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HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON, DC

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25 February 2019

MEMORANDUM FOR DISTRIBUTION C

FROM: HQ USAF/A3
1630 Air Force Pentagon
Washington, DC 20330-1630

SUBJECT: Air Force Guidance Memorandum to Air Force Instruction 11-209, *Participation in Aerial Events*

By Order of the Secretary of the Air Force, this Guidance Memorandum immediately implements changes to Air Force Instruction 11-209, *Participation in Aerial Events*. Compliance with this memorandum is mandatory. To the extent its directions are inconsistent with other Air Force publications, the information herein prevails in accordance with Air Force Instruction 33-360, *Publications and Forms Management*.

In advance of a rewrite of Air Force Instruction 11-209, the Attachment to this Memorandum provides guidance changes to exception-to-policy request for funeral and memorial events.

This memorandum becomes void after one year has elapsed from the date of this memorandum, upon incorporation by interim change to, or rewrite of Air Force Instruction 11-209, whichever is earlier.

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Deputy Chief of Staff, Operations

Attachment:
Guidance Changes

AFI11-209_AFGM2019-01
Attachment 1
Guidance Changes

5.4. Changed to read: Exceptions-to-Policy. Servicing base mortuary affairs initiates requests for exceptions to funeral and memorial service policy and staffs the request through MAJCOMs to the Air Force Operations Group Commander (AF/A3OO). Requests that are handled directly by Air Force mortuary affairs are staffed to AF/A3OO. Exceptions-to-policy are based on appropriate use of limited resources, and are typically considered only for service marked by valor and heroism. Exception-to-policy requests are to reach AF/A3OO at least 10 duty days prior to the event (unless exception-to-policy is staffed with an identified volunteer unit, then 7 duty days prior to the event). AF/A3OO is the approval authority for exception-to-policy requests. The Air Force Director of Staff (AF/DS) is the disapproval authority for exception-to-policy requests. Include the following in the request:

5.4.5. Changed to read: AF/A3OO will process the exception-to-policy request once the requestor has secured a volunteer. AF/A3OO will notify Air Force Mortuary Affairs office, volunteering unit's MAJCOM, and ACC not later than seven business days in advance of the funeral/memorial flyover (when an aerial control team is needed for funerals/memorials at Arlington National Cemetery) when package is approved/disapproved.

**BY ORDER OF THE
SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE**

AIR FORCE INSTRUCTION 11-209

22 MAY 2018



Flying Operations

PARTICIPATION IN AERIAL EVENTS

COMPLIANCE WITH THIS PUBLICATION IS MANDATORY

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This instruction implements Department of Defense Directive (DoDD) 5410.18, *Public Affairs Community Relations Policy*; Department of Defense Instruction (DoDI) 5410.19, *Public Affairs Community Relations Policy Implementation*; DoDD 7230.8, *Leases and Demonstrations of DoD Equipment*, and Air Force Policy Directive 11-2, *Aircrew Operations*. It provides guidance and procedures for Air Force aviation support to public and military events and applies to Air Force personnel who approve, plan, coordinate, and participate in these events. This publication applies to the Active Duty Air Force, the Air National Guard (ANG) and the Air Force Reserve (AFR). For the purpose of this instruction, the ANG is functionally considered to be a major command (MAJCOM). Any organization may supplement this instruction. MAJCOMs, field operating agencies, and direct reporting units send one copy of their supplement to the Air Force Operations Group (AF/A3OO). The authorities to waive wing/unit level requirements in this publication are identified with a Tier ("T-0, T-1, T-2, T-3") number following the compliance statement. See AFI 33-360, Publications and Forms Management, for a description of the authorities associated with the Tier numbers. Submit requests for waivers through the chain of command to the appropriate Tier waiver approval authority, or alternately, to the requestors commander for non-tiered compliance items. Ensure that all records created as a result of processes prescribed in this publication are maintained in accordance with Air Force Manual (AFMAN) 33-363, Management of Records, and disposed of in accordance with the Air Force Records Information Management System (AFRIMS) Records Disposition Schedule (RDS). Refer recommended changes and conflicts between this and other publications to the Headquarters U.S. Air Force Operations Group (AF/A3OO), 1480 AF Pentagon, Washington, DC 20330-1480, on Air Force Form 847, *Recommendation for Change of Publication*, through the appropriate chain functional chain of command.

SUMMARY OF CHANGES

This Instruction has been substantially changed and requires complete review. Major changes include: Addition of required Tier compliance items, deleting duplication of reference, as well as new guidance from higher headquarters concerning roles and responsibilities, types of support, and approval processes.

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Chapter 1

OVERVIEW

1.1. General Guidance. This instruction governs the performance of United States Air Force (USAF) aviation support for military and public events. It details the procedures for event and participation approvals, and specifies the operational limitations of the aviation support provided. Aerial Events are conducted with aircraft on a volunteer basis, are intended to connect with the American public, support Air Force recruiting and retention efforts, showcase American air power, and enhance community and international relations. The USAF Director of Current Operations (AF/A3O) may task MAJCOMs to provide assets to participate in certain key public or military events.

1.1.1. For additional guidance on the USAF community relation programs, see DoDI 5410.19 and AFI 35-105, *Community Relations*, and AFI 10-1004, *Conducting Air Force Open Houses*.

1.1.2. For additional guidance on USAF funeral or memorial service Aerial Event support, see AFI 34-501, *Mortuary Affairs Program*.

1.2. Objectives.

1.2.1. Provide a list of approved events, both open and closed to the general public, and limitations associated with the category of event and parent directives. (See Attachment 2, Event Matrix)

1.2.2. Ensure compliance with appropriate operational, training, and administrative directives of approved events.

1.2.3. Evaluate and revise both the approval events along with operational directives, procedures and techniques as required.

1.3. Waiver Authority for Event Approval .

1.3.1. Air Force aerial events consist of two distinct approval processes: 1) event approval; 2) participation approval. Secretary of the Air Force, Public Affairs, SAF/PAY is responsible for public affairs issues and event approval in accordance with AFI 35-105. AF/A3O is responsible for coordinating participation approval processes in accordance with this publication.

1.3.2. Unless otherwise specified, AF/A3O is the waiver authority for this instruction. Except as provided in this instruction, or by direction of the approving authority, the MAJCOM is the waiver authority for individual aircrew requirements, such as training and qualification.

1.3.2.1. Request waivers through applicable MAJCOM Aerial Events (or Standards / Evaluations channels if a MAJCOM Aerial Events office does not exist). When the MAJCOM concurs with the waiver request, they will forward requests for approval to AF/A3OO who will staff for AF/A3O approval.

1.3.2.2. Waiver authority for supplemental guidance will be as specified in the supplement, but may not be less restrictive than this publication.

1.3.3. For situations requiring Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) waiver(s), obtain the FAA waiver and determinations on FAA policy through the local Flight Standards District Office before staffing the request for Air Force approval.

Chapter 2

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

2.1. Secretary of the Air Force, International Affairs (SAF/IA). Evaluate international events for which aviation support is requested or tasked to ensure political, military and industry concerns are taken into consideration. Potential aviation support assets must be evaluated for risk of technology exploitation. (T-1). This responsibility rests with SAF/IA, who will coordinate with the Under Secretary of Defense for Policy (USD(P)), Defense Security Cooperation Agency (DSCA), AF/A3O and MAJCOMs for international air shows and trade exhibitions as outlined in [paragraph 6.11](#). For international events that are outlined in [paragraph 6.10](#) (*Public Affairs Activities*), SAF/IA coordination may be required if there is a significant political, military or industry concern. This coordination does not preempt or diminish the combatant commander's authority to exercise event and participation approval over events falling within their respective areas of responsibility (AORs).

2.2. Secretary of the Air Force, Public Affairs (SAF/PA). SAF/PAY determines eligibility, for aviation and non-aviation related events in accordance with DoDD 5410.18, DoDI 5410.19, AFI 35-105 and Air Force policy.

2.3. USAF Director of Current Operations (AF/A3O).

2.3.1. Unique Requests. AF/A3O is the approval authority for any aerial event requests not otherwise covered by this instruction. Submit such requests to AF/A3OO for evaluation and approval, after obtaining MAJCOM approval. MAJCOMs submit requests at least 45 calendar days before the event.

2.3.1.1. Funeral Flyovers. In unique cases when a funeral flyover is authorized (in accordance with [Chapter 5](#)), AF/A3O retains authority to disapprove support if the circumstances of the death and subsequent flyover could reflect negatively upon the Air Force. (T-1).

2.3.1.2. Exception-to-Policy for Flyovers. AF/A3O provides coordination and concurrence for SAF/PAY approved exception-to-policy flyovers and other aerial events as detailed in [Attachment 2](#). (T-1).

2.3.2. Leases. AF/A3O approves participation plans at air shows involving USAF aircraft leased to non-government organizations (e.g. defense contractors, industry associations), in accordance with AFI 64-103, *Leasing Non-Excess USAF Aircraft, Aircraft – Related Equipment and Other Personal Property to Non-Government Organizations*. Plans should be submitted to AF/A3O no later than 60 days prior to the event. See AFI 64-103 for requirements.

2.4. MAJCOM Roles.

2.4.1. Evaluates subordinate unit participation in authorized aerial events.

2.4.2. Coordinates with SAF/PA, SAF/IA, AF/A3OO and/or other agencies, as required, to determine the extent of participation authorized. Outside the Continental United States MAJCOMs coordinate initially with Combatant Command. See [paragraph 6.10](#) for

overseas events that require AF or Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense Public Affairs approval or coordination.

2.4.3. Approves operational participation in public or military events within their area of responsibility according to [Attachment 2](#).

2.4.4. Coordinates and obtains aviation support for public and military events when requested by AF/A3OO. Units may require external funding identification and coordination for certain events prior to participation approval.

2.4.5. Ensures all command personnel participating in public or military events meet the following standards:

2.4.5.1. Pilots and aircrew are highly qualified and proficient in the flying procedures, standard profiles, and demonstration techniques (reference AFI 11-246, *Air Force Aircraft Demonstrations*; appropriate aircraft volume) planned for the event.

2.4.5.2. Personnel exhibit superb military bearing and are present in the proper uniform at the aircraft or equipment during periods of public viewing.

2.4.5.3. Personnel possess in-depth knowledge of the aircraft or equipment and of the Air Force, in general.

2.4.5.4. Personnel can communicate effectively with the public.

2.4.6. Provides a single point of contact within the operations directorate for all command participation in military or public events covered by this instruction. Provides the point of contact's name, rank, office symbol, e-mail address, and defense switched network (DSN) and commercial voice and fax numbers to AF/A3OO and SAF/PAY. The designated point of contact may be in a subordinate numbered air force.

2.4.7. Ensures a planned flyover profile is tailored to the specific event site. The unit commander or a designated representative must review and approve these profiles. The approving authority must ensure compliance with applicable Air Force policy directives and instructions, aircraft specific training manuals, MAJCOM supplements, and all FAA/Host Nation rules and regulations. Deviations from approved flight profiles are not authorized except for safety of flight. (T-0).

2.4.8. Ensures aircraft and equipment placed on static display are made safe according to [Attachment 3](#) and MAJCOM supplement to AFI11-209.

2.4.9. Coordinates all planned participation in military or public events with the FAA through the regional Air Force representative (or host nation equivalent). This can be delegated to the participating unit. Coordination is not required if participation consists only of static display support.

2.4.10. Provides an aerial control team as directed in MAJCOM supplement to AFI11-209 and in the following cases:

2.4.10.1. Events requiring precise timing.

2.4.10.2. High visibility events (i.e., National Sporting Event).

2.4.10.3. Aerial reviews.

2.4.10.4. Directed by AF/A3O.

2.4.10.5. Events that involve regular Air Force or Air Reserve Component (ARC) aircraft and occur within the Washington, DC national capital region, as defined as within a 15 nautical mile radius of Arlington memorial bridge (see [paragraph 2.6.1](#)).

2.4.11. Submits requests to SAF/IA for coordination and participation approval of foreign aircraft or foreign military demonstration teams (flying teams or parachute demonstration teams) in Continental United States open house events.

2.4.12. Requests waivers to this instruction.

2.4.13. MAJCOMs may delegate duties, responsibilities and approval levels within their supplement to this instruction, unless specifically prohibited by this instruction.

2.4.14. Will ensure that aviation support is cancelled for an air show or event if the event sponsor does not fund lodging, local transportation, fuel, and aerial control team support as required by DoDDs and DoDI.

2.5. Mission Commander. In general, the mission commander is the on-scene commander responsible for conducting the mission, its overall safety and ultimately makes the “go” or “no-go” decision. A mission commander is required for flyovers, aerial reviews, and aerial demonstrations. The mission commander, or deputy, must be highly qualified, having a thorough understanding of the aerial event being undertaken. (T-3). The mission commander’s responsibilities include, but are not limited to, flyover safety, weather considerations, timing, sequencing, and airspace and range clearances. The mission commander should be able to directly communicate with the pilot or aircraft commander or should be able to relay information to the pilot or aircraft commander. In some cases, the senior member of the aerial control team is designated as the mission commander. In the event the senior member of the aerial control team is not the mission commander, then the mission commander may be one of the following:

2.5.1. The pilot in command for a single ship aerial event.

2.5.2. The flight lead for a multiple aircraft aerial event.

2.5.3. Ground-based military officer or a civilian acting as an air boss for an air show or other ceremony.

2.5.4. Senior enlisted military member working in the tower.

2.5.5. DoD-civilian airspace manager or civilian air traffic controllers with air traffic control (ATC) tower or rated pilot/navigator experience working in the control tower.

2.6. Aerial Control Team Responsibilities. An aerial control team is a highly experienced individual or team of individuals organized and established to control Air Force participation in military and public events. Each MAJCOM will establish qualifications for aerial control team members. Employing an aerial control team is appropriate when Air Force participation includes large numbers of aircraft or aircraft from more than one MAJCOM or service. For events involving Air Force aircraft within the national capital region (defined as within a 15 nautical mile radius of Arlington memorial bridge, which includes Arlington National Cemetery), coordination for aerial control team support must be made through ACC/A3TA, DSN 574-8346, not later than seven duty days prior to the event. (T-2). The aerial control team is responsible for the following:

2.6.1. Planning Air Force participation and coordinating details with participating commands, commanders, participants, and the FAA.

2.6.2. Briefing commanders and participants on all aspects of participation to include, at a minimum, flight profiles, airspeeds, altitudes, holding patterns, communication frequencies, ATC coverage, area traffic density, area hazards, weather minimums, alternate weather procedures, and other relevant operational considerations.

2.6.3. Controlling the flow and movement of all participating aircraft. Aerial control teams should use FAA assigned radio frequencies.

2.6.4. Serving as the on-scene advisor to the mission commander, or as the mission commander if requested by the MAJCOM.

Chapter 3

TYPE OF EVENT

3.1. Public Event. Public events are community relations events not connected with the military function of the DoD and intended primarily for non-military audiences. These events may be on or off-base; and may take place in the Continental United States or outside of the Continental United States.

3.1.1. Sponsorship. Public events can be sponsored by either DoD or non-DoD organizations. Such events can be good community relations and recruiting opportunities. Military exercises, movements, maneuvers or operations are not considered public events merely on the basis of being incidentally observed by the general public.

3.1.2. Showmanship and Professionalism. The primary purpose of Air Force participation at public events is to demonstrate a high level of professionalism and competence while entertaining spectators. It is vital that supervisors, pilots, aircrew members and other participants keep this purpose in mind during the planning and execution of aerial events. This includes strict compliance with show lines, flying procedures and minimum altitude restrictions in accordance with relevant law, regulations and instructions.

3.2. Military Event. Military events are official DoD events that are sponsored by the DoD, a DoD Component, MAJCOM, or MAJCOM component and are intended primarily for military personnel, civil service personnel, and dependents. Military Events are hosted at facilities owned, leased or operated by the DoD. Military Events should only be considered for aerial support if the event is held outdoors. If there is a question on whether an event is considered a military event or a public event, contact MAJCOM/PA for clarification.

3.2.1. Retirement/Change of Command Ceremony. Flyovers or aerial reviews for off-base retirement or change of command ceremonies are not permitted. Ceremonies eligible for aerial support, if they are held on-base, are approved only for the following personnel as noted below:

3.2.1.1. The Chief of Staff of the Air Force or any combatant command commander (CC) is authorized an aerial review. Air Force participation in multi-service or multi-national aerial reviews is approved. MAJCOMs will provide an information copy to AF/A3OO containing the number and type of aircraft participating.

3.2.1.2. The vice chief of staff of the Air Force, a MAJCOM/CC or a state adjutant general is authorized a flyover by a single formation (up to a four-ship for fighter/trainer-type aircraft or one-ship for bomber/heavy aircraft).

3.2.1.3. A combatant command deputy commander (CD), MAJCOM/CV, a NAF/CC, a Center/CC or the Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force is authorized a flyover by a single aircraft.

3.2.1.4. Exception-to-policy requests for flyovers supporting retirement and change of command ceremonies require Vice Chief of Staff of the Air Force (AF/CV) approval. AF/CV approval is required for a flyover if the participating aircraft is (are) from another service, nation, or civilian organization. Requests must be made through the MAJCOM to AF/A3OO.

3.2.1.5. MAJCOMs may authorize aviation support, with their respective aircraft, in the form of static displays for on-base retirement or change of command ceremonies (as designated in MAJCOM supplement to this instruction).

3.2.2. The installation commander may deem other on-base military events eligible based on the contribution such events make to fostering esprit de corps, military values and patriotism, and on their ability to stand the test of public scrutiny. Examples of other eligible events are: military graduation ceremonies, retreat ceremonies, memorial ceremonies, and military parades. MAJCOMs have the authority to approve flyovers or jump platform aircraft by their assigned operational aircraft in support of approved events on their respective command bases.

3.2.3. On-base patriotic observances (see [paragraph 5.3](#) for off-base criteria)

3.2.4. Retirement ceremonies and change of command ceremonies (see [paragraph 3.2.1](#) for criteria).

3.2.5. Funeral or memorial events (see [chapter 5](#) for criteria).

3.2.6. On-base unit change of aircraft and unit flag retirement ceremonies

3.3. Civilian Event. A civilian event is not sponsored by the DoD or DoD component (e.g. sporting events, community parades, etc.) SAF/PAY will determine if the event is a civilian event along with any limitations supporting such events in accordance with DoDI 5410.19, AFI 35-105. NOTE: All civilian events approved by SAF/PAY are considered public events and listed on the SAF/PA website (<https://www.airshows.pa.hq.af.mil>).

3.4. Types of support for aerial events.

3.4.1. Static Display. A subset of aviation support through the ground display of military aircraft and related equipment not involving taxiing or starting of engines while spectators are in the display area.

3.4.1.1. Small Public Events. The installation commander is the approval authority for static displays for events like base tours and will follow all operational required approvals for aircraft not in the current inventory (see [paragraph 6.5](#)) (T-2).

3.4.1.2. Large Public Events. MAJCOM/A3s or designated representative may approve on-base static displays for assigned operational resources not in conjunction with a retirement or change of command ceremony.

3.4.1.3. Participation guidance is located in the table at [Attachment 2](#). Consider the safety standards in [Attachment 3](#), along with those in Technical Order 00-80G-1, *Make Safe Procedures for Public Static Display* series publications, in planning and staging each static display. Aircraft specific guidance in a technical order supersedes the general guidance in this AFI.

3.4.2. Flyover. A single straight and level non-aerobatic pass by no more than four military aircraft in formation (of the same type, and from the same military service) over a predetermined point on the ground, and at a specified time.

3.4.2.1. All flyovers must be flown as an adjunct to an approved training sortie. (T-1).

3.4.2.2. The single pass limit does not apply to military open houses or civilian air shows, where multiple flyover passes are authorized, subject to MAJCOM approval.

3.4.2.3. Bank angles of up to 90 degrees, but not to exceed AFI 11-2-MDS, Volume 3 limits.

3.4.3. Dissimilar Formation Flyover. Formation flyovers comprised of four or fewer multiple mission design series aircraft of the same type; multiple types of aircraft; aircraft from multiple military services or nations; and/or civilian aircraft. Flyovers flown with multiple types of aircraft are to be undertaken with consideration to safety, compatible flying characteristics and the overall theme of the event that is being supported.

3.4.3.1. Formations of four or fewer aircraft of multiple mission design series and the same type are approved by MAJCOM/A3 or designated representative. Formations of four or fewer aircraft comprised of Air Force aircraft with aircraft from other services or nations, or with civilian aircraft require MAJCOM/CC approval (inform AF/A3OO for AF/CC and AF/A3 visibility).

3.4.3.2. If tanker aircraft are used to support an aerial event, they may be accompanied by aircraft acting as receivers.

3.4.3.2.1. Air refueling formation flyovers will not be conducted with the receiver closer than the pre-contact position. (T-1).

3.4.4. Aerial Reviews. A flyover of more than four aircraft or of multiple types of aircraft, or of aircraft representing more than one military service, with elements in trail formation and not involving precision maneuvers or demonstrations. A single element involving four aircraft of multiple types from the same Military Service is not considered an aerial review, but should be undertaken only with applicable consideration given to safety, compatible flying characteristics, and overall theme of the event that is being supported. Air show flights are exempt.

3.4.4.1. Aerial Review. After the office of the assistant secretary of defense public affairs event approval (if required), the level of participation approval is as follows:

3.4.4.1.1. Assets from Single MAJCOM. Aerial reviews involving assets from a single MAJCOM require MAJCOM approval. MAJCOMs will inform AF/A3OO of aerial review approvals and assets involved (other than air shows, open houses and trade shows). (T-1).

3.4.4.1.2. Assets from Multiple MAJCOMs. Multi-MAJCOM aerial reviews require the approval of each command providing aircraft for the aerial review. The event organizer must consolidate MAJCOM approvals and forward to USAF/A3OO (inform). (T-1).

3.4.4.2. As distinctly diverse assets, SAF/PAY and AF/A3O will approve the combination of a parachute jump and flyover or a flyover and aircraft demonstration (not to exceed a total of four elements) at public events. Use of such aviation assets is reviewed on a case-by-case basis. Approval is based on the supportive justification as to the significance of the event and the ability to provide such resources at no additional costs to the government. U. S. Air Force Academy (USAFA) demonstrations using their own assets at home football games, on-base parades, graduation and other major on-base

patriotic events are exempt from needing a waiver to have a non-organic flyover in addition to their organic assets at the same event.

3.4.5. Aerial Demonstrations. Aerial Demonstrations include virtually every type of aerial participation by fixed-wing aircraft and rotary-wing aircraft in support of public or military events (except aerial reviews and flyovers). For the purpose of this instruction, aerial demonstrations include such events as fire power demonstrations, capability exercises, and combat search and rescue demonstrations. Subset demonstrations include events such as air refueling demonstrations, weapons employment, air insertion/recovery demonstrations, engine running offloads, and aircraft backing demonstrations. See AFI 11-246 series, for specific policy on aerial demonstration teams, and demonstration profiles for certain aircraft.

3.4.5.1. The AFI 11-246 series specify policy for aerial demonstrations (to include demonstration teams), demonstration profiles for certain aircraft and the procedures for non-standard profile approval. Training events *incidentally* observed by the general public are not considered to be aerial demonstrations (see [Attachment 2](#)). However, flying operations conducted for training but intended to be viewed by non-military audiences are in fact aerial demonstrations, and the events supported in this manner are public events falling under [paragraphs 3.1](#) and [3.2](#). An example would be the use of joint airborne / air transportability training (JA/ATT) missions to airdrop personnel and/or equipment for training, while inviting a non-military audience to view the airdrop through a public advertising campaign (TV/radio announcements, newspaper ads, etc.). In this example, clearly the use of advertising to encourage the presence of non-military spectators establishes the activity as an aerial demonstration for a public event.

3.4.5.2. Lead MAJCOMs need not publish in their assigned volume the profiles that are uniquely tailored for a specific military or civilian event and which are planned for use on a one-time basis. Although the lead MAJCOM is released from the requirement to incorporate these uniquely tailored profiles in the command volume, the MAJCOM/A3 (or equivalent) having jurisdiction over the participating aircrew and aircraft must approve every uniquely tailored profile prior to its execution. If the uniquely tailored profile is planned to be used on a continuing basis, then the MAJCOM must submit the profile to the lead MAJCOM for possible inclusion in AFI 11-246 series. (T-1).

3.4.5.3. MAJCOMs may publish profiles in the MAJCOM supplement to this instruction for flight operations or procedures falling outside the purview of the applicable AFI 11-246 series. **Note:** Guidance is not intended to limit aviation support at public air shows or military open house events. These events may be supported with multiple static displays, multiple flyovers (with multiple passes) and multiple aerial demonstrations, all approved in accordance with the normal procedures in this instruction for event and participation approval. Additionally, multiple aerial events supporting two or more separate events at a single geographic location in a single day can be authorized in accordance with the normal procedures in this instruction (for example: a flyover for a USAFA graduation ceremony and a funeral flyover at the USAFA cemetery, both at approximately the same time). Each event should stand on its own, and be completely independent.

3.4.6. **Funeral Flyovers:** Refer to [chapter 5](#).

3.4.7. Missing Man Formation. A flyover reserved for appropriate occasions and is employed only on those occasions when the theme is solemn and commemorative. This formation may be flown for any funeral or memorial approved in accordance with this AFI or to support commemorative events on the following patriotic holidays: 1) Memorial Day, 2) National Prisoner of War/Missing in Action (POW/MIA) Recognition Day, and 3) Veterans Day. When the missing man formation is flown on a patriotic holiday, the commemorative event, which the formation supports, may not be held in conjunction with another event such as an air show or sporting event. All other uses of the missing man formation require the approval of MAJCOM/A3 (may not be delegated).

Chapter 4

OPERATIONAL APPROVALS AND LIMITATIONS

4.1. Aerial Event Operational Approvals. Aviation support at public and military events requires participation approval from operations. This chapter outlines the required levels of participation approval for aerial events at public and/or military events. For all operational approvals, see [Attachment 2](#). Air Force aviation support not described in this chapter must receive MAJCOM and AF/A3O approval before the performance. For events outside of the United States, approvals will comply with combatant command directives. (T-1).

4.2. Operational Criteria. Safety is the prime consideration at all times. Do not engage in activities that compromise the safety of spectators or that could damage or destroy property. **Note:** The thunderbirds demonstration team, MAJCOM single ship demonstration teams, aviation record flights, and the USAF heritage flight program use operational criteria provided in their own approved Air Force or MAJCOM instructions; all other Air Force aircraft participating in aerial events use the criteria presented in this instruction.

4.2.1. Weather Minimums . Weather must allow operations under visual flight rules in accordance with AFI 11-202, Volume 3, *General Flight Rules*, and applicable AFI 11-2MDS, Volume 3, *MDS Specific Operations Procedures*. Weather minimums are “flyover minimum altitude” plus 500 feet and 3 miles visibility. (T-1). The MAJCOM or mission commander may set higher minimums based on the nature of the event, local terrain, or other factors.

4.2.2. Altitude Minimums . The minimum altitudes published in AFI 11-202, Volume 3 and in FAA regulations for densely populated, congested and non-congested areas apply. If the venue for an event is on a riverbank with a show line or flyover ground track over water or over the opposite bank, treat this location for a flyover as a congested area since spectators can congregate on both sides of the river. If the venue for an event is on the shore of the ocean, large bay, or large lake with a show line or flyover ground track over the open water, treat this location for a flyover as a non-congested area.

4.2.2.1. Air Force Minimum Altitudes. In certain cases, such as demonstration team performances, approved maneuver packages, and entry and exit into flyover areas, the FAA may specifically waive the altitude requirements below. Even if the FAA authorizes a lower altitude, Air Force controlled aircraft must not be flown lower than the following minimum altitudes:

4.2.2.1.1. 500 feet above ground level for flyovers. (T-1).

4.2.2.1.2. MAJCOMs are authorized to establish altitudes lower than 500 feet above ground level during aerial demonstrations when lower altitudes are necessary to properly demonstrate capabilities (subject to FAA waiver provisions); and during weapons employment demonstrations on approved weapons ranges (subject to range orders and mission design series specific operating limitations). (T-2).

4.2.3. Airspeed Limitations. Airspeed guidance in AFI 11-202, Volume 3, applies to all aerial events. The minimum airspeed for the operation of any fixed-wing Air Force aircraft participating in any military or civilian event is stall speed plus 30 percent for the aircraft

configuration. Airlift aircraft used in demonstrating standard, approved tactical procedures, such as assault takeoffs or assault landings, may be flown at lower airspeeds, but not at airspeeds lower than specified in technical order publications. Maximum airspeed is limited to .90 mach, or a lower airspeed if stipulated in a governing Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) waiver, for all aerial demonstrations except for approved record flights and demonstration teams (see note after [paragraph 4.2](#)). Demonstration teams use a maximum speed of .95 mach. FAA waiver may be required for airspeeds above 250 knots below 10,000 mean sea level. Exception: sailplane demos will comply with AFI 11-246, Volume 7.

4.2.4. Time Limitations. Due to safety concerns and reduced public relations benefit, aerial events are authorized only between the beginning of morning civil twilight and the end of evening civil twilight. (T-1). Waivers will not be granted. The USAFA Wings of Blue parachute team is authorized an exception to this policy provided a FAA waiver (FAA Form 7711-2, *Certification of Waiver or Authorization Application*) is obtained for each night jump in accordance with 14 code of federal regulations (CFR) Part 105.21 (*Parachute Operations Over or Into a Congested Area or An Open-air Assembly of Persons*). (T-0).

4.2.5. Communications. Aerial control teams and on-site ground supervisors will use FAA provided radio frequencies to control aviation assets. (T-0).

4.2.6. Spectator Area. The event organizer for aerial demonstrations must set up a designated spectator area safely separated from the area over which the aerial demonstrations will occur—safety is always a primary consideration in selecting the spectator area and in establishing the show line for flight operations. Official observers and spectators must stay within their designated area. (T-1). Aircraft conducting demonstrations at military or civilian events will not over-fly the designated spectator area below 1,000 feet unless specifically waived by the FAA and the parent MAJCOM. The event organizer must ensure a 1,500-foot minimum distance exists between the spectator area and the show line for all military aircraft demonstrations. The 1,500-foot minimum distance can be reduced under the following circumstances. (T-0):

4.2.6.1. To 1,200 feet between the spectator area and the show line if the FAA grants such a waiver and if the parent MAJCOM approves.

4.2.6.2. To 1,000 feet between the spectator area and the intended airdrop impact point or the drop zone boundary (whichever is greater) for the following tactical airdrop demonstrations:

4.2.6.2.1. Equipment

4.2.6.2.2. Container delivery system

4.2.6.2.3. Personnel using round canopies

4.2.6.3. To 500 feet between the spectator area and the show line for a helicopter operational demonstration and for fixed-wing assault landing or assault takeoff demonstrations.

4.2.6.4. To 500 feet between the spectator area and the show line for USAF vintage aircraft programs.

4.2.6.5. To 500 feet between the spectator area and the show line for glider aerial demonstrations; notwithstanding, only 200 feet is required between spectators and glider aircraft during takeoff and 75 feet during landing.

4.2.6.6. To 50 feet between the spectator area and the landing target for the airdrop of precision parachute demonstration teams (for example, the Wings of Blue) when steerable square main and reserve canopies are used. The airdrop may include a high altitude, low opening demonstration.

4.2.7. **Compliance with Flight Procedures.** Continental United States operations will comply with all FAA and Air Force rules and instructions. (T-0) For aircraft operations outside the United States, comply with host nation air rules and procedures and with the USAF foreign clearance guide. Coordinate with host nation ATC representatives before an over flight of a foreign country. (T-0).

4.2.8. **Force Protection.** The safety of Air Force personnel and the protection of Air Force aircraft and equipment is paramount. Force protection measures will be taken into consideration, when providing aerial event aviation support for military and public events. It is imperative that Air Force members at all levels are situationally aware of potential threats to Air Force personnel and equipment when deciding to participate in any military or civilian event. Refer to AFMAN 31-201, Volume 3, *Flight Operations*; AFI 31-101, *Integrated Defense*; and AFI 10-1004.

Chapter 5

FUNERAL OR MEMORIAL SERVICE FLYOVERS

5.1. Funeral or Memorial Service Flyovers. Funeral and memorial services for members who meet the governing criteria are eligible for Air Force flyovers ([paragraph 5.2](#)). Funeral and memorial service flyover requests are initiated by the next of kin through the servicing base mortuary affairs office to air force mortuary affairs, and staffed through AF/A3OO for eligibility approval. (T-1). Funeral flyover request procedures can be found in AFI 34-501. Flyover support for eligible and exception-to-policy funeral/memorial flyovers are provided by volunteer units. A funeral or memorial flyover is to be flown as part of a training sortie, not a stand-alone mission. For the event, the flyover will consist of no more than one heavy (those where the base airframe model type begins with “B”, “C”, “E”, “KC”, or “U”) or four fighter/rotary aircraft (“A”, “F”, “T”, and helicopters) and make one pass. Multiple heavies and aerial reviews will not be considered. **Note:** The servicing base mortuary affairs (MA), base honor guard and Air Force mortuary affairs operations (AFMAO) is the single point of contact for the next of kin (NOK).

5.2. Eligibility. The following list are eligible for an Air Force funeral or memorial flyover:

5.2.1. Regular Air Force or currently serving Air Reserve Component rated officers (pilots, navigators, air battle managers, observers, and flight surgeons, etc.) and career enlisted aviators (1AXXX enlisted crewmembers, i.e. flight engineers, loadmasters, boom operators, etc.). This category includes those taking courses of instruction leading to an aeronautical rating. Treat Air Reserve Component members the same as Regular Air Force (eligible when death occurs whether on or off duty). This includes Air Reserve Component members not on unit training assembly or military orders.

5.2.2. Regular Air Force or currently serving Air Reserve Component non-rated officers, non-career enlisted aviators, and operations support flyers (as defined in AFI 11-402, *Aviation and Parachutist Service, Aeronautical Ratings and Badges*, i.e. nurses, medical technicians, intelligence specialists, etc.) but only when death occurs in the line of duty while performing aviation duties.

5.2.3. Dignitaries of the armed forces and federal government. AF/A3O has the authority to designate dignitaries of the armed forces; requests with full justification are made through the MAJCOM staff to AF/A3OO.

5.2.4. Regular Air Force or Air Reserve Component retired USAF 3-star and 4-star general officers, regardless of aeronautical rating.

5.2.5. Regular Air Force or Air Reserve Component retired Chief Master Sergeants of the Air Force.

5.2.6. Air Force members (Regular Air Force or Air Reserve Component, retired or honorably separated) who have been awarded the Medal of Honor, Air Force Cross, Army Distinguished Service Cross, or Navy Cross.

5.2.7. Air Force aviators (Regular Air Force or Air Reserve Component, retired or honorably separated) who have achieved at least one or more officially recognized aerial victories. The Air Force Historical Research Agency is the official source for aerial victories.

5.2.8. Air Force members (Regular Air Force or Air Reserve Component, retired or honorably separated) who were POWs. **Note:** Repatriated remains of individuals meeting the requirements of [paragraph 5.2.1](#) or [5.2.2](#) are entitled to flyover honors.

5.2.9. Although a funeral/memorial flyover may be authorized by meeting the above criteria, it may not always be appropriate. A funeral or memorial flyover is part of the honors bestowed on the deceased. If the lifestyle of an individual during or following his or her military service is not within the standards normally expected of a military professional or if the circumstances surrounding the death reflect negatively on the Air Force, a funeral flyover may not be approved in all cases. AF/A3O will make the determination in these cases for all eligible and exception-to-policy funerals and notify the participating MAJCOM of the decision.

5.2.10. If a deceased member is eligible, no further Headquarters USAF approval is required. MAJCOMs grant participation approval for funeral/memorial flyovers (inform AF/A3OO); however, if package has no volunteer unit when received for funeral flyover then AF/A3OO will inform MAJCOMs to solicit a volunteer unit to perform the eligible flyover. Once a volunteer has been secured, AF/A3OO will notify via email the air force mortuary affairs office, volunteering unit's MAJCOM, and Air Combat Command (ACC) (when an aerial control team is needed). For exceptions-to-policy, follow procedures outlined in [paragraph 5.4](#).

5.3. Memorial Flyovers. Procedures and approval levels for memorial flyovers are the same as for funeral flyovers. Memorial flyovers commemorate or recognize an individual, group, or historically significant event. MAJCOMs may approve on-base flyovers in this category (may be delegated to Wing/CC). For deceased members authorized a flyover per [paragraph 5.2](#), and when the funeral service is held off-base, MAJCOM may authorize an additional memorial flyover at the base to which the individual was assigned (inform AF/A3OO). An off-base memorial flyover on other than the five patriotic holidays requires an exception-to-policy approved by AF/A3O and SAF/PAY.

5.4. Exceptions-to-Policy. Servicing base mortuary affairs initiates requests for exceptions to funeral and memorial service policy and staffs the request through MAJCOMs to AF/A3OO. Requests that are handled directly by Air Force mortuary affairs are staffed to AF/A3OO. Exception-to-policy are based on appropriate use of limited resources, and are typically considered only for service marked by valor or heroism. Exception-to-policy requests are to reach AF/A3OO at least 10 duty days prior to the event (unless the exception-to-policy comes in with a volunteer then seven duty days prior to the event). AF/A3OO coordinates a package for Air Force Director of Staff (AF/DS) decision. Include the following in the request:

5.4.1. DD Form 214, *Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty*, or similar discharge documentation recording the individual's honorable discharge, rank, and decorations.

5.4.2. A letter from the next of kin or the person acting on their behalf requesting the flyover.

5.4.3. A biography of the individual's service. Include commands and significant acts of valor or heroism.

5.4.4. Any other information about the individual's military service that is notable.

5.4.5. AF/A3OO will process the exception-to-policy to AF/DS for a decision once the requester has secured a volunteer. AF/A3OO will notify Air Force mortuary affairs office, volunteering unit's MAJCOM, and ACC not later than seven business days in advance of the funeral/memorial flyover (when an aerial control team is needed for funerals/memorials at Arlington National Cemetery) when package is approved/disapproved.

Chapter 6

ADDITIONAL GUIDANCE

6.1. USAFA On-Base Events . All definitions and policy apply to the USAFA. Examples of approved on-base USAFA events are graduation ceremonies, football games, parades, ceremonies with a patriotic/military theme (reference AFI 35-105). The USAFA aerial events office will notify participating MAJCOMs when flyovers are scheduled by more than one MAJCOM on the same day. When more than one flyover is scheduled within any three hour period, this notification will include as a minimum: flyover timing, number of aircraft in each flight, direction of flight, altitude, USAFA point of contact, and other information deemed necessary for safety of flight. (T-1).

6.2. MAJCOM-to-MAJCOM Aerial Event Requests. Participation requests from one MAJCOM to another for aerial event support of military or public events are approved by the MAJCOM owning the requested assets.

6.2.1. Within the Air Force, requests for Air Force participation in a military event must be sent from requesting unit (base) to its parent MAJCOM and, if approved, from the parent MAJCOM to the MAJCOM owning the requested aircraft, except for requests supporting an open house. For an open house, the requesting unit may send a request for participation directly to the unit owning the desired aircraft or equipment; the owning unit will ensure all coordination/approval requirements imposed by the owning MAJCOM are satisfied before committing support. Examples include an AFRC unit is requesting for AFRC pilots to fly ACC aircraft during a flyover, then the AFRC unit must provide AFRC coordination (as delegated) to the ACC unit owning the aircraft before the ACC unit submits the flyover request to ACC for approval consideration; if an Air Mobility Command (AMC) unit is requesting an Air Force Global Strike Command (AFGSC) flyover of an AMC military event, then the AMC unit must submit their request to AFGSC through AMC channels. Exception: For an open house, the requesting unit may send a request for participation directly to the unit owning the desired aircraft or equipment; the owning unit ensures all coordination/approval requirements imposed by the owning MAJCOM are satisfied before committing support.

6.2.2. Air Force units are to follow MAJCOM-to-MAJCOM procedures when requesting aircraft from the U.S. Army, Navy, or Marine Corps. For MAJCOM-to-MAJCOM requests, include AF/A300 and SAF/PAY as information addressees whenever the approval level involves any of the following: AF/CV, AF/DS, AF/A3, AF/A3O, Secretary of the Air Force, Acquisitions (SAF/AQ), or Office of the Secretary of Defense, Public Affairs (OASD/PA).

6.3. Air Force Parachute Team. Event and participation approval for an Air Force parachute team demonstration (i.e., by the USAFA “Wings of Blue”) is granted using the same procedures as a flyover (in accordance with AFI 35-105). Air Force aircraft serving as jump platforms for Air Force parachute team demonstrations at public or military events do not require separate approval. Event approval for the Air Force parachute team constitutes approval for the jump platform. If the aircraft serving as the jump platform is separately performing at the event (i.e. additional flyover or aerial demonstration), then separate approval is required. Owning MAJCOM may still require participation approval for their “jump platform” aircraft.

6.4. Record Flights and Flights of a Spectacular Nature. Flights of this nature require SAF/PAY and AF/A3O approval.

6.5. Test Aircraft. Aerial events of any kind, including static displays, involving aircraft or equipment undergoing testing in a research and development program require approval from SAF/PAY, AF/ A3, and SAF/AQ (See AFI 35-105).

6.6. Remotely Piloted Aircraft. Review and approval for remotely piloted aircraft events are accomplished by the MAJCOM in the same manner as other Mission Design Series aircraft. Certain Remotely Piloted Aircraft, e.g. RQ-4B, may require additional coordination due to the unique characteristics of the aircraft and its wingspan. A site survey of the air field, particularly Outside of the Continental United States, is generally required to obtain precise global positioning system (GPS) data for runways and taxiways. Additionally mission plans, airspace coordination, departure/arrival routing and contingency procedures will be coordinated with the host nation. (T-0). Units must consider the lengthy lead times for coordination.

6.7. USAF Heritage Flight Training Program. The following guidance applies to the USAF heritage flight training course, and covers all training requirements in accordance with AFI 11-246, Vol 1.

6.7.1. The intent of the annual training program is to prepare Air Force aircrews and vintage aircraft pilots to safely fly in formation at public air shows and open house events that benefit Air Force recruiting and community relations programs. Because support staff are acting in an official capacity related to DoD activities, use of invitational travel orders to pay travel, per diem, lodging and local transportation is also permitted as specified in the Joint Travel Regulation, Volume II.

6.7.2. MAJCOMs ensure compliance with applicable AFIs including AFI 11-202, Volume 3 and AFI 11-401, *Aviation Management* travel during the heritage flight training course.

6.7.2.1. Military aircrew members, key military leadership/civilian personnel (ACC staff and host wing) and ACC aerial events defense contractors that have flights authorized in a performance work statement may fly on warbird civil aircraft during heritage flight training course training sessions.

6.7.2.2. Military media personnel and civilian media personnel (as part of an approved media orientation flight in accordance with AFI 35-104, *Media Operations*) may fly as passengers on those warbirds engaged in observation flights provided the aircraft are not engaged in demonstration training or formation flights. Training is to take place over unpopulated areas. All warbirds operators must have liability insurance covering training flights and passengers. (T-1).

6.8. Air Shows/Open Houses. The term “open house” identifies a traditional activity held on military installations while the term “air show” identifies a civilian activity. Open house and air show have been used interchangeably in the past, but open house is a more comprehensive term for the spectrum of events in the Air Force. Air shows and open houses may be supported by multiple static displays, multiple flyovers (with multiple passes) and multiple aerial demonstrations. AFI 10-1004 provides guidance and procedures for planning and conducting Air Force open houses. SAF/PA approves civilian air shows for Air Force support and MAJCOMs approve the participation of their respective aircraft (see [Attachment 2](#)).

6.9. Exception-to-Policy Procedures for Public Events. Public events for which exception-to-policy procedures apply must be evaluated and approved by both SAF/PAY and AF/A3OO; participation approval is delegated to the MAJCOMs for the aviation support (see AFI 35-105).

6.9.1. Annually AF/A3O and SAF/PA will release a joint message, categorizing the events for the coming year for which event sponsors are requesting exception-to-policy event approval. The message will assign the level of aviation support considered appropriate for selected events by name.

6.9.2. Exception-to-policy approved events are posted to the *U.S. Air Force Aerial Events Support* web site. AF/A3O delegates participation approval to MAJCOM/A3, or designated representative, for exception-to-policy approved events. MAJCOM ensures that the volunteer unit supports the event as an addition to an approved training mission and that the support rendered passes the test of public scrutiny (i.e. training accomplished, impact to operations, proximity of event to the base, additional support requirements, and wing commander support). Once participation approval is granted, the MAJCOM office responsible for aerial events will update SAF/PA website not later than two working days prior to the event to reflect that participation has been granted. Notification includes at a minimum the participation approval, unit, type, and number of supporting aircraft.

6.10. Overseas Public and Military Events. For public events outside the United States, Canada and Mexico, the combatant commanders exercise event and participation approval over events falling within their respective Area of Responsibility. As such, combatant commanders are responsible for securing the appropriate host nation flight approval. The combatant commanders may delegate the responsibility for event and participation approval level. The delegate will notify SAF/PAY and AF/A3OO of their delegated authority. **(T-1)**.

6.10.1. MAJCOMs will inform AF/A3OO and SAF/PAY when Continental United States based aircraft will participate in overseas events (public or military) at least 30 days prior to the event for Chief of Staff of the Air Force visibility. Additionally, inform AF/A3OO and SAF/PAY for any USAF aircraft participation in overseas events at non-DoD facilities at least 30 days prior to the event for Chief of Staff of the Air Force visibility. If the request from the event is short notice, precluding a 30-day notification, inform AF/A3OO and SAF/PAY immediately. Responsibility for this notification is primarily with the owning MAJCOM, but notification may come from the outside of the Continental United States MAJCOM. AF or OASD/PA approval may be required in some cases where CONUS based aircraft participate in overseas events.

6.10.2. Aerial reviews at overseas events with assets from multiple services or nations, or those involving civilian aircraft, will be approved in accordance with combatant command directives (inform AF/A3OO). AF/A3 approval is not required for civilian aircraft not under Air Force control, therefore they do not count as part of an Aerial review.

6.10.3. Support for air shows, open houses, or other events outside of the United States, except Canada and Mexico, will be supported only with in-theater assets, unless approved otherwise by AF/A3OO. Notwithstanding the combatant commanders' participation approval authority over aircraft entering their respective Areas of Responsibility, the owning MAJCOM's operational control over their aircraft is not preempted or diminished.

6.11. International Air Shows and Trade Exhibitions. This paragraph applies to direct Air Force participation at international air shows and trade exhibitions, organized primarily for promoting sales of aerospace and other defense products (in accordance with DoDD 7230.8). For international air shows and other events that are organized only for the demonstration or display of aircraft and other defense equipment in support of PA activities, see [paragraph 6.10](#).

6.11.1. Under Secretary of Defense for Policy (USD(P)) has approval authority for DoD participation in international air shows and trade exhibitions, as delegated by the Secretary of Defense. No Air Force organization can participate in an international air show or trade exhibition unless the USD(P) has approved “direct DoD participation” and satisfied the other provisions of the law. The Defense Security Cooperation Agency (DSCA), staff agency for USD(P), posts policy, guidelines, and status information on international airshows and trade exhibitions on its web site www.dsca.mil.

6.11.2. Geographic combatant commanders, through their Air Force component commanders, and in conjunction with the U.S. Embassy country team, implement USD(P) air show policy and initiate requests for participation.

6.11.3. The Deputy Under Secretary of the Air Force, International Affairs (SAF/IA) coordinates Headquarters Air Force actions, to include politico-military analysis, validation of requirements, law, USAF security cooperation guidance, identification of Air Force assets requested, and coordination with industry.

6.11.4. MAJCOMs with units planning to participate in international air shows and trade exhibitions approved by USD(P) must first coordinate with DSCA via SAF/IA. This is normally accomplished during periodic teleconferences hosted by DSCA. Planning and execution details are developed by the MAJCOMs during this conference.

6.11.5. Additionally, AF/A3OO will submit the lists of requested USAF assets to the MAJCOMs to determine operational impact and to coordinate participation of assets from outside the requesting geographic combatant commander’s area of responsibility. During this process, AF/A3O reconciles the asset requests against the MAJCOM’s operational concerns, develops requirement lists (with USAF senior leadership positions), and tasks support as required.

6.12. Aerial Photography. Non-standard aerial event guidance including aerial photography must be coordinated in accordance with applicable MAJCOM supplements to AFI11-209. (T-1).

MARK C. NOWLAND, Lt Gen, USAF
Deputy Chief of Staff, Operations

Attachment 1**GLOSSARY OF REFERENCES AND SUPPORTING INFORMATION*****References***

14 Code of Federal Regulations Part 105.21, Parachute operations over or into a congested area or an open-air assembly of persons

DoD Directive 5410.18, *Public Affairs Community Relations Policy*

DoD Directive 7230.8, *Leases and Demonstrations of DoD Equipment*

DoD Instruction 5410.19, *Public Affairs Community Relations Policy Implementation*

DD Form 2535, *Request for Military Aerial Support*

AFI 10-1004, *Conducting Air Force Open Houses*, 18 Feb 2010

AFI 11-202, Vol 3, *General Flight Rules*, 7 Nov 2014

AFI 11-2MDS, Volume 3, *MDS Specific Operations Procedures*

AFI 11-246, Vol 1-6, *Air Force Aircraft Demonstration*, 23 Oct 2014

AFI 11-401, *Aviation Management*, 10 Dec 2010

AFI 11-402, *Aviation and Parachutist Service, Aeronautical Ratings and Badges*, 13 Dec 2010

AFI 31-101, *Integrated Defense*, 8 Oct 2009

AFI 34-501, *Mortuary Affairs Program*, 18 Aug 2015

AFI 35-104, *Media Operations*, 13 Jul 2015

AFI 35-105, *Community Relations*, 26 Jan 2010

AFI 64-103, *Leasing Non-Excess USAF Aircraft, Aircraft – Related Equipment and Other Personal Property to Non-Government Organizations*, 5 Jun 2015

AFMAN 31-201, Volume 3, *Flight Operations*, 24 Aug 2009

AFMAN 33-363, *Management of Records*, 1 Mar 2008

AFI 34-101, *Air Force Morale, Welfare, and Recreation (MWR) Programs and Use Eligibility*, 28 Mar 2013

AFI 34-108, *Commercial Sponsorship and Sale of Advertising*, 12 Oct 2011

AFPD 11-2, *Aircrew Operations*, 19 Jan 2012

T.O. 00-80G-1, *Make Safe Procedures for Public Static Display*, 30 Nov 2002

Adopted Forms

AF Form 679, *Air Force Compliance Item Waiver Request/Approval*

AF Form 847, *Recommendation for change of Publication*

DD Form 214, *Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty*

DD Form 2535, *Request for Military Aerial Support*

*FAA 7711-2, Certification of Waiver or Authorization Application***Terms**

Note:—To avoid changing traditional terminology used by the Air Force to discuss aviation support, the Air Force term aerial event as used in this instruction is synonymous with the DoD term aerial demonstration and the Air Force term aerial demonstration is synonymous with the DoD term aerial activity.

Aerial Control Team—A qualified individual or team of individuals who oversee and control USAF aerial participation, and aerial participation by other organizations, in selected public or military events. Aerial control team can be used synonymously with ground liaison officer (GLO) for the purposes of this instruction.

Aerial Demonstration—Aerial demonstration, a subset of aviation support, includes virtually every type of aerial participation by fixed-wing or rotary-wing aircraft in public or military events (except aerial review and flyover): aerobatics, assault landing/takeoffs, aircraft weapons or tactics demonstrations, USAF vintage aircraft programs, single-ship demonstration teams, airdrop demonstrations of personnel or equipment, engine-running offload and aircraft backing maneuvers, in-flight refueling demonstrations, Air Force parachute team performances, combat search and rescue demonstrations and helicopter flight demonstrations consisting of steep approach, quick-stop landing, hovering, or fire suppression. Aerial demonstration is synonymous with the phrases aerial demo, aircraft demonstration, aircraft capabilities demonstration, and aircraft capabilities exercise.

Aerial Demonstration Team—An officially designated DoD demonstration team such as the USAF Thunderbirds, US Navy Blue Angels, and US Army Golden Knights, etc. This term can be applied to USAF vintage aircraft (ACC Heritage Flight Program and AETC T-6A Texan II Aerial Demonstration Team) and MAJCOM single-ship demonstration teams.

Aerial Event—Aerial event, synonymous with aviation support, comprises static display, flyover, aerial review and aerial demonstration. Aerial demonstration includes a wide variety of aerial performances (see definition, above).

Aerial Review—Aerial review, a subset of aviation support, is a flyover of more than four aircraft, or of multiple types of aircraft, or of aircraft representing more than one military service or nation, regardless of horizontal/timing separation of flying elements. An aerial review may include civilian aircraft. It may have elements in trail formation and will not involve precision maneuvers or demonstrations. The elements of the aerial review may be individual aircraft, formations, or a combination of individual aircraft and formations. A single element flyover involving four or fewer aircraft of multiple MDS of the same type from the same Military Service is not considered an aerial review.

Aircraft Demonstration—See Aerial Demonstration.

Aircraft Weapons or Tactics Demonstration—An aerial demonstration of aircraft employing or simulating the employment of munitions, weapons, or combat tactics. May include use of ground-based pyrotechnics for effect.

Air Force Parachute Team Demonstration—An aerial free-fall parachute demonstration conducted by an official Air Force parachute demonstration team (i.e. United States Air Force Academy's "Wings of Blue").

Area of Responsibility—The geographical area associated with a commander's authority to plan and conduct operations.

Assault Landing Demonstration—An aircraft capabilities demonstration illustrating a technique used for landing on short runways. The aircraft is flown at a speed slightly above aircraft stall speed and on a steeper-than-normal approach path. After touchdown, maximum engine reverse thrust and braking are applied to stop the aircraft.

Assault (Max Performance) Takeoff Demonstration—An aircraft capabilities demonstration illustrating a takeoff technique used for departing short runways employing maximum takeoff power and climb rate for the aircraft. Also referred to as maximum performance takeoff or maximum effort takeoff.

Aviation Support—Aviation support, synonymous with aerial event, comprises static display, flyover, aerial review and aerial demonstration. Aerial demonstration includes a wide variety of aerial activities.

Capabilities Demonstration or Capabilities Exercise—Normally associated with aircraft demonstrating unique characteristics of a weapon system or group of weapon systems. A capabilities demonstration is one that shows the aircraft conducting maneuvers usually associated with its employment and is common to the airframe being shown.

Civil Twilight—The period that ends in the evening when the center of the sun's disk is 6 degrees below the horizon and begins in the morning when the center of the sun's disk is 6 degrees below the horizon, as published in the American Air Almanac, converted to local time. This is the limit at which twilight illumination is sufficient, under good weather conditions, for terrestrial objects to be clearly distinguished, and the horizon is clearly defined under good atmospheric conditions in the absence of moonlight or other illumination. In the morning before the beginning of civil twilight and in the evening after the end of civil twilight, artificial illumination is normally required to carry on ordinary outdoor activities.

Congested Area—Cities, towns, and settlements or the area surrounding an open-air assembly of persons.

Continental United States —Areas within the borders of the United States, not to include Alaska, Hawaii, or any U.S. Possessions but Washington D.C.

DD Form 2535, Request for Military Aerial Support—The form that event sponsors or organizers use to request military aerial support. It is normally submitted to SAF/PA to obtain event approval as a first step in gaining aerial support.

Demonstration Pilot or Crew—A highly qualified pilot or crew trained, proficient, and certified in the maneuvers or demonstration to be performed.

Dissimilar Formation Flyover—A single element flyover involving four or fewer aircraft of multiple MDS of the same type (i.e. F-15, F-16).

Eligible Events—Aerial events that have been screened by SAF/PA or other designated organization and deemed appropriate for Air Force participation.

Equipment Drop Demonstration—An aircraft capabilities demonstration illustrating the airdrop of equipment on platforms rigged with parachutes, individual containers rigged with parachutes, or small door bundles rigged with parachutes.

Event Approval—Issued when SAF/PA or other designated organization, determines the event (e.g., aviation show/open house, sporting event, commemoration, or civic event) is eligible for Air Force participation. Some events have automatic approval by virtue of USAF or DoD policy; otherwise, depending on the nature of the event, the evaluation process is conducted by one of several agencies. Event approval does not imply participation approval.

Exception-to-Policy Procedure—Procedures outlining the process to gain SAF/PA event approval when the military or civilian event does not fall within one of the categories addressed by DoD or AF policy. Submit such requests to SAF/PA who will route appropriate requests to AF/A3OO for coordination. See [paragraph 5.4](#).

Flight Team Demonstration—A demonstration by a DoD demonstration team such as the USAF air demonstration squadron (Thunderbirds) or the US Navy Blue Angels.

Flyover—Flyover, a subset of aviation support, is a straight and level flight limited to one pass by a single military aircraft, or by a single formation of four or fewer military aircraft of the same type from the same military service over a predetermined point on the ground at a specific time and not involving aerobatics or demonstrations; however, bank angles of up to 90 degrees are permissible and may be used if required to improve the spectator visibility of the aircraft.

Foreign Military Demonstration Team—Any military demonstration team not part of the DoD. May include, for example: Canadian Snowbirds, British Red Arrows, Italian Frecce Tri Colore, and the Japanese Blue Impulse.

Funeral Flyover—A flyover at a funeral, internment, or memorial ceremony that may be flown as a missing-man formation.

Helicopter Capabilities Demonstration—An aerial demonstration of helicopter capabilities such as those done during rescue or special operations missions (e.g., hoist, sling, rappelling, fast roping, pararescue deployment, operational approach, simulated ordnance delivery, etc.).

High Altitude, Low Opening Airdrop Demonstration—Demonstration of personnel delivery accomplished at or above 3,000 feet above ground level. The parachutists free fall to a predetermined altitude before deploying their parachutes to complete the descent.

Inflight Refueling Demonstration—An aircraft capabilities demonstration of aircraft employing inflight refueling procedures up to and including the pre-contact position.

International Airshow and Trade Exhibition—An activity organized specifically to promote sales of aerospace and defense products.

Jump Platform—Any Air Force aircraft used as a vehicle for a parachute team demonstration used in support of a military or public event.

Make Safe—To inactivate a weapon, a piece of ordnance, an ejection seat, or other device on an aircraft or its associated equipment so as to ensure that it cannot fire, launch, explode, detonate, or in any manner harm or injure spectators or other personnel as a result of its unintended operation (traditionally synonymous with “dearm,” “disarm,” and “disable”).

Mission Design Series (MDS)—The designation of an aircraft, i.e. C-130E, F-15C, B-1B.

Memorial—An event that commemorates or serves as a remembrance of a specific person, group, or historically significant occurrence. A memorial may be held in lieu of a funeral ceremony or on or near the anniversary of a significant event.

Military Event—An official DoD event (sponsored by DoD or DoD component or command) conducted in support of an assigned mission, including purposes of esprit-de-corps, primarily for military or civil service personnel, dependents, and limited guests. The event must be hosted on a facility owned, leased or operated by the DoD. (T-1).

Missing-Man Formation—A four-ship formation with the number three aircraft either missing or performing a pull-up maneuver at a specific time in the flight.

Multiple Flyovers—A flyover arrangement for a single event in which two or more flyover aircraft, or two or more flyover formations (or combination of flyover aircraft and flyover formations) conduct individual flyover passes over the same reference point on the ground regardless of timing separation between the flyover aircraft or flyover formations.

Multiple Passes—A flyover arrangement for a single event in which the flyover aircraft, or the flyover formation, maneuvers after the initial over flight of the desired reference point so as to execute one or more additional passes over the same point.

Next of Kin (NOK)—For the purposes of this instruction, the closest, living relative to a deceased person.

Off-base—On or over any location other than on-base.

On-base—On or over an installation or facility owned, leased, or operated by the DoD such as a base, camp, fort, post, reservation, school, ship, station, terminal facility, or range.

Open House—A military program conducted on an installation or other military facility to which the public is invited. A similar activity in civilian communities is called an airshow.

Parachute Team Demonstration—A demonstration of free fall or precision landing techniques.

Participation Approval—The approval process within the operations community leading to actual Air Force participation in public or military events.

Patriotic Holidays—Armed Forces Day (third Saturday in May), Memorial Day (last Monday in May), Independence Day (4th of July), Veterans Day (11th of November), and National POW/MIA Recognition Day (third Friday in September).

Patriotic Observances—Commemorative events held in conjunction with the patriotic holidays. These are eligible events for Air Force participation.

Personnel Drop Demonstration—An aircraft capabilities demonstration illustrating the airdrop of static line personnel or paratroopers.

Prisoner of War—An individual who was taken prisoner or held captive while engaged in an action against an enemy of the United States; while engaged in military operations involving conflict with an opposing armed force; or while serving with friendly forces engaged in armed conflict against an opposing armed force in which the United States is not a belligerent party. The person's conduct, while in captivity, must have been honorable. (T-1).

Public Event—Public events are community relations events not connected with the military functioning of the Department of Defense and intended primarily for non-military audiences. Some examples include military open house events, ceremonies, exhibitions, expositions, athletic contests, fairs, parades, tattoos, airshows, international airshow and trade exhibitions, or similar programs. These events may be on or off-base; Continental United States or outside of the

Continental United States. Public events can be sponsored by DoD or non-DoD organizations. Military exercises, movements, maneuvers, or operations are not considered to be public events merely on the basis of being incidentally observed by the general public. Such events can be good community relations and recruiting opportunities.

Record Flights and Flights of a Spectacular Nature—A flight to achieve an official world-class record regarding speed, distance, altitude, duration of flight, etc. National and world aviation records conducted in the United States are sanctioned, observed, and certified through the National Aeronautic Association.

Retirement or Change of Command Ceremony—These are military events. A retirement ceremony honors a retiring military member and a change of command ceremony formally recognizes the transfer of command authority from one military member to another (see [paragraph 3.2.1](#)).

Show Line—A show line is a prominent reference line appearing on the ground in the “Aerobatic Demonstration Area/Flying Display Area” established for an airshow or open house. The show line is easily identifiable from the air and could be an existing structure already present such as a runway, taxiway, canal, breakwater, or road, or any straight line marked off by a snow fence, canvas panels, etc. The show line is a prescribed distance from the spectator area and serves as the basic reference line for aerial demonstrations performances.

Spectator Area—The area specifically set aside at an airshow or open house for people to view the aerial demonstrations performed for the event (see [paragraph 4.2.6](#)).

Static Display—Static Display, a subset of aviation support, is the ground display of any aircraft and its related equipment not involving engine start, taxi, or flight.

Test/Evaluation Aircraft or Equipment—New aircraft or equipment undergoing developmental test and evaluation that have not yet met initial operating capability.

Training Static Display—The ground display of any aircraft and its related equipment used for the sole purpose of training local civilian medical, rescue, fire, or law enforcement personnel. Training static displays do not involve engine start, taxi, or flight. Spectators will not be allowed in the training areas. This can be on or off-base.

Type—The role of the aircraft from a public affairs perspective. DoD defines type as either tactical, transport or rotary wing. Air Force further categorizes aircraft type as: tactical (F-22, F-15, F-16, A-10, B-1, B-2, B-52), tanker/transport (C-130, C-17, C-5, KC-10, KC-135), trainer (T-1, T-38, T-6) and rotary wing (UH-1, HH-60, MH-53, CV-22). Aircraft not listed are considered their own unique type and will comply with multi-type restrictions in this instruction (i.e. aerial review or dissimilar formation). It is understood that true aircraft roles and missions are numerous and it would be difficult to categorize all aircraft. These are general groupings based on size, mission and/or configuration as viewed by the general public. Individual missions and series are grouped under the same design for the purpose of this definition (i.e. EC-130H, and C-130J). It is incumbent upon MAJCOMs to provide operational oversight when approving mixed MDS formations of the same type.

Unit Change of Aircraft Ceremony—A ceremony that recognizes the conversion of aircraft type within a unit.

Unit Flag Retirement Ceremony—A ceremony during which an active or air reserve component unit is deactivated and the unit flag retired.

Unit Training Assembly—Unit training periods consisting of a minimum of 4 hours each, to include the majority of assigned personnel. Normally four Unit Training Assemblies are scheduled on one weekend each month.

Vintage Aircraft Program—For the purpose of this instruction, the USAF vintage aircraft programs are the Heritage Flight Program operated by ACC, and the T-6A Texan II Aerial Demonstration Team operated by AETC.

Attachment 2
APPROVAL MATRIX

Table A2.1. Approval Matrix.

Aviation Support or Aerial Event (Not all inclusive, reference to applicable paragraphs is required)	Approval Levels ¹		References
	Event	Participation	
Static Display			3.4.1.
Public Event			3.1.
Small Public Events	Installation Commander ²	MAJCOM	3.4.1.1.
Large Public Events	SAF/PAY ²	MAJCOM	3.4.1.2.
Military Event	Installation Commander ²	MAJCOM ^{3, 7}	3.2.
Flyover			3.4.2.
Public Event			3.1.
Off-Base Eligible (Aviation Related)	SAF/PAY	MAJCOM	3.1.1.1.
Exception-to-policy (non-aviation related)	SAF/PAY & AF/A3O	MAJCOM ⁴	3.1.1.2.
On-Base Public Event	SAF/PAY ⁵	MAJCOM	3.1.2.
Off-Base Patriotic Holiday	SAF/PAY	MAJCOM	3.3.1.
Military Event (On-Base)			3.2.
Retirement/Change of Command	Approved	MAJCOM ⁴	3.2.1.1. - 3.2.1.5
Exception-to-policy	AF/CV	MAJCOM ⁶	3.2.1.6.
Patriotic Holiday	Approved	MAJCOM	3.2.3.
Change of Aircraft or Unit Flag Retirement	Approved	MAJCOM	3.2.6.
Other On-Base	Installation Commander	MAJCOM ⁷	3.2.2.
Funeral or Memorial (Eligible)	AF/A3	MAJCOM ⁴	5.2.
Exception-to-policy	AF/DS	MAJCOM ⁴	5.4.
Aerial Review			3.4.4.
Single MAJCOM	OASD/PA ⁸	MAJCOM ⁴	3.4.4.1.1.
Multiple MAJCOMs	OASD/PA ⁸	Applicable MAJCOMs ⁴	3.4.4.1.2.
Multiple Service/Nation	OASD/PA	AF/A3	AFI 35-105
Aerial Demonstration			3.4.5.
Public Event	SAF/PAY	AFI 11-246 ^{4, 9}	3.4.5.
Military Event	MAJCOM	AFI 11-246 ^{4, 9}	3.4.5.
Other Events/Support ¹⁰			
Missing Man at eligible events	MAJCOM		3.4.7.
Missing Man at other Events	MAJCOM/A3 ^{4, 11}		3.4.7.

Dissimilar Formation	MAJCOM	3.4.3.
Multi-Service/Nation or Civilian	MAJCOM/ Commander ^{4, 12}	3.4.3.
Record Flight	AF/A3O AND SAF/PAY	6.4.
Test Aircraft	AF/A3 and SAF/AQ	6.5.
Outside of the Continental United States Events	Combatant commander Directives	6.10.
Continental United States aircraft or at non-DoD site	Info AF/A3OO and SAF/PAY	6.10.1.
Int'l Air Shows and Trade Exhibition	AF/A3OO and SAF/IA coordination required	6.11.

Notes:

1. Use of the term MAJCOM as an approval level authorizes MAJCOMs to designate the approval level/office or show delegation below MAJCOM in the MAJCOM supplement to AFI11-209. MAJCOM/A3 approval level will be assumed in the absence of designation/delegation in the MAJCOM supplement.
 2. See AFI 35-105 for further delegations.
 3. See paragraph 3.2.1. for Retirement and Change of Command guidance. MAJCOM is the waiver authority in accordance with paragraph 3.2.1.6.
 4. Provide information copy to AF/A3OO.
 5. Except as already approved under paragraph 3.1.2.
 6. MAJCOM participation approval occurs first.
 7. If support by same installation assets then participation approval authority is Installation Commander.
 8. AF/A3O and SAF/PAY have delegated authority to approve aviation support proposals for single public events that combine Air Force Parachute Team jumps and flyovers, or a flyover and a demonstration (not to exceed 4 total elements). See paragraph 3.4.4.2.
 9. If aerial demonstration is for an aircraft not covered in AFI 11-246, then MAJCOM/A3 (or equivalent) approval is required. This may not be delegated. If aircraft is covered in AFI 11-246, then follow waiver or non-standard profile approvals in accordance with AFI 11-246 or MAJCOM/A3 approval is required.
 10. These events may have additional approval levels depending on the nature of the event or support.
- See applicable approval levels listed above.
11. Will not be delegated.
 12. Or designated representative.

Attachment 3

REQUIREMENTS FOR AIRCRAFT ON STATIC DISPLAY

A3.1. Public Access Not Allowed.

A3.1.1. Cordon aircraft off to limit public approach so that no person standing outside the cordon may touch any part of the aircraft.

A3.1.2. Make safe the aircraft and any associated equipment.

A3.1.3. Verify the absence of significant leaks of flammable or toxic fluids according to Technical Orders.

A3.1.4. A qualified air/ground crewmember must remain with the aircraft during public viewing. (T-2).

A3.2. Public Access Allowed (Cockpit Closed / Flight Deck Restricted / Passenger or Cargo Compartments Accessible)

A3.2.1. Follow instructions in paragraphs [A3.1.2](#), [A3.1.3](#), and [A3.1.4](#).

A3.2.2. Perform foreign object damage prevention actions (installation of engine intake and exhaust covers, pitot tube covers, etc.).

A3.2.3. Make safe canopies, if applicable, landing gear struts, tail hooks, access ladders, internal ladders, passenger and cargo loading doors, cargo loading ramps, and other parts posing a hazard to the general public. Restrict public access to the flight deck (public may view the flight deck, if practical). A qualified maintenance officer, maintenance NCO, or assigned aircrew member at deployed locations will personally perform these checks.

A3.2.4. Ensure an aircrew member is present at the flight deck at all times to prevent public access and to confirm proper switch and handle positions before leaving the aircraft. Before engines start, the aircraft commander ensures the entire aircraft is thoroughly inspected for any debris or items left during the static display.

A3.2.5. If these requirements cannot be met, set up static display according to [paragraph A3.1](#).

A3.3. Public Access Allowed (Cockpit Opened / Flight Deck Accessible / Passenger or Cargo Compartments Accessible).

A3.3.1. Follow instructions in paragraphs [A3.1.2](#), [A3.1.3](#), [A3.2.2](#), and [A3.2.3](#).

A3.3.2. Make safe all stored energy devices (e.g., explosive items, hydraulics, pneumatics, etc.).

A3.3.3. Ensure that an aircrew member is present at the cockpit, or on the flight deck, at all times during the display and confirms proper switch and handle positions before leaving the aircraft. Before engine(s) start, the aircraft commander ensures the entire aircraft is thoroughly inspected for any debris or items left during the static display.

A3.3.4. If these requirements cannot be met, set up static display according to paragraphs [A3.1](#) or [A3.2](#).

A3.4. Other Precautions.

A3.4.1. If open crew or cargo entry or escape hatches present a hazard to the public; barricade them to positively prevent public access or exit. Barricaded hatches must also be under the direct supervision of a qualified air or ground crewmember and noted in the maintenance forms when required. Close and lock the hatch if these requirements cannot be met.

A3.4.2. Do not open aircraft cockpits to the public when egress systems cannot be made completely safe according to Technical Orders.

A3.4.3. Air and ground crewmembers must instruct members of the general public about what they may or may not touch while sitting in the cockpit or on the flight deck of an aircraft on static display.

A3.4.4. Remove or protect all classified equipment to prevent viewing by the public.

A3.4.5. Ensure minimum Protection Level security requirements are coordinated and in place in accordance with AFI 31-101.