams within its organization and this may drive a disparate level of augmentation (full vs partial) when compared to other AMDs. An example of this would be an AMD that does not maintain a manned AECT because their theater has very few aeromedical

evacuation requirements. In this scenario the AMD would require full AECT augmentation as theater operations increase.

Theater AMDs have evolved their manning and organization to meet the needs of their theaters. Examining this evolution from a notional phased perspective provides a useful construct to scale and tailor AMD augmentation. There are four phases of AMD augmentation: shape and deter, seize initiative, dominate, and stabilize and enable civil authority. Each of these phases is described below:

- ✦ **Shape and Deter.** This is the existing AMD manning and team composition assigned to the AOC prior to contingency operations (i.e., the “going-in” or steady-state). Different theaters present a different posture depending on the number of theater assets owned or the type of missions being performed.
- ✦ **Seize Initiative.** Once a contingency operation begins and the existing AMD is unable to meet its demands (i.e., requirements exceed manpower capability), a cadre of AMD augmentation personnel is available to provide short-term, rapid response to global contingency air mobility C2 needs and to carry-out the AMD’s core competencies of intratheater airlift, tanker, and aeromedical evacuation planning and execution. Working with Air Combat Command, [Air Mobility Command](#) has postured two active-duty AMOSs to meet this initial response need. Additionally, there are ARC AMOSs postured and trained to conduct AMD augmentation operations. Once a theater AMD determines augmentation is required, they must then determine the specific capability or functional area that is required. The focus of this effort should be on the [time-phased force and deployment data](#) (TPFDD) closeout and supporting movements for initial [beddown](#) of forces.
- ✦ **Dominate.** Operations can be any activity along the range of military operations from humanitarian assistance and disaster relief to major theater war. The AMD core competencies and specialties are still required but the levels of support and personnel involved may dramatically increase based on the given scenario. Depending on how long operations continue, the supported component numbered air force (C-NAF) [Air Force forces \(AFFOR\) staff](#), in coordination with the AMD staff, should begin using global force management (GFM) / air expeditionary force (AEF) processes to begin planning for sustainment of the long-term manpower needs within the AMD. Timing and pace of operations will dictate if personnel substitution is feasible within the AEF cycle system. The GFM/AEF provides a predictable timeline to generate and fill personnel requirements and provide any incoming AMD personnel with the required training. Replacing active duty AMD augmentation forces deployed during seize initiative activities with ARC AMD augmentation personnel, under the GFM/AEF cycle, enables the initial augmentation forces to redeploy and reconstitute for other contingency requirements that may arise and sets conditions for the transition to stabilize operations.
- ✦ **Stabilize and Enable Civil Authority.** Normally at this point, the AMD is more robust than during initial shape and deter activities, and usually has fallen into a

more predictable routine. Operations remain on a wartime footing; however, theater tasking and manning requirements are relatively stable. Augmentees may still be required, depending on the baseline, pre-contingency manning level for the applicable AMD, but these individuals can be trained and the positions filled using ARC AMD augmentation units (if available), or extended temporary duty or rotational manpower. AMD augmentation units are not designed or manned to provide long-term sustainment augmentation to the AMD. Their core competency and the capability they provide is a short-term response to meet global contingency air mobility C2 needs. The stabilize and enable civil authority manning requirements may become the supported AOC's "new normal" and come to define the augmented AMD's new shape and deter phase. At this point, working with the AFFOR staff, the AOC may determine that long-term manpower adjustments must be made to sustain their operations.

The phases described above are not necessarily linear. As an example, stabilize operations can roll back into a previous phase depending on theater conditions. A theater AMD can be tasked to support a wide variety of tasks along the range of military operations. This diversity of requirements inhibits mobility air forces from identifying a single standardized AMD profile capable of supporting all of the AOCs. Instead, examining AMD augmentation from a phased perspective offers a way to tailor AMD augmentation with the right forces, in the right place, and at the right time to meet the COMAFFOR's intratheater air mobility objectives.
