

AIR FORCE TEST CENTER HERITAGE



The Air Force Test Center, headquartered at Edwards Air Force Base, California, constitutes an enterprise of \$31 billion and over 18,000 military, civilian, and contractor personnel across 32 locations spanning the continental United States. The Air Force Test Center's conducts developmental test and evaluation of air, space, and cyber systems to provide timely, objective, and accurate information to decision makers.

The Air Force Test Center was originally established as the Air Force Flight Test



Center on June 25, 1951. Effective July 6, 2012, the Air Force Redesignated the Air Force

Flight Test Center as the Air Force Test Center.

The Air Force Test Center emblem received approval May 14, 1953. It depicts a stylized cloud layer separating the landscape from the black unknown, superimposed upon an aerodynamic shape with shock waves symbolizing the Center's aeronautical test and research mission. "Ad Inexplorata," the Center's official motto, "Toward the Unexplored" in Latin.

In a major restructuring of the Air Force Material Command, the Arnold Engineering Development Complex at Arnold Air Force Base, Tennessee, and the 96th Test Wing at Eglin Air Force Base, Florida, were attached, along with the 412th Test Wing at Edwards Air Force Base, to the Air Force Test Center as of July 2012.

The Arnold Engineering Development Complex is located at Arnold Air Force Base, Tennessee, and was established as the Air Engineering Development Division on January 1, 1950. It became the Arnold Engineering Development Center on August 13, 1951. On July 6, 2012, the AEDC was redesignated the Arnold Engineering Development Complex.

The AEDC emblem features a disc with concentric radiating rings, which suggest a wind tunnel. This denotes AEDC's



state-of-the-art wind tunnels. The wedge

shape charged with a flight symbol represents an object and the “shock wave” produced during tests wind tunnel. It also symbolizes the Complex’s testing and evaluation of other extremely high speed flight characteristics. The two stars represent the Complex’s space functions.

AEDC acts as the center of the Air Force Test Center’s ground test mission. The AEDC mission is to be the nation’s best value ground test and analysis source for aerospace and defense systems, and to develop, test and evaluate weapon, propulsion, aerodynamic and space systems at realistic conditions for the nation through modeling, simulation and ground test facilities. AEDC maintains the most advanced and largest complex of flight simulation test facilities in the world. The complex operates 43 aerodynamic and propulsion wind tunnels, rocket and turbine engine test cells, space environmental chambers, arc heaters, ballistic ranges and other specialized units.

The 96th Test Wing, Eglin AFB, Florida, conducts test and evaluation of Air Force air-delivered weapons, navigation and guidance systems, Command and Control systems, and Air Force Special Operations Command systems. The wing provides expert evaluation and validation of the performance of systems throughout the design, development, acquisition, and sustainment process to ensure the warfighter has technologically superior, reliable, maintainable, sustainable and safe systems.

It was originally established on January 28, 1942, as the 96th Bombardment Group, Heavy. It became the 96th Air Base Wing on

March 10, 1994, and was redesignated the 96th Test Wing on July 18, 2012.



The 96th Test Wing Emblem depicts a gold falcon’s head in profile, denoting the organization’s bombardment heritage and symbolizing its steadfast pursuit of mission accomplishments. The bomb itself represents the weapons testing mission of the Wing. The English translation of the Latin motto, “E SEMPRE L’ORA,” mean “It Is Always the Hour.”

The 412th Test Wing has its headquarters at Edwards AFB, California. The 412 TW was established on November 20, 1943 at Muroc Air Force Base, California (later Edwards Air Force Base), as the 412th Fighter Group to conduct test and evaluation of the experimental testing of the P-59A and P-80 aircraft. It became the 412th Test Wing on October 2, 1992.

The 412th Test Wing, the so-called center of the aerospace testing universe, plans, conducts, analyzes, and reports on all flight and ground testing of aircraft, weapons systems, software and components as well as modeling and simulation for the USAF. The wing’s mission has three core: flying operations, maintenance, and engineering.

The 412th Test Wing displays the emblem inherited from the 412th Fighter Group, approved on May 22, 1957. The clouds, and dark and light skies symbolize the conduct of test in all weather. The lightning bolt denotes the power to harness and sustain combat missions, and the stylized aircraft with contrails alludes to the Air Force.



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