



U-A Operational Focus Area #5 – Agile Combat Employment

Mission: USAFE-AFAFRICA's capacity to counter a potential adversary's aggression is challenged by existing operational predictability and force posture, which exposes critical infrastructure and our ability to deploy air, space, and cyberspace combat power in support of NATO Allies and partners. Agile Combat Employment (ACE) and the USAFE-AFAFRICA ACE model emphasize the vital role of Allies and partners as enablers of operational agility through ACE.

Situation: ACE represents a reinvigoration of a tried-and-true military concept that emphasizes agility and rapid adaptation to changing threat environments. In contrast to conventional operating methods, ACE seeks to reduce reliance on traditional fixed bases and static deployments. Instead, it embraces a dynamic approach to rapidly distribute, reposition, and operate from multiple dispersed locations. By doing so, ACE aims to deny adversaries the advantage of predictability, while concurrently enhancing USAFE-AFAFRICA's capacity to respond swiftly to emerging threats.

Execution:

- **Set the Theater:** This joint force and coalition effort seeks to bolster Europe's infrastructure and logistics architecture in anticipation of potential conflicts. This is accomplished through a strategic combination of prepositioned stocks and host nation support agreements at designated operating locations.
- **Enhancing Force Maneuverability:** Movement and maneuverability are critical elements of the USAFE-AFAFRICA ACE strategy and require integration with our Allies and partners to be effective. The ability to move rapidly and unpredictably throughout the theater is crucial to present a credible deterrent and effectively respond to attacks on main operating bases. By skillfully and rapidly maneuvering at and around dispersed locations, we can confuse enemy targeting and maintain an advantage over potential adversaries.
- **Recover and Respond:** The recover and respond objective centers on restoring combat operational capability to main operating bases, if attacked, while simultaneously conducting offensive strikes from dispersed and forward operating locations.
- **Command and Control (C2) the Force:** Given the dispersal of airpower across various locations and the potential for degraded communications, responsive C2 is essential to synchronize operations. Establishing a robust network of distributed and resilient C2 nodes is critical to managing operations emanating from remote and austere locations.
- **Integrated Operations in the Information Environment:** Communication planners collaborate on ACE efforts to highlight the implementation of ACE and underscore the capability of USAFE-AFAFRICA to withstand, disperse, re-mass, and respond to potential aggression. As the staff and wings build and implement ACE information warfare practitioners contribute to the information environment by showcasing USAFE-AFAFRICA as a more agile, maneuverable, and resilient force.

Supports DAF Operational Imperative on Tactical Air Dominance