



First no-notice AEF deployment underway

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LANGLEY AIR FORCE BASE, Va. (AFNS) -- Air Combat Command initiated the first no-notice exercise of its Air Expeditionary Force capabilities July 7.

Thirty aircraft, associated aircrews, support personnel and equipment will deploy to Alaska July 9 in support of exercise Cope Thunder '97, which runs July 10-26.

The AEF's mission during the exercise will be to augment exercise Cope Thunder '97 forces, validate the capability to rapidly reinforce in-place forces and improve interoperability in the conduct of joint training.

Although there have been five previous AEF deployments, this is the first time the Air Force has exercised the AEF concept from a cold start with no notice.

This is also the first time there has been joint service involvement in an AEF deployment. The AEF includes U.S. Navy EA-6Bs, Air Force F-15s from the 33rd Fighter Wing, Eglin Air Force Base, Fla.; F-16s from the 388th Fighter Wing, Hill AFB, Utah; B-1s from the 7th Bomb Wing, Dyess AFB, Texas; B-52s from the 2nd Bomb Wing, Barksdale AFB, La., and F-16s from the 35th Fighter Wing, Misawa Air Base, Japan.

These aircraft will form the 35th Air Expeditionary Wing and will be based at Elmendorf and Eielson Air Force Bases, Alaska.

The AEF evolved as a result of the emerging expeditionary nature of America's military forces. The Air Force developed AEFs to provide a flexible, tailored, quick response to fill theater needs across the spectrum of conflict. (Courtesy of ACC News Service)



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Exhibit 69

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Docket No. _____ GENERAL No. 69
In the matter of PFS
Petitioner _____ RESPONDED
Applicant _____ RESPONDED
Intervenor _____ RESPONDED _____
Other _____ WITHDRAWN _____
DATE 4/12/02 Witness _____

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