

Headquarters Air Combat Command

Air Combat Command Expeditionary Warfare



Brig Gen Tommy Williams
ACC/A3-MA
29 October 2013

This Briefing is:
UNCLASSIFIED



Overview

- **U. S. Air Force and Air Combat Command Core Functions**
- **Air and Space Expeditionary Force Concept**
- **Air and Space Expeditionary Force Transition**
- **Lessons learned**
- **The future impact of budget constraints**
- **Capability Challenges**



Air Force Core Functions



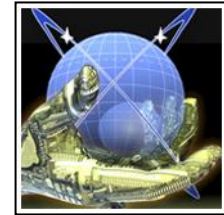
**Nuclear
Deterrence**



**Air
Superiority**



**Space
Superiority**



**Cyberspace
Superiority**



**Global
Precision
Attack**



**Rapid
Global
Mobility**



**Special
Operations**



**Global
Integrated
ISR**



**Command
&
Control**



**Personnel
Recovery**



**Building
Partnerships**



**Agile
Combat
Support**



**Education
&
Training**

“Air Force Core Functions provide a framework for balancing investments across Air Force capabilities.” – Secretary Donley FY12 Posture Statement



ACC Lead Responsibilities



**Nuclear
Deterrence**



**Air
Superiority**



**Space
Superiority**



**Cyberspace
Superiority**



**Global
Precision
Attack**



**Rapid
Global
Mobility**



**Special
Operations**



**Global
Integrated
ISR**



**Command
&
Control**



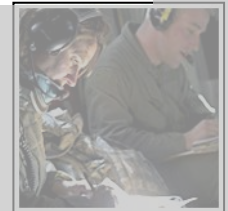
**Personnel
Recovery**



**Building
Partnerships**



**Agile
Combat
Support**

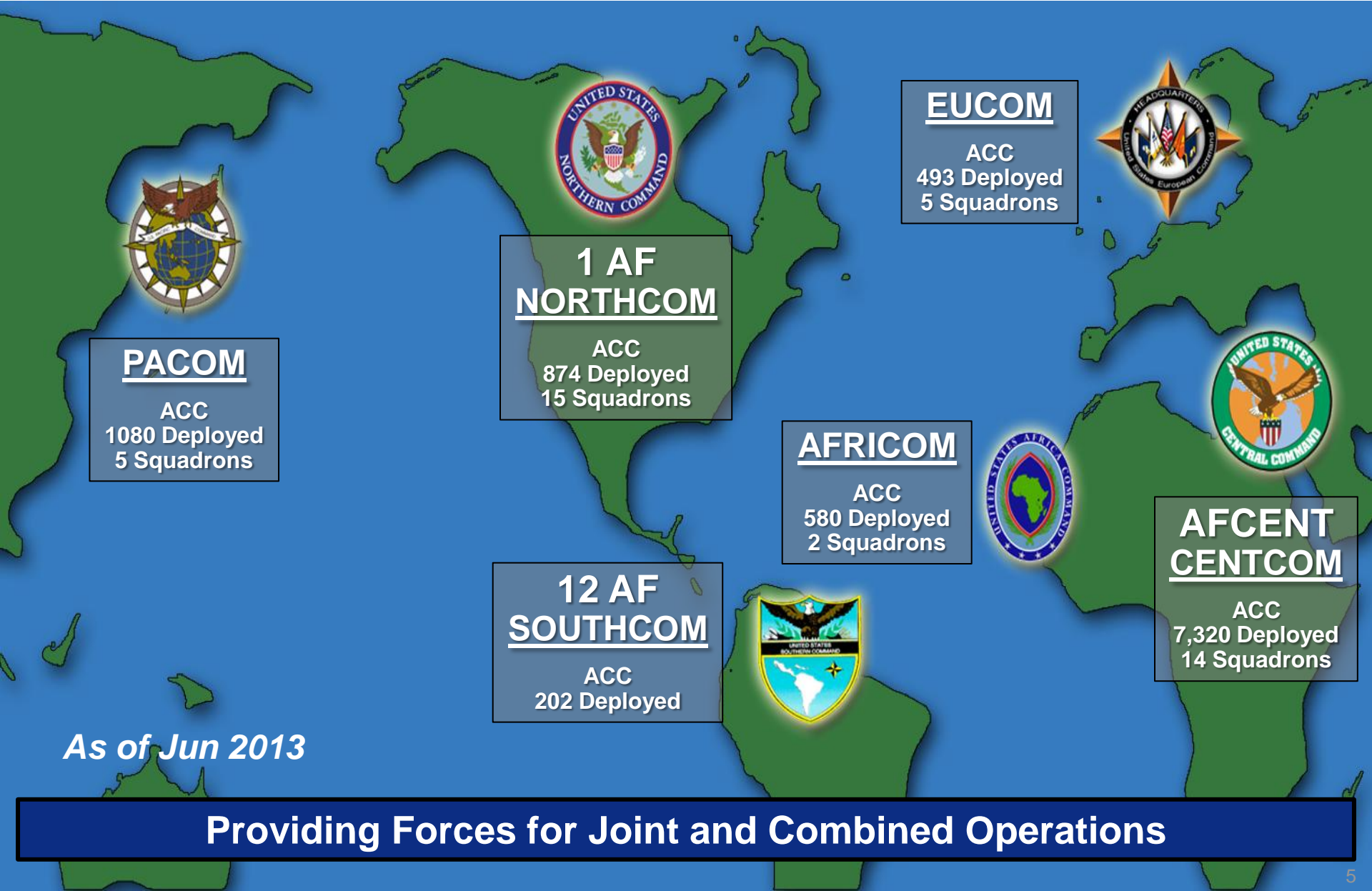


**Education
&
Training**

“Air Force Core Functions provide a framework for balancing investments across Air Force capabilities.” – Secretary Donley FY12 Posture Statement



ACC as Force Provider



PACOM

ACC
1080 Deployed
5 Squadrons

1 AF NORTHCOM

ACC
874 Deployed
15 Squadrons

12 AF SOUTHCOM

ACC
202 Deployed

AFRICOM

ACC
580 Deployed
2 Squadrons

EUROMCOM

ACC
493 Deployed
5 Squadrons

AFCENT CENTCOM

ACC
7,320 Deployed
14 Squadrons

As of Jun 2013

Providing Forces for Joint and Combined Operations



Service Comparison (AEF Concept)



10 Carrier Strike Groups



7 MEUs



10 Divisions



**AEF
1/2**

**AEF
3/4**

**AEF
5/6**

**AEF
7/8**

**AEF
9/10**

10 AEFs



C2

Aircraft

ECS

Equipment

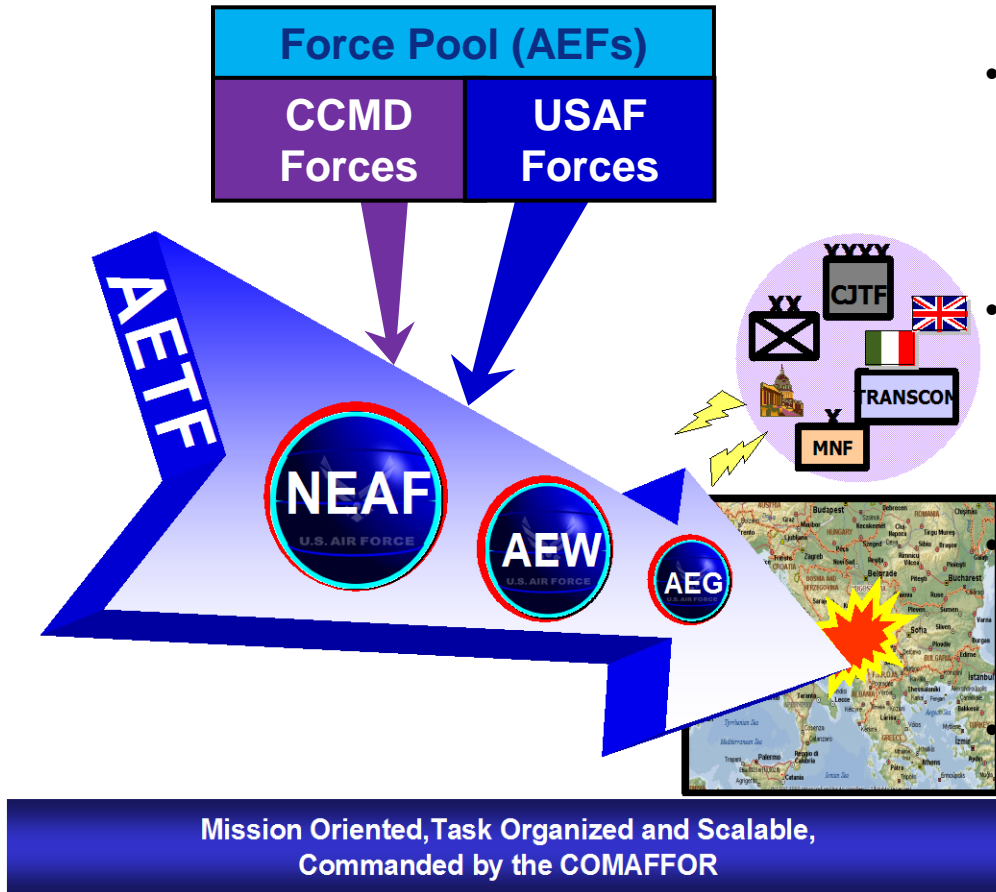


Air and Space Expeditionary Force (AEF) Concept

- **Air and Space Expeditionary Force (AEF) Concept – a means to provide Air Force forces and support on a rotational, and thus a relatively more predictable basis**
- **Methodology to organize, train, equip, deploy, sustain, and reconstitute rapidly responsive forces**
- **Designed to better manage the rotation of forces, improve stability, and spread the deployments more evenly across the Air Force**
 - **Concept used to globally manage force flow, and pulls from a roster of over 250 thousand members vice the 80 thousand on mobility status in 1997**
- **Expeditionary structure built from capability packages across Combatant Command and USAF force pool**



AEF Tasked Organizations

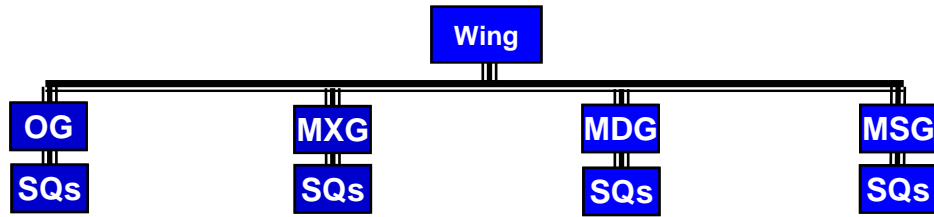


- **Numbered Expeditionary Air Force (NEAF)**
 - COMAFFOR / JFACC (NAF/CC)
 - More than one AEW / AEG
- **Air & Space Expeditionary Wing (AEW)**
 - Owns the base
 - May have subordinate AEGs at other bases
- **Air & Space Expeditionary Group (AEG)**
 - Normally, smallest AETF
 - Normally, tenant
- **Air & Space Expeditionary Squadron (AES)**
 - Basic warfighting organization
 - AETF building block

USAF provides task organized forces to Combatant Commanders as Air & Space Expeditionary Task Forces (AETFs) identified as NEAFs, AEWs, AEGs, & AESs



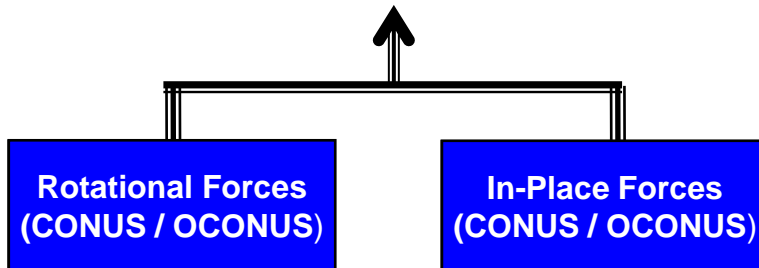
How the Air Force Organizes Capabilities (Wings/Groups/Squadrons - Total Force)



(Expeditionary Wings & In-Place Wings)



AF Forces
(7 Types)



AF Operational Support
(2 Types)

Total Wings:

- Expeditionary (Rotational)
 - Wings: 8-10
- In-Place
 - Wings: 23

AF Forces (Types)

- Strike
- Mobility
- Special Operations
- C2ISR
- Space-Cyber
- Agile Combat Support
- Demand Force



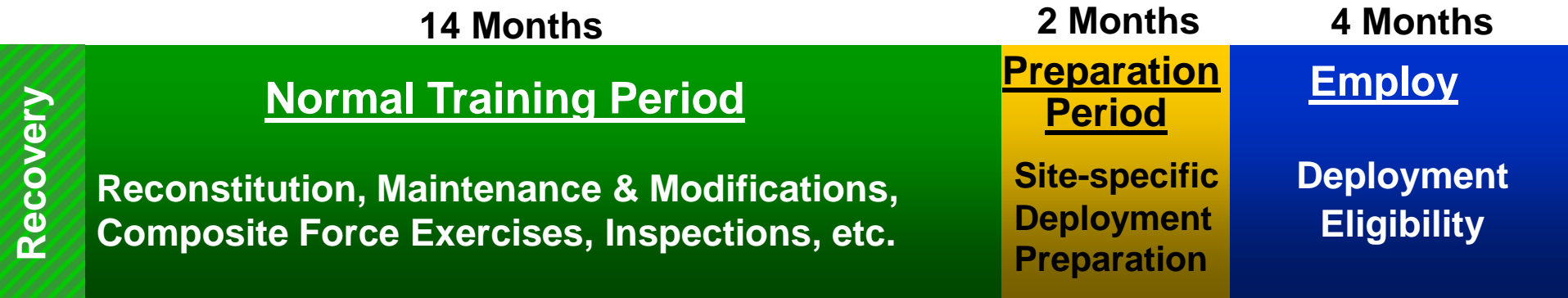
AEF Concept Execution (1999-2007)

- **Supply-based, globally focused force generation model**
- **10 AEF Packages organized into 5 AEF Pairs**
 - **Each package contained a range of Air Force capabilities**
 - **Most Air Force deployable capes were assigned to an AEF package**
 - **Each AEF package had a vul period for deployment (3-4 months)**
 - **Surge up to 12 months**
- **Provided an expeditionary structure created from prepackaged capabilities across AF and Combatant Command force pools**
- **A major combat operation would reach forward in rotation scheme for forces outside of their vul periods**

Supply-based



The AEF Cycle (Rotational Schema)



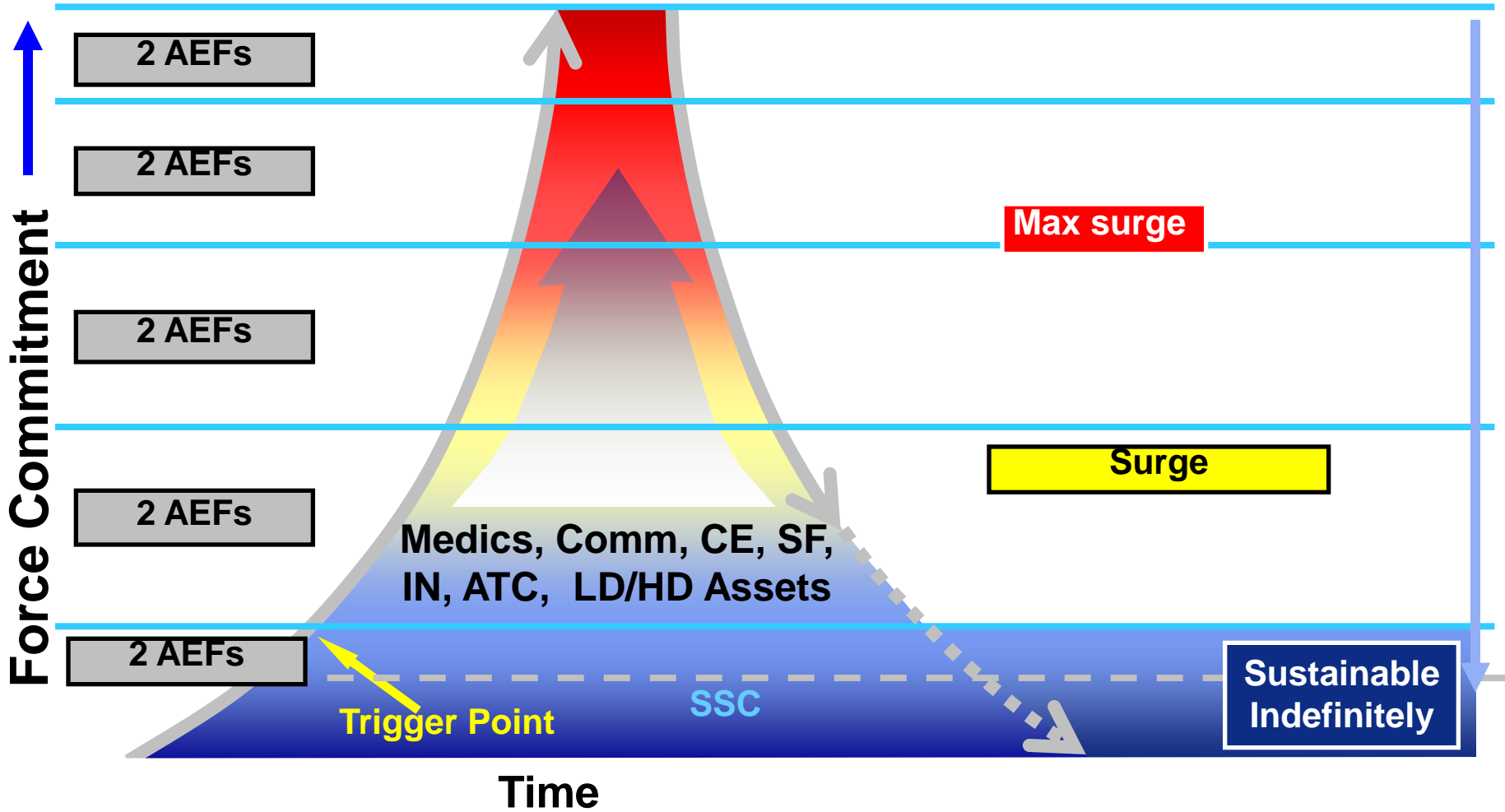
A 20-month CYCLE with one 4-month ROTATION

- Predictability / stability preserved
- Maintains a sustained high-level of readiness
- 14-month training period and 2-month mission-specific deployment preparation

Key to maintaining and sustaining combat capability



AEF Surge Capability





Refined AEF Concept

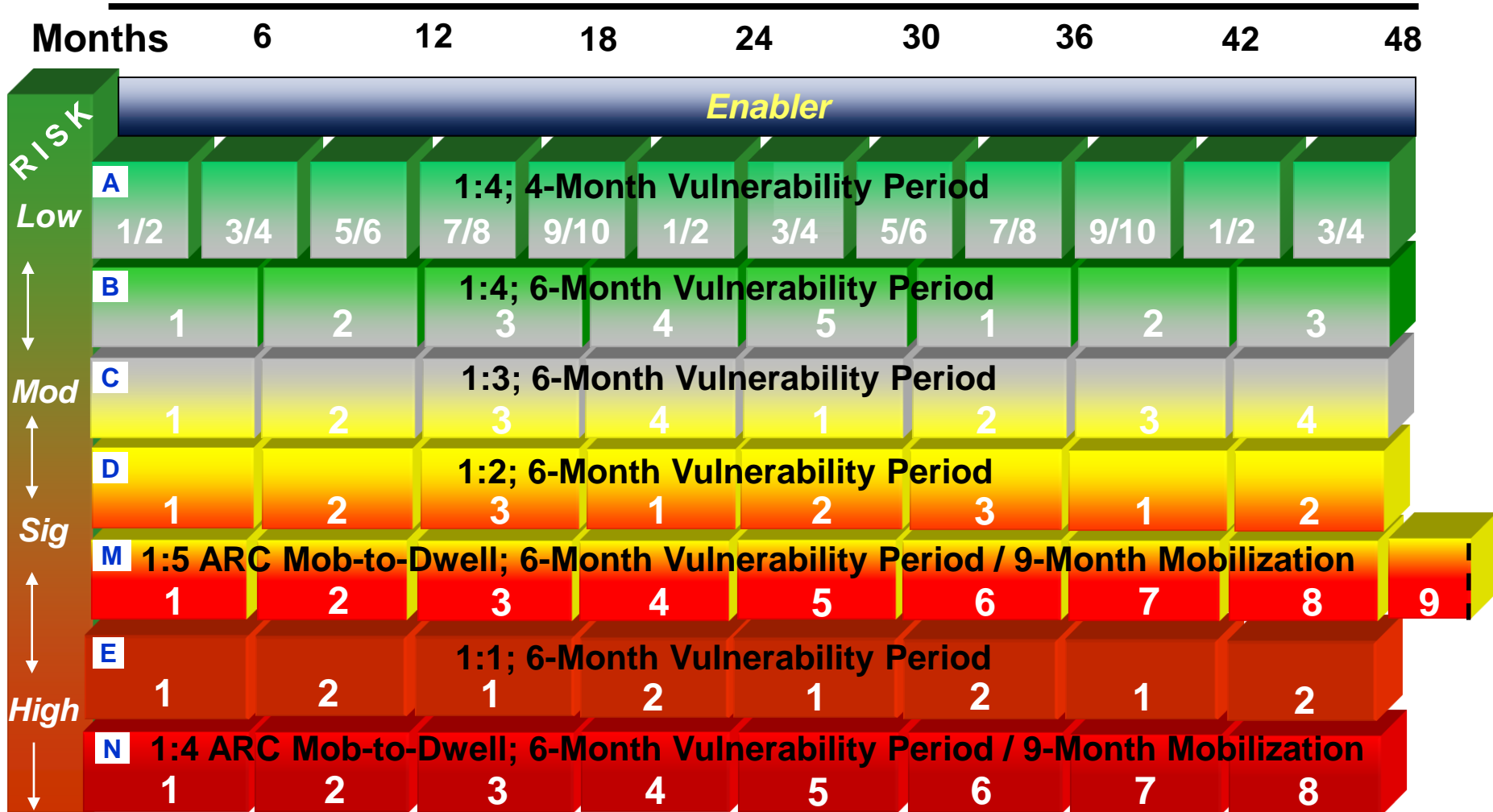
(Current)

- Differing demands on specific capabilities forced longer deployments in some critically manned/resourced areas
- Tempo Band methodology developed to address issues
 - Align AEF battle rhythms
 - Capabilities placed into different bands to address supply and demand issues associated with the specific capability
 - Further increased predictability and stability
 - Synchronize with 12-month Global Force Management (GFM) planning cycle
- Changes driven by a demand-based focus
 - Force structure cuts – smaller, less capable AEF packages
 - High Ops Tempo continually required reaching forward to task capabilities
 - Tour lengths increased to 6 months

Demand-based



Tempo Bands





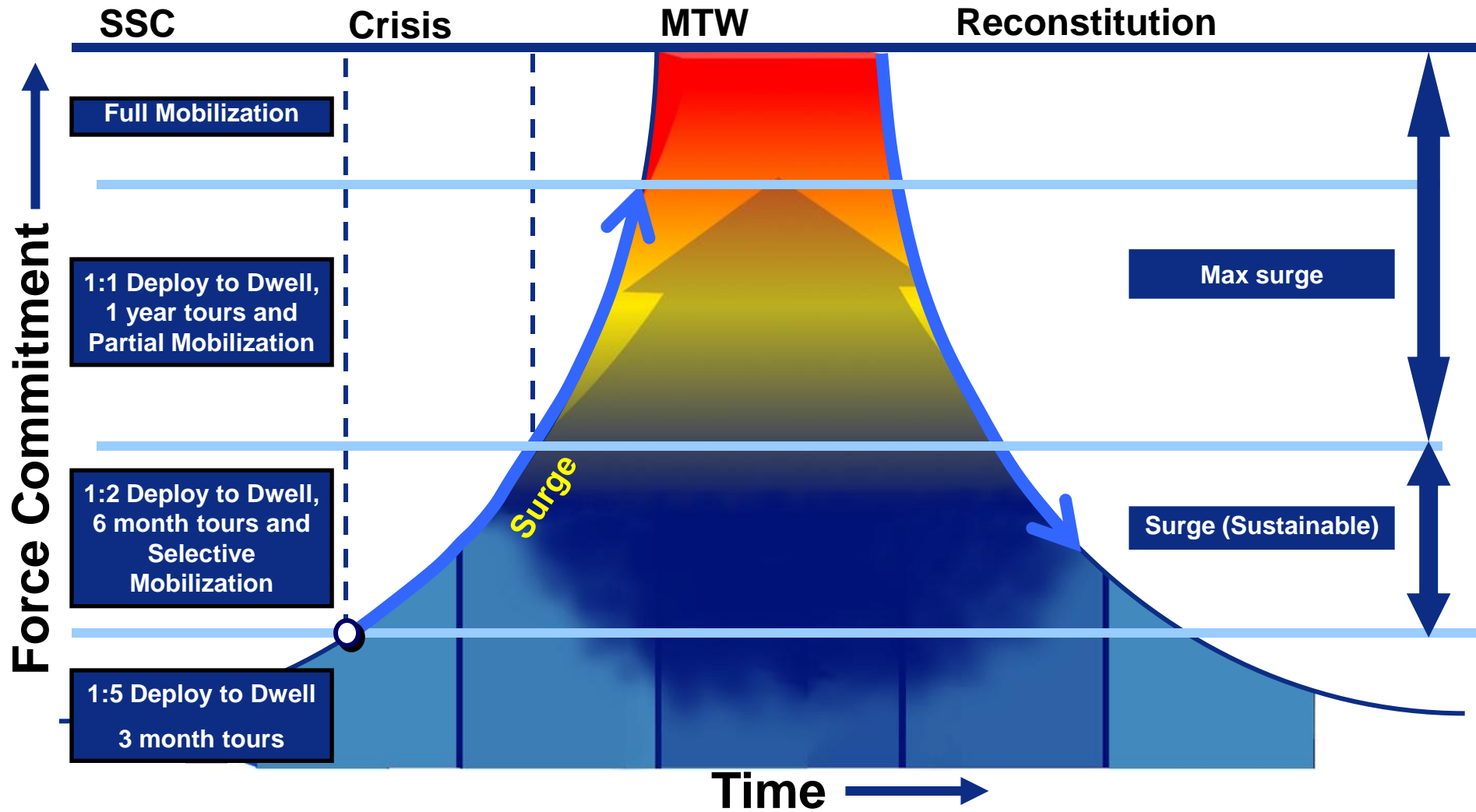
AEF Transition (2014 and Beyond)

- **Implement AEF course correction “Post Afghan withdrawal”**
 - **Migrate to larger group (teaming) structure from fewer Units**
 - **Simplify and synchronize Battle Rhythms**
 - **Improve scheduling stability**
 - **Create better teaming at deployed locations**
- **AF must make difficult choices**
 - **Focus on high-end ROMO and missions only AF can perform?**
 - **Adjust institutional battle-rhythm to maximize expeditionary capabilities and capacity for crisis response (expand Global Response Force)?**
 - **Greater reliance on Air Reserve Component utilization?**
 - **Less forward-based Active Component force structure?**

Reset AF back to supply-based, global AEF focus



AEF Transition





Lessons Learned

- **20+ years of CENTCOM/AFCENT focus has had an impact**
 - Demand driven
 - Unconstrained supplemental funding
- **Readiness is now a critical issue - AF can no longer meet and sustain demand**
- **Sequestration environment magnifies issues**
 - Fiscal uncertainty
- **Air Reserve Component access/utilization**
- **Custom, tailored capability packages create additional challenges**
 - Reduces unit teaming
 - Too flexible...Joint Staff 'Easy Button'
 - Hard to say "no"...easy to routinely break the "AEF Concept" with units and individuals

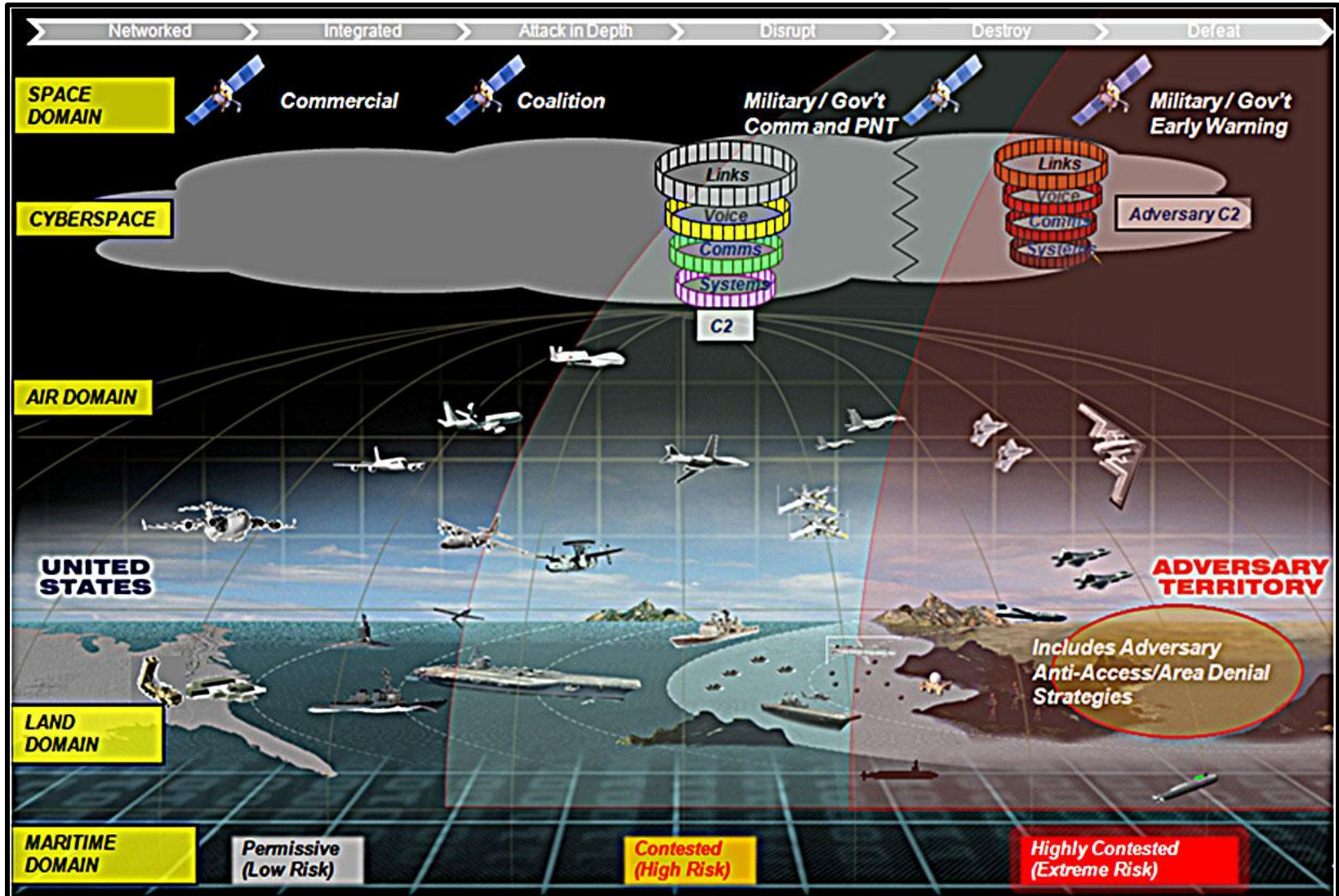


Impact of Decreasing Budgets

- **Decreased quality training and exercises**
- **Increased difficulty training across the full ROMO**
- **Increased use of high fidelity simulation and distributed mission operations**
- **Increased time required for preparation prior to deployment**
- **Increased rotational readiness issues**
- **Increased necessity for joint and coalition cooperation**
- **Increased requirement for fully integrated operations**



A2/AD Operating Environment



Ensure Dominance



Capability Challenges

- **Expeditionary combat mission ready forces**
 - Air Force as the rapid reaction global reach force
 - Realistic and rigorous Flag Exercises
 - Participation in joint and combined exercises
- **Key on core functions that are primarily provided by the Air Force**
 - Air superiority, precision attack, and long range strike
 - Persistent ISR and C2
 - Rapid mobility and deployment
- **Maintaining Dominance**
 - Increasingly challenging operational environment (A2/AD)
 - Balancing recapitalization and modernization



Questions?



Air and Space Expeditionary Task Force (AETF)

- **A tailored package of air, space, and cyberspace capabilities established for a temporary period of time to perform a specified mission**
- **AETF organizations**
 - **Numbered Expeditionary Air Force (NEAF) – The largest AETF organization made up of multiple expeditionary wings**
 - **Air Expeditionary Wing (AEW) – A deployed wing, or portion of a Wing with a command element, and subordinate groups or squadrons**
 - **Air Expeditionary Group (AEG) – Can be assigned to an AEW or directly to an AETF that may contain a broad range of functions**
 - **Air Expeditionary Squadron (AES) – The basic operational unit that provides specific combat capabilities (Air Superiority, Precision Attack, Command and Control, etc.)**
 - **Expeditionary Elements – Small units or individuals deployed to provides specific capabilities (Security, EOD, etc.)**



Combat Air Force



Air Combat Command is the lead command for the Combat Air Force



Core Functions



Air Superiority

“degree of dominance in the air battle of one force over another which permits the conduct of operations... without prohibitive interference by the opposing force”



“the ability to hold at risk or strike rapidly and persistently, with a wide range of munitions, any target and to create swift, decisive, and precise effects across multiple domains”

Global Precision Attack



“the synchronization and the integration of the planning and operation of sensors, assets and processing, exploitation, dissemination systems across the globe to conduct current and future operations”

Global Integrated ISR



“the sum of military, diplomatic, and civil efforts to Prepare for and execute the recovery and reintegration of isolated personnel”

Personnel Recovery



Command & Control

“the exercise of authority and direction by a properly designated commander over assigned and attached forces in the accomplishment of the mission... performed through an arrangement of personnel, equipment, communication, facilities, and procedures”

ACC Core Function Teams – Develop Service Core Function Strategies