

MCWP 3-25.6

Sector Antiair Warfare Coordinator Handbook



U.S. Marine Corps

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Unless otherwise stated, whenever the masculine or feminine gender is used, both men and women are included.

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FOREWORD

The Marine air command and control system (MACCS) provides the Marine aviation combat element commander with the means to exercise control of those organic and nonorganic aviation assets that are necessary to support Marine air-ground task force (MAGTF) operations. Fleet Marine Force Manual (FMFM) 5-60, *Control of Aircraft and Missiles*, addresses basic planning considerations for MACCS operations, employment, and inter- operability among MACCS and joint Service agencies.

Marine Corps Warfighting Publication (MCWP) 3-25.6, *Sector Anti-air Warfare Coordinator Handbook*, complements and expands on the information in FMFM 5-60 by focusing on the details of sector anti-air warfare coordinator (SAAWC) operations and the role the SAAWC plays in MAGTF, joint, and multinational operations. Designated for MAGTF, naval expeditionary force, and joint force commanders and staffs, this publication highlights SAAWC—

- Organization
- Equipment
- Planning considerations
- Operational fundamentals
- Employment options

By investigating these areas, MCWP 3-25.6 provides the requisite information needed by commanders and staffs to understand and evaluate the operational principles and capabilities of various SAAWC employment options.

Reviewed and approved this date.

BY DIRECTION OF THE COMMANDANT OF THE MARINE
CORPS

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Sector Antiair Warfare Coordinator Handbook

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Chapter 1

Fundamentals

Traditionally, personnel within the tactical air command center (TACC) and the tactical air operations center (TAOC) handled the bulk of the tasks associated with Marine air-ground task force (MAGTF) antiair warfare operations, from planning through execution. Over the years, the flow of antiair warfare operations information substantially increased in speed and volume. Consequently, the Marine Corps' sector antiair warfare coordinator (SAAWC) concept evolved to enhance antiair warfare operations and information flow in this dynamic area.

The SAAWC uses a staff of air defense experts to interface with the TAOC and the aviation combat element (ACE) commander's battlestaff in the tactical air command center. This interface allows the TAOC to focus on the real-time control of fighter aircraft and ground-based air defense weapons and the tactical air command center to concentrate on fighting the ACE as a whole. For simplicity, the SAAWC and his staff are referred to as the "SAAWC."

ROLE

The SAAWC is the MAGTF's air defense battle manager. The SAAWC coordinates and manages all active air defense weapons (aircraft and ground-based air defense) within an assigned sector. The SAAWC functions to the extent of authority delegated by the ACE commander.

The TAOC is an air command and control agency that executes air defense operations within an assigned area. The SAAWC is an extension of the TAOC, not a separate agency in and of itself. The SAAWC plans air defense operations, manages air defense resources, supervises the employment of air defense assets, and coordinates with higher and adjacent air defense agencies and activities. The fundamental difference between the TAOC and SAAWC responsibilities lies in the focus; *execution vice planning and coordination*. For more details on the TAOC, see MCWP 3-25.7, *Tactical Air Operations Center Handbook*.

TASKS

The SAAWC participates in the initial planning process by—

- Establishing liaison with amphibious task force and/or joint force command aviation planners, as well as adjacent and subordinate units.
- Providing the ACE commander and the ACE commander's battlestaff with air defense operations expertise.
- Coordinating communications requirements with ACE/MAGTF communications planners.
- Recommending air defense courses of action to the ACE commander.
- Issuing directives, memorandums, or outline plans to subordinate units and hosting staff conferences or informal briefings as required.
- Conducting intelligence planning, which includes—