

Questions and Answers: Deployable Combat Wings

Q: What is a Deployable Combat Wing?

Imagine stripping a traditional Mission Support Group and Operations Group down to their cores and smashing them together. That's the vision behind the Deployable Combat Wing (DCW); a new type of deployable unit formed from Airmen assigned to a single wing located on a single installation. It is a deployable version of a wing that contains all the necessary capabilities to sustain itself and operate in a downrange environment. It is not tied to any one airframe. Instead, it is resourced and designed to host and partner with whichever platform best accomplishes the deployed mission. Airmen in the DCW will train and deploy together within the Air Force Force Generation (AFFORGEN) Cycle.

Q: Where will I work in a Deployable Combat Wing?

The majority of Airmen who volunteer will be assigned to a new squadron within the Deployable Combat Wing called the Combat Air Base Squadron (CABS). The CABS consists of Airmen across a number of career fields (civil engineering, security forces, medical, etc.) and is tasked with providing protection, sustainment, and airfield operations support for the DCW in the deployed environment. While at home station, Airmen will be assigned to the Combat Air Base Squadron which will have its own commander. However, based on their career field, Airmen may work day-to-day in a squadron outside the CABS. For example, a vehicle maintenance Airman may reside in the Logistics Readiness Squadron's vehicle maintenance shop when not training or participating in a DCW exercise.

While most Airmen will be assigned to the CABS, a select few in certain AFSCs will work on the Wing A-Staff.

Q: What will life in a DCW be like?

A: Airmen assigned to the DCW will focus on training designed to build mission focused warfighting skills necessary to fight and win during deployment. This will include honing both expeditionary and AFSC-specific skillsets through training events and exercises at home station and in a field environment. To build and maintain proficiency in AFSC skillsets, Airmen will work with functional squadrons on the base. For example, a civil engineering Airman assigned to the DCW may work day-to-day alongside Civil Engineering Squadron Airmen when not participating in a DCW training event or exercise. This dual focus on expeditionary and AFSC specific skillsets will ensure Airmen in the DCW are lethal, highly trained, and ready to take on any challenge downrange.

Q: Sounds like a trap! Seriously, what will I be doing?

A: Airmen in DCWs should expect to spend their time learning a spectrum of warfighting skills – from firing weapons and experimenting with counter-unmanned aerial systems, to repairing runways and administering medical care. While the expectation is for Airmen to be experts in

their career field specific tasks, many of the skills they will learn in DCW training will be from career fields other than their own. This will ensure the DCW is composed of lethal, mission ready Airmen capable of performing a wide range of tasks and ultimately winning the fight no matter the threats downrange. It's a demanding ask and requires dedicated commitment and high motivation.

Airmen in an Air Task Force are already putting these concepts into action. Take a look [here](#), [here](#), and [here](#) to get a glimpse for what they have been up to recently.

Q: Will I be away from home a lot?

A: Depending on your baseline experience – perhaps. The model's bias is towards creating mission-ready warfighters, which will involve time away from home station. The 24-month AFFORGEN cycle provides the benefit of predictability. Airmen can plan accordingly as they move through the six-month 'Reset,' 'Prepare,' 'Certify,' and 'Available to Commit,' phases. Airmen assigned to a DCW will occasionally be away from home station for training events in the 'PREPARE' and 'CERTIFY' phases and should expect to deploy during the 6-month AVAILABLE TO COMMIT phase.

Q: This sounds like a lot. How will I either start or support my family?

A: Two of the DCW's key features for an Airman and his or her family are team cohesion and predictability. Members will know in advance when they will be home, away, and able to take leave. And Airmen assigned – along with their families – will be moving through the training cycle together. This creates a community of support for all to lean on.

Q: I'm getting the sense I'm signing up for more work with equal pay – what's in this for me?

A: The experience within a DCW will be demanding and unapologetically push Airmen outside of their comfort zones. To prevail in a combat environment, DCWs require warrior Airmen who are motivated to be experts in their field and simultaneously gain familiarity on skills outside their own AFSC. For our ideal candidate, that – and being a pathfinding Airmen at the leading edge - is reward enough. Ultimately, in the words of our CSAF, "We need Airmen who are ready to embrace this challenge, strengthen our warrior ethos, and build the next generation of Air Force deployments."

Q. Will I only deploy with the DCWs? Or will I be eligible for other deployments as well?

A. The Air Force will continue to support deployment requirements for combatant commanders outside of the DCW construct.. However, members assigned to the DCW UTC will not be eligible for other deployment taskings. This new deployment model is focused on unit integrity for the entire four-phase AFFORGEN cycle. Members will Prepare, Certify, Commit (deployment window), and Reset as one unit.

Q: I am interested in a PCS opportunity associated with the DCW. How do I volunteer?

A: Members can check eligibility by logging into Talent Marketplace or reviewing the requirements listed in the Air Force Personnel Center's myVector announcement (dated 26 Mar 25). Enlisted personnel should visit EQUAL Plus and follow the standard volunteer process for EPA.

Not all AFSCs will be eligible; verify your AFSC is listed in the job description or through your functional assignment team. If you are eligible and interested in volunteering, discuss this opportunity with your unit leadership and, if approved, follow instructions in the appropriate AFPC announcement to volunteer.

Q: Where can I go to find the rank requirements/job specifics?

A: All members should visit Talent Marketplace to learn more about the position requirements. Officers currently on a VML, may see available requirements via the Marketplace Assignment Preferences (MAPs). All other officers can review positions through the Hot Jobs function. Enlisted members should visit EQUAL-Plus. Select the position you are interested and open "Position Details" to review all the mandatory qualifications.

Q. How long is the assignment? Will I be guaranteed to move at the expiration of my AAC?

A. The minimum time on station for standard CONUS assignments is 48 months (ref: DAFI 36-2110, Table 6.1). Enlisted personnel will have an Assignment Availability Code (AAC) 43 for a stabilized tour of at least 48 months. Officers will have an AAC 55 for a stabilized tour of at least 24 months. Members may be eligible to move after their code is removed; PCS is not guaranteed. Members may also work with their functional assignment teams for possible local PCA options outside the DCW UTC following completion of an entire AFFORGEN Cycle (24 Months) and upon re-entering the Reset Phase. The stabilized tour codes are designed to ensure unit integrity for the AFFORGEN four-phase cycle (24 months).

Q: When can I expect to move to fill these requirements?

A: The goal is for members to report during the reset phase for the applicable AFFORGEN Cycle

- 27.1 - Beginning 1 June 2025 and NLT 30 Sept 2025
- 27.2 - Beginning 1 Oct 2025 and NLT 31 Mar 2026

Officers can visit myFSS to view the Air Force Officer Assignment System (AFOAS) timeline here: <https://myfss.us.af.mil/USAFCommunity/s/knowledge-detail?pid=kA0t0000000w1T7CAI>

Enlisted can visit myFSS to view the Air Force Enlisted Schedule here:

<https://myfss.us.af.mil/USAFCommunity/s/knowledge-detail?pid=kA0t0000000w1AZCAY>

Q. How does the stabilized tour impact my eligibility for other programs like DSD, AFIT, EWI, or OI&RSD?

A. Eligibility for special programs varies, and members should consult the specific Talent Marketplace advertisement, Personnel Services Delivery Memorandum (PSDM), or program

guidance in each case. Members assigned to the DCW UTCs will have an AAC for a minimum stabilized tour. Enlisted personnel will have an AAC 43 (min 48 months); officers will have an AAC 55 (min 24 months). The stabilized tour codes are designed to ensure unit integrity for the AFFORGEN four-phase cycle.

Personnel pursuing early release from their AAC must contact their functional assignment team for the Exception to Policy process. These will be handled on a case-by-case basis in coordination with local leadership, the member's functional assignment team, and the Air Force Personnel Center's (AFPC) policy branch (AFPC/DPP).

Q. Is there any Base of Preference (BOP) or preferred follow-on for volunteers?

A. This is a chance to lead change in our Air Force! Volunteers will be part of a dedicated team laser-focused on deployment readiness; train and exercise side-by-side with fellow Airmen throughout the AFFORGEN cycle; and deploy as a cohesive, lethal fighting force ready for immediate action and destined for victory.

There is no formal BOP process for the DCW UTC positions. This is a standard CONUS assignment. As the Air Force pivots to this new construct for deployments, Airmen should expect these opportunities at every move cycle.