

Headquarters U.S. Air Force

Integrity - Service - Excellence

Project Liberty “MC-12”



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Director, ISR Capabilities

U.S. AIR FORCE



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Project Liberty

Airmen operating a fleet of 37 C-12 aircraft providing manned ISR (FMV and SIGINT) to the joint fight—a core AF mission



Project Liberty Background

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- **SecDef established (18 Apr 08) DoD wide ISR Task Force to identify and recommend solutions for increased ISR in USCENTCOM AOR**
- *1 Jul 08 SecDef decision: AF proceed with procurement of 37 “C-12” class aircraft to augment unmanned systems*
- **Configuration: Full Motion Video (FMV) and SIGINT capabilities**
- **Mission: Direct FMV and SIGINT to ground forces, AF Processing, Exploitation and Dissemination (PED) forward deployed**
- **Why “C-12” - Lightweight, small footprint, easy to operate and maintain, self deploying, flexible**



Air Force Project Liberty

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- **Core mission for the Air Force – medium altitude ISR**
 - **Capability supports all aspects of AF Irregular Warfare mission (Counter insurgency, Foreign Internal Defense and Building Partner Capabilities)**
 - **Large aircraft procurement effort that required speed of delivery as an imperative**
 - **Project Liberty focus is on ISR in the joint flight – conventional and SOF forces**



Project Liberty Concept

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Aircraft Capabilities

- **Lightweight, small footprint, easy to operate and maintain, self deploying, flexible. Capable of 6 hrs of flight, 4 to 5 hrs of on-station time**
- **MX-15 Electro Optical / Infrared (Full Motion Video) sensor (On board storage)**
- **SIGINT sensors**
- **Datalinks to ground forces**
- **Robust communications**
- **Self-protection system**
- **Blue Force Tracker**



Operations Concept

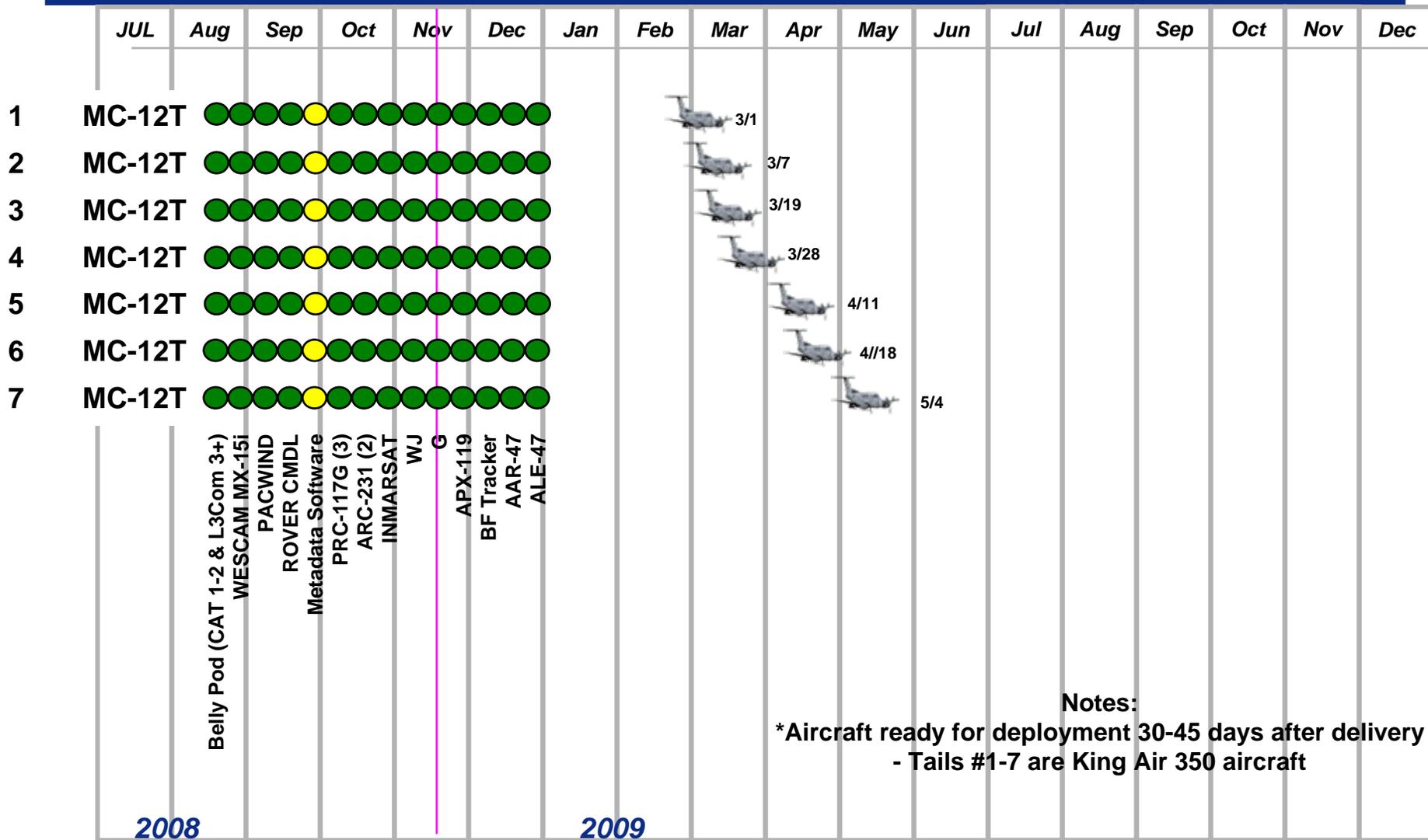
- **USAF owned and operated**
- **4 crew members: 2 pilots 2 sensor operators**
- **Coordinated Air/Ground Operations**
- **FMV directly to BCT/TOCs through tactical ROVER or OSRVT elements**
- **BLOS capability – INMARSAT initially**
- **“Light” PED pushed forward under Expeditionary Air Support Operations Group organization**
- **Organization – 2 deployed units and 1 CONUS-based training unit**
- **Maintenance concept - Contractor Logistics Support**



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Project Liberty

Aircraft Delivery to ACC – Phase 1



Notes:

*Aircraft ready for deployment 30-45 days after delivery
- Tails #1-7 are King Air 350 aircraft

2008

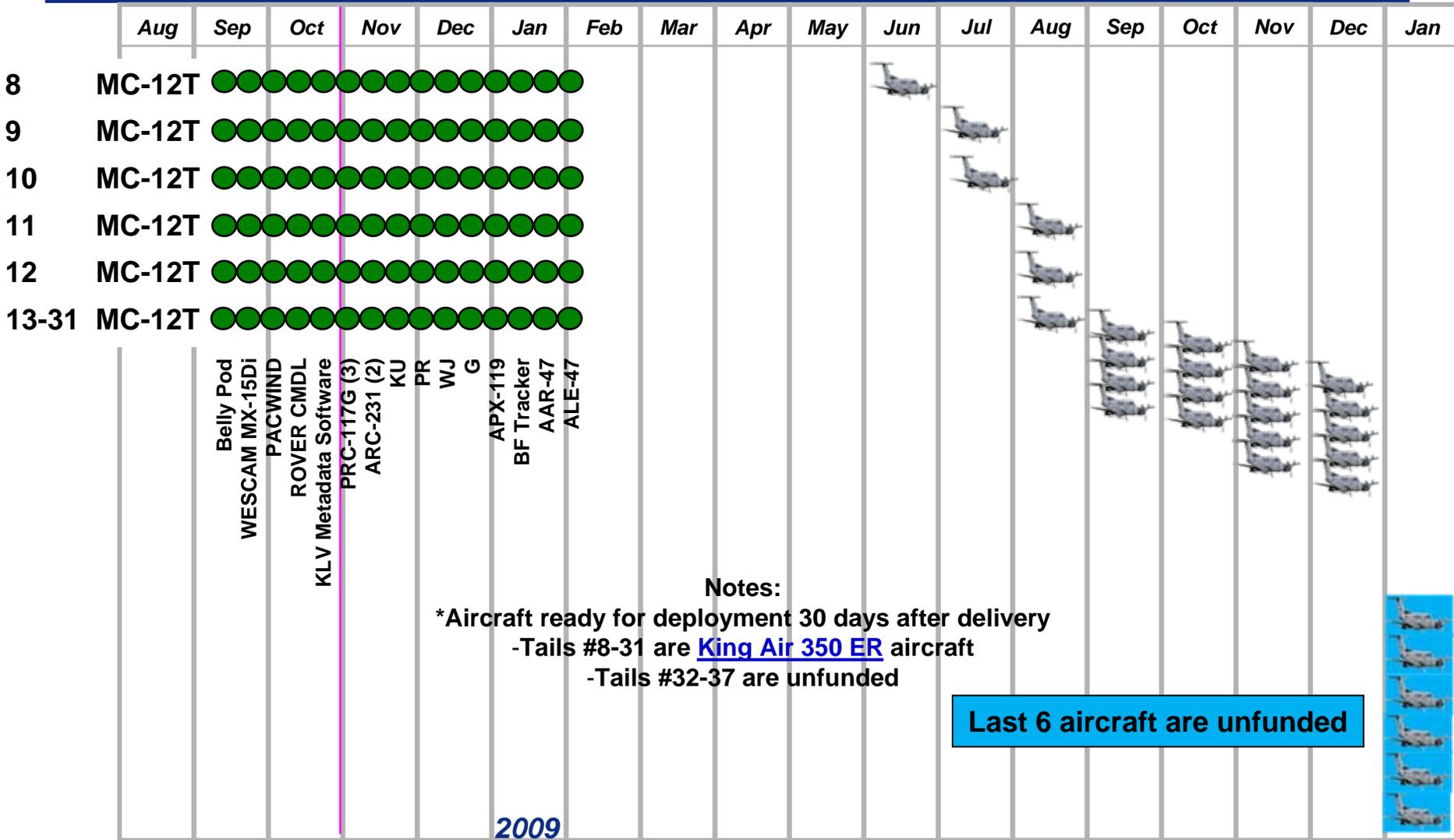
2009



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Aircraft Delivery to ACC – Phase 2





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Project Liberty

- **Air Combat Command (ACC) is the lead command tasked with organizing, training and equipping the Project Liberty program**
- **SAF/AQ tasked Big Safari to procure and modify aircraft as quickly as possible**
- **Projected delivery of the first modified C-12 aircraft to ACC is 1 Mar 2009**
 - **Initial training will be contracted at various locations and Mission Qualification Training (MQT) will occur after mission aircraft are delivered**



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King Air Production

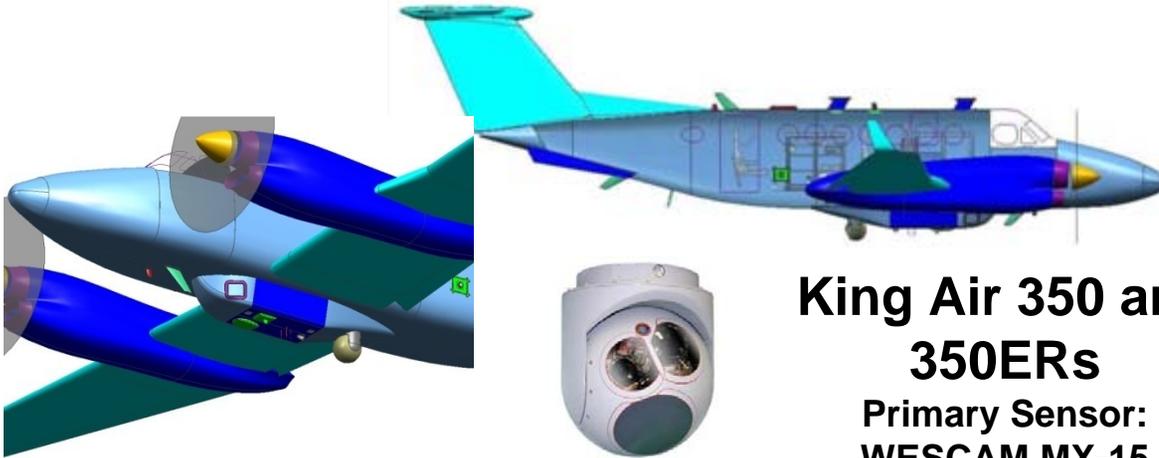


- **Project Liberty is high priority at HBC with full support of CEO and senior leadership team**
- **Program team being formed with company “A players” to implement and execute Project Liberty plan**
- **HBC has team working to surge King Air production to deliver more new 350ER aircraft in 2009**



Project Liberty Aircraft

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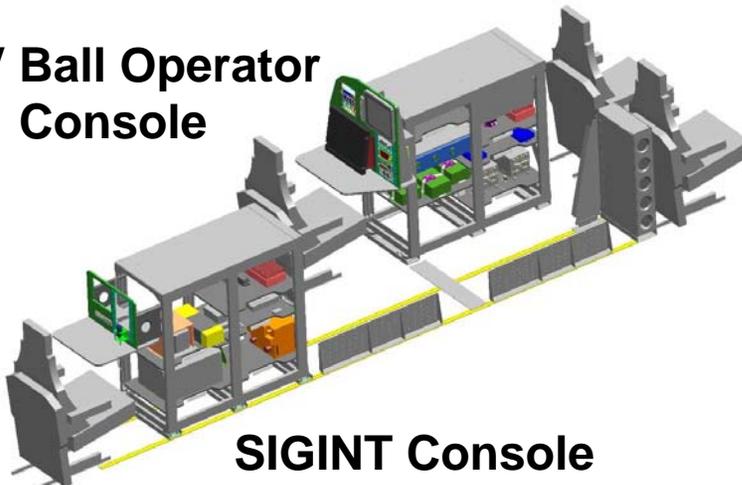
King Air 350 and 350ERs

Primary Sensor:
WESCAM MX-15



Beyond Line of Sight Comms

FMV Ball Operator Console



SIGINT Console

SIGINT capability



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Processing, Exploitation and Dissemination Concept

- Onboard operations
 - Sensor operators in direct contact with ground forces
 - Storage for post-mission analysis and dissemination
- Ground site exploitation forward-based in CENTCOM
 - Focused primarily on tactical operations
 - Provides real-time situational awareness
 - Dedicated ISR planning and tasking
- PED team composition in work but includes:
 - PED Tasker/Planner/Collection Manager
 - Imagery Analysts
 - Imagery analysis, product development and reachback facilitation as required



Project Liberty Training Plan for Tail #1

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Pilot

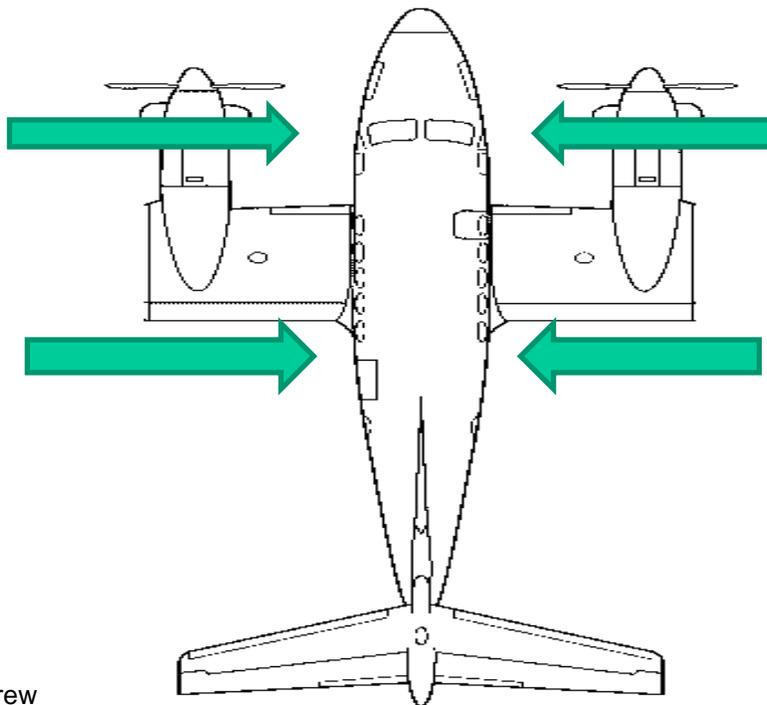
(Experienced)
Training Pipeline:
IQT: Starts 10 Feb 09
Flight Safety Intl
MQT: Starts 2 Mar 09
Meridian MS (ANG)
(3 weeks)
DEPLOY: 15 Apr 09

FMV Sensor Op

(1A3/4XX)
Training Pipeline:
IQT: NV ANG (Reno)
(3 weeks in duration)
MQT: Starts 2 Mar 09
Meridian MS
DEPLOY: 12 Apr 09

Liberty Exploitation Cell Ground Crew

(1N1XX)
Training Pipeline:
LEC CST/IQT Training: 3 Nov 08
CBT Training: 17-21 Nov
MQT: 2 Mar 09
DEPLOY: 15 Apr 09



Copilot

(Inexperienced)
Training Pipeline:
IQT: Starts 10 Feb 09
Flight Safety Intl
MQT: Starts 2 Mar 09
Meridian MS (ANG)
DEPLOY: 15 Apr 09

SIGINT Sensor

(1A8XX)
Training Pipeline:
IQT -15 Dec 08 Train the trainer at
Hagerstown MD
5 Jan 09 - AF training starts Meridian MS
MQT - Starts 2 Mar 09
DEPLOY: 15 Apr 09

MQT

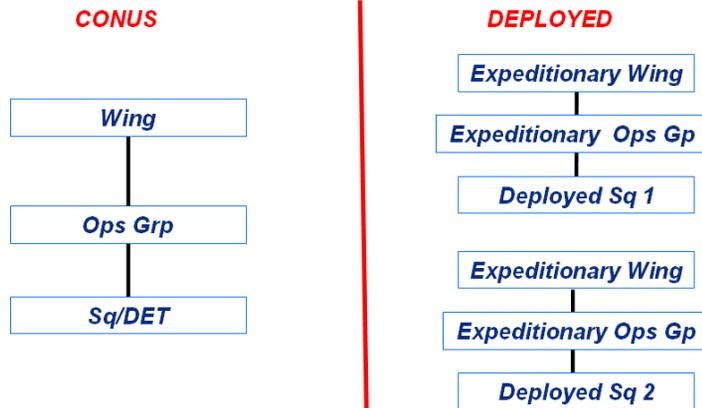
All Crew positions
Initial cadre starts 4 Jan 09 at Meridian MS
First Class starts 2 Mar 09
3 weeks in duration



Project Liberty Organization

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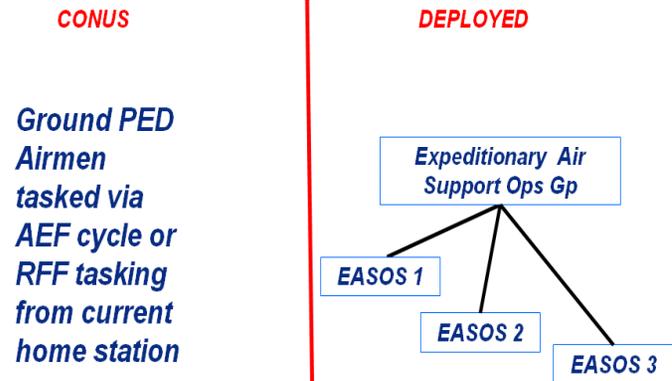
Proposed flying unit organization



- **Units OPCON/TACON/ADCON to Commander AFCENT**
- **Tasked, employed through ATO same as U-2, RJ, MQ-1/9 by CFACC**
- **Two forward deployed units 15 aircraft each**
- **One CONUS based unit 7 aircraft**

- **Ground site exploitation embedded with ground forces**
- **Focused on BCT/RCT operations**
- **Provides real-time situational awareness**
- **Dedicated, responsive ISR planning and operations**

Proposed Ground PED organization





Project Liberty Unit Stand-Up

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- **Stand up CONUS Detachment**
 - **ID temp basing while conducting permanent process**
 - **Detachment will receive aircraft from production line**
- **Synchronize training and aircraft delivery**
 - **Initial training contracted & conducted before aircraft delivery**
 - **Accomplish mission training once aircraft arrive**
- **Aircrews and aircraft deploy together**
 - **Planned 6-month rotation, 1 to 1 Dwell time**
- **PED training and deployment proportionally synchronized**
- **Maintenance / logistics will be contracted**



Summary

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- **Going as fast as we can**
 - **All aircraft purchased, first 8 in modification now**
 - **Deliver in March 09 to ACC; deploy in April 09 to CENTCOM**
 - **Considering follow-on capabilities**
- **ACC is MAJCOM lead**
 - **Working requirements, Concept of Employment, basing, training plan, manpower and timelines**
 - **Working closely with AFCENT and AFSOC**
 - **Engaged with Army counterparts and ISR TF**
- **AF ISR Agency working PED synchronized with ACC**
- **Big Safari is acquisition lead**