ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

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Headquarters Air Force (HAF). HAF provides policy and oversight for the Prime BEEF and RED HORSE programs. HAF advocates policies, programs, and resources; reviews long-range civil engineer requirements; and serves as the primary interface with Department of Defense (DOD) agencies, Congress, and other offices. Major commands (MAJCOMs) and the Air National Guard, with Air Force Installation Mission Support Center support, provide civil engineering capabilities to meet current and emerging requirements by organizing, developing, enabling, and retaining a trained and capable total force civil engineer (CE) team ready to meet current and emergent mission requirements.

Component Numbered Air Force (C-NAF)/Component MAJCOM (C-MAJCOM). When a C-NAF or C-MAJCOM serves as the Air Force's warfighting component to the joint force commander (JFC), civil engineers are assigned or attached to the installation and mission support directorate to serve as the engineering advisor to the commander, Air Force forces (COMAFFOR). They provide expertise needed to plan, assess, and oversee maintenance and execution of robust capabilities to establish operating platforms, protect and support mission forces and infrastructure; serve as an interface for other Service regional wartime construction management support; and conduct real estate activities for use or lease of host nation facilities and basing.

Air Force Civil Engineer Center (AFCEC). AFCEC provides reachback capability and forward deployed technical expertise. Deployed engineers can reach back to AFCEC for technical support; assistance in planning and designing infrastructure; and assistance with environmental concerns, real estate acquisition, and contract construction. It can also serve as a design and construction agent.

CE Commanders. CE Commanders are responsible for ensuring their units are organized, trained, and equipped to deploy and execute their assigned missions. These leaders focus on the health and welfare of personnel, effective organization, education and training, and equipping to ensure their units are prepared to respond to contingencies worldwide. Civil engineer commanders mentor and develop personnel through an iterative process involving education, training, and experience.

Air Force engineers rely upon the total force to support contingency operations while sustaining a capability to continue the mission at home station. Civil engineer civilians

provide a wealth of knowledge, continuity, and technical abilities. Planners should identify deployment opportunities for civilians in accordance with DOD guidance. This becomes particularly important during sustained operations, when engineer requirements will likely increase as engineers are tasked to sustain bases while also providing support to stability operations. To meet this surge in engineer requirements, commanders should encourage civilians to take full advantage of opportunities to augment the existing military force, particularly in areas where shortfalls exist.

Engineer teams specializing in expeditionary assets typically deploy to any operational area and assist civil engineers in force beddown, sustainment, and recovery. They provide technical assistance and support in erecting, reconstituting, and repairing large expeditionary structures such as aircraft hangars and domes. In working with these teams, engineers perform site preparation, ensure structures are available, and provide teams with any heavy equipment needed (e.g., forklift, high-reach, crane, etc.). These teams also provide support during foreign humanitarian assistance and civil support operations.

Commanders balance contract support and military engineers to meet mission requirements. Military forces typically conduct initial contingency response due to the operational environment. After initial bases of operation are established, Air Force civil engineers may need to construct other operating locations in order to best project airpower or enable other Services to conduct operations within the joint environment. These requirements, after initial contingency response and surges, may exceed Air Force CE capacity to adequately and simultaneously support all home station and expeditionary installations. In these instances, contracting for engineering services are a force multiplier and additional means to address shortfalls in engineering requirements across the range of military operations.

Civil Engineer Support to Air Force Special Operations. Lack of light, easily-employable base operating support (BOS) coupled with extremely short notice and rapidly evolving mission sets require Air Force Special Operations Command (AFSOC) forces to arrive and conduct operations well ahead of BOS establishment.

To bridge the gap, AFSOC provides a family of small specialized force modules. These modules employ the latest technology to the greatest extent, tailored to absolute minimums, and in most cases, personnel are multi-skilled, substantially reducing manpower footprints. Capabilities include explosive ordnance disposal force protection teams, CE expeditionary teams, weapons of mass destruction/chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear teams, collective protection with personnel teams, and a family of light, easily employable beddown assets known as air rapid response kits. These teams, their capabilities, and their employment are chiefly unique to AFSOC.

Rapid arrival and establishment of an “airhead” at disaster locations and the ongoing prosecution of conflicts create an increased demand on special operations forces (SOF), its enablers, and supporting agencies. An example of these types of activities include simultaneous anti-terrorist activities during Operation ENDURING FREEDOM,

Operation IRAQI FREEDOM, and in Africa. The nature of SOF heightens the acceptance of risk and the probability of encountering hazards. AFSOC's engineering enablers provide the SOF component commander with great capability in a small package to assist, avoid, and mitigate those risks.
