



Strategic Missions Task Force (SMTF) Structure and Concept

Civil Air Patrol
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What We'll Talk About

- Timeline
- Perspective
- Command and Control (C2)
- Equipment
- Manpower
- Qualifications
- Training
- Basing locations
- Parting thoughts

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Timeline

- May: Command Group tasks DCS/M to craft concept
- Jun-Jul: SMTF Working Group develops concept
- 27-29 Jul: SMTF Working Group meets
- 3 Aug: CAP/CC emails concept paper to Rgn/CCs
- 9 Aug: DCS/M briefs NB
- 1 Oct: Target date for SMTF activation

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Perspective

- We are flying uncharted airspace
- We need to reinvigorate the way in which we organize, train, and equip the GA-8/ARCHER fleet and crews
- We need to shift our paradigm regarding this unique system
 - It is a highly specialized asset
 - It incorporates our most sophisticated technology
 - It will be employed on sensitive/classified missions
 - It is in high demand
 - It is a critical national resource of strategic value
- We need to link the GA-8/ARCHER fleet into an integrated national network of unique sensors

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Command and Control (C2)

- DCS/Strategic Missions will be lead agency
- Deep engagement by DCS/Ops and HQ CAP/MD
- GA-8/ARCHER fleet will form the nucleus of 16 SMTFs
- TF assets are National Headquarters resources placed by CAP/CC in Rgn/CC custody and led by TF/CCs
- Rgn/CCs and DCS/M will identify stable basing locations
- Goal: To stabilize the GA-8/ARCHER fleet via long-term assignments in single locations, vice geographic rotations
- GA-8s are still available to wings for traditional missions
- TF/CC is central and crucial to mission success
- TF crew members may remain assigned to sub units

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Equipment

- SMF TOA
 - 1 GA-8 with installed ARCHER package
 - 1 ARCHER ground station
 - 1 Aerial imaging kit
 - 1 Pair gyro-stabilized binoculars
- Short-term removal and reinstallation of ARCHER package

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Manpower

- Phase 1 (execution to 12 mos): Form one crew per TF
- Phase 2 (12-24 mos): Form two (or more) additional crews per TF (Rgn/CC has discretion to right-size TFs)
- Crew configuration:
 - 2 GA-8 pilots
 - 2 ARCHER/Aerial Imagery operators
 - 1 IC
- All crews in all 16 TFs will be certified for SBU missions
- Three crews certified as West-Central-East classified crews

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Qualifications

- Active CAP member
- Member in good standing
- Two-hour drive to GA-8 basing location
- Certified as GA-8 pilot or ARCHER/Aerial Imagery operator
- Possess current CAPF 101
- Complete SMTF application process, to include an NDA
- Complete CD screening process
- Three classified crews: Complete SF86, “Application for National Security Clearance”

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Training

- Paramount: Crews train, certify, and operate together as **an integral crew**
- Rgn/CCs budget for SMTF training from existing training funds as they now do for GA-8 pilots/ARCHER operators
- TFs conduct **integral** crew training at least once every 60 days **as a team**
- TFs accomplish initial crew certifications and annual recertifications as an **integral team**

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Basing Locations

- Criteria
 - Need as determined by current/projected mission loads
 - Availability of secure facilities to house GA-8/ARCHER (requires adherence to hangaring requirement)
 - Availability of crews within a two-hour drive
 - Continued accessibility of GA-8 basing facilities
- *Basing determinations will be contentious and will require our very best collaboration*

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Parting Observations

- This is serious stuff...hard to do...still maturing
- Keeps Rgn/CCs squarely in the C2 equation
- Binds Rgn/CCs to the DCS/M and HQ CAP/MD staffs
- DCS/M will work closely with Rgn/CCs to modify, as required
- Recognizes that these systems are rare/precious national platforms in demand by federal agencies and US military
- Recognizes that these unique systems require special handling, tasking, and custodial responsibilities
- Important to step away from aircraft rotational schedules
 - To stabilize ops, maintenance, and tasking of fleet
 - To stabilize training, certification, and readiness of crews
- The GA-8 basing matrix will require extensive collaboration
- We can do this

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