

ARMY, MARINE CORPS, NAVY, AIR FORCE



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JAAT

MULTISERVICE PROCEDURES FOR JOINT AIR ATTACK TEAM OPERATIONS

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MULTISERVICE TACTICS, TECHNIQUES, AND PROCEDURES

FOREWORD

This publication has been prepared under our direction for use by our respective commands and other commands as appropriate.



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PREFACE

1. Scope

This publication—

(1) Defines multiservice joint air attack team (JAAT) operations and describes the capabilities and responsibilities of the team members.

(2) Describes responsibilities associated with planning, organizing, and executing multiservice JAAT operations.

(3) Provides the tactics, techniques, and procedures (TTP) needed for command and control and employment of multiservice JAAT operations.

(4) Provides standardized briefing guides for multiservice JAAT operations.

2. Purpose

This publication standardizes TTP among the services for planning and executing JAAT operations.

3. Application

This publication applies to the operating forces of all services. It provides multiservice TTP for joint air attack team operations. Although the focus of the publication is at the tactical level, it has application for planning and warfighting personnel at all echelons. Any service/component may initiate a JAAT. JAAT is merely a method of employing forces. The terms maneuver force commander and maneuver commander are representative of any commander (air, land, or sea).

4. Implementation Plan

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a. The TRADOC-MCCDC-NDC-AFDC Air Land Sea Application (ALSA) Center developed this publication with the joint participation of the approving service commands. ALSA will review and update this publication as necessary.

b. This publication reflects current joint and service doctrine, command and control organizations, facilities, personnel, responsibilities, and procedures. Changes in service protocol, appropriately reflected in joint and service publications, will likewise be incorporated in revisions to this document.

c. We encourage recommended changes for improving this publication. Key paragraph and provide a rationale for each recommendation. Send comments and your comments to the specific page and recommendation directly to—

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JAAT
Multiservice Procedures
for
Joint Air Attack Team Operations

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

JAAT Multiservice Procedures for Joint Air Attack Team Operations

The Joint Air Attack Team (JAAT)

The multiservice JAAT is a coordinated attack by rotary- and fixed-wing aircraft, normally supported by artillery or naval surface fire support. Ground or airborne electronic warfare systems may also support the JAAT. JAAT operations support the joint force commander (JFC) in offensive and defensive operations day or night.

Planning

The JAAT offers the commander unique strengths. JAAT operations provide mutual support with an increase in each member's survivability and a capability to mass combat power through diverse ordnance and employment procedures. The maneuver commander has the responsibility for integrating JAAT missions into the battle plan. The requesting commander's staff plans for, organizes, and coordinates JAAT operations to support this plan. Successful JAAT execution depends upon careful mission analysis, coordination, and planning. Historically, difficulties in execution are a result of poorly understood planning requirements.

JAAT Execution

Upon receipt of a JAAT mission, the JAAT mission commander must integrate five components of preplanned or immediate JAAT execution—airspace coordination measures, check in and briefings, firepower timing options, attack methods, shifting targets, and disengagement. The JAAT mission commander must also consider risk management as it applies to identifying hazards and implementing controls during planning, preparation and execution. Night employment of the JAAT is also an option with consideration for tactics requiring more deliberate tempo and strict adherence to basic procedures.

Summary

The key to an effective JAAT operation is a clear understanding of component capabilities and employment options and how they can be synchronized to achieve maximum effectiveness. This publication is intended to aid in this understanding.

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Chapter I

THE JOINT AIR ATTACK TEAM

1. Background

A joint air attack team (JAAT) operation is a coordinated attack by rotary- and fixed-wing aircraft, normally supported by artillery or naval surface fire support. Ground or airborne electronic warfare systems may also support the JAAT. JAAT operations support the joint force commander (JFC) in offensive and defensive operations day or night.

2. Command Responsibilities

Normally, the maneuver force commander, within an assigned operational area, is the individual responsible for determining when a JAAT is necessary, but any commander (air, land, or maritime) may request a JAAT. In this publication, the terms maneuver force commander and maneuver commander are representative of any commander (air, land, or sea) with overall command responsibilities within an area of operations (AO).

Designation of a mission commander occurs after coordination between the requesting commander and supporting commanders. The mission commander is responsible for the planning, coordinating, and execution of the JAAT. The mission commander has tactical control (TACON) of JAAT assets to support the commander's battle plan.

3. Rotary-Wing Element

Rotary-wing aircraft provide firepower, target acquisition, designation, and mission coordination to the JAAT. The Army normally provides attack and scout rotary-wing aircraft for JAAT operations. Under

certain circumstances, the Marine Corps could provide rotary-wing attack aircraft. The Navy and Air Force do not have rotary-wing attack aircraft.

a. Army. The Army employs attack and cavalry helicopters in JAAT operations. AH-64 Apaches are organic to attack battalions and are used in the attack as well as the reconnaissance role. OH-58D Kiowa Warriors are organic to light divisions and cavalry units and are used primarily for reconnaissance, but they do have limited attack capabilities. As a minimum, Army helicopters operate in pairs and typically operate in sections or troops/companies of four to eight aircraft. They are usually employed as three flights to provide continuous coverage for the JAAT but may be employed as a battalion-sized flight of 24 aircraft to achieve massed fires on the target. Army aircraft are less vulnerable to enemy air defenses at night; therefore, they generally conduct deep operations at night. Army rotary-wing characteristics and capabilities may be found in Appendix B.

b. Marine Corps. The Marine Corps has limited rotary-wing attack assets. The primary mission of these attack aircraft is to conduct offensive air support (OAS) and armed escort flights for assault support helicopters. Their additional missions are to provide forward air controller (airborne) (FAC[A]) and fire support coordination in aerial and ground operations within an objective area. Marine Corps rotary-wing attack aircraft may operate in conjunction with observer aircraft and/or other tactical air control party (TACP) assets of the Marine air-ground task force (MAGTF). Because of the limited number of assets and the dedicated mission of Marine Corps attack aircraft, they will not normally be