



FACT SHEET

U.S. Air Force Fact Sheet

557TH WEATHER WING

Mission

The mission of the 557th Weather Wing is to maximize America's power through the exploitation of timely, accurate and relevant weather information; anytime, everywhere. The 557th WW is the only weather wing in the U.S. Air Force and reports to Air Combat Command through 12th Air Force.

Personnel and Resources

The 557th WW's manning consists of more than 1,700 active duty, reserve, civilian and contract personnel and is headquartered on Offutt Air Force Base, Neb. The 557th executes a \$175 million annual budget including more than \$90 million in operations and maintenance.

Organization

The 557th WW is organized into a headquarters element, consisting of staff agencies, two groups, four directorates, a subordinate center, and five solar observatories.

The **1st Weather Group** includes six operational weather squadrons responsible for providing around-the-clock analyses, forecasts, warnings, and aircrew mission briefings to Air Force, Army, Guard, and Reserve forces operating at installations around the world. Each OWS has a specified geographical area of responsibility: the 15th OWS, located at Scott Air Force Base III, is responsible for the northern and Northeast United States; 17th OWS, located at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii, is responsible for the Pacific region, 21st OWS at Kapaun Air Station, Germany, is responsible for Europe, 25th OWS, located at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Ariz., is responsible for the western United States; 26th OWS, located at Barksdale Air Force Base, La., is responsible for the southern United States, and the 28th OWS at Shaw Air Force Base, S.C., is responsible for the Central Command area of responsibility. These squadrons also provide initial qualification and upgrade training for new apprentice forecasters and weather officers.

The **2nd Weather Group** delivers timely, relevant and specialized terrestrial, space and climatological global environmental intelligence to Joint warfighters, DoD decision-makers, national agencies, and allied nations for the planning and execution of missions across the complete spectrum of military operations through the operation, sustainment and maintenance of the wing's \$277M strategic center computer complex, production network, and applications. The 2nd WXG is comprised of the 2nd Systems Operations Squadron and 2nd Weather Squadron at Offutt, plus the 2nd Combat Weather Systems Squadron at Hurlburt Field, Fla., and the 14th Weather Squadron in Asheville, N.C. There are also four solar observatories that also fall under the 2nd WXG: Det. 1, Learmonth, Australia; Det. 2, Sagamore Hill, Mass.; Det. 4, Holloman Air Force Base, N.M.; and Det. 5, Palehua, Hawaii.

The **Operations Training and Evaluation Directorate (A3)** provides a heads-up display of the



Air Force Weather Weapon System that strengthens the wing's ability to conduct weather ops and supports worldwide DoD operations. They also delivers state-of-the-art technical training for the career field, oversees the development of career field training plans and computer-based tutorials on new equipment, is constructing the first formal AFWWS TTP, and coordinates standardization and evaluation visits of all 557th WW units.

The **Strategic Plans, Requirements and Programs Directorate** (A5/8) directs AFWWS capabilities-based requirements development and life-cycle planning, sustainment, and resource management. They develop the long term strategic plan; perform requirements generation, analysis, and documentation; performs lead command or program management for acquisitions; directs operational testing; and coordinates fielding and sustainment of the family of systems that comprise the Air Force weather weapon system.

The **Communications Directorate** (A6) provides overall direction for and oversees command, control, communications and computer systems and coordinated operational and maintenance policy, management and resource allocation for the AFWWS. They develop and manage enterprise information management, command records management, publishing and FOIA/Privacy Act program management. Responsibility for Information Assurance ensuring action to protect and defend information systems by ensuring the confidentiality, integrity and availability are appropriately applied.

In addition, they perform the Communications-Computer systems Integration function to include the Air Force C4 planning and architecture process. They are responsible for IT consultancy and advocacy across the 557th WW staff. They establish information infrastructure, sets strategic direction and priorities, and identifies common program goals and requirements.

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