

MCWP 3-25.3

Marine Air Command and Control System Handbook



U.S. Marine Corps

PCN 143 000033 00

To Our Readers

Changes: Readers of this publication are encouraged to submit suggestions and changes that will improve it. Recommendations may be sent directly to Commanding General, Doctrine Division (C 42), Marine Corps Combat Development Command, 3300 Russell Road, Suite 318A, Quantico, VA 22134-5021 or by fax to 703-784-2917 (DSN 278-2917) or by E-mail to **smb@doctrine div@mccdc**. Recommendations should include the following information:

- Location of change
 - Publication number and title
 - Current page number
 - Paragraph number (if applicable)
 - Line number
 - Figure or table number (if applicable)
- Nature of change
 - Add, delete
 - Proposed new text, preferably double-spaced and typewritten
- Justification and/or source of change

Additional copies: A printed copy of this publication may be obtained from Marine Corps Logistics Base, Albany, GA 31704-5001, by following the instructions in MCBul 5600, *Marine Corps Doctrinal Publications Status*. An electronic copy may be obtained from the Doctrine Division, MCCDC, world wide web home page which is found at the following universal reference locator: **<http://ismo-www1.quantico.usmc.mil/docdiv>**.

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

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
Headquarters United States Marine Corps
Washington, DC 20380-1775

2 December 1997

FOREWORD

The Marine air command and control system (MACCS) provides the Marine aviation combat element commander with the means to exercise command and control of organic and nonorganic aviation assets 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 interoperability among MACCS and joint Service agencies.

Marine Corps Warfighting Publication (MCWP) 3-25.3, *Marine Air Command and Control System Handbook*, complements and expands on the information in FMFM 5-60 by focusing on the employment of the MACCS as a whole. This publication emphasizes system interoperability, air command and control agency interface, and overarching planning considerations. Designated for MAGTF commanders, naval expeditionary force commanders, joint force commanders, and their staffs, MCWP 3-25.3 examines MACCS—

- Functions.
- Composition.
- Organization.

- Planning considerations.
- Employment options.

By investigating these areas, MCWP 3-25.3 provides the requisite information needed by commanders and their staffs to understand and evaluate the operational principles and capabilities of various MACCS employment options.

Reviewed and approved this date.

BY DIRECTION OF THE COMMANDANT OF THE MARINE
CORPS

J. E. RHODES
Lieutenant General, U.S. Marine Corps
Commanding General
Marine Corps Combat Development Command

DISTRIBUTION: 143 000033 00

Marine Air Command and Control System Handbook

Table of Contents

	Page
Chapter 1. Fundamentals	
Functions	1-1
Role	1-2
Tasks	1-2
Control of Aircraft and Missiles	1-3
Chapter 2. Organization	
General	2-1
Tactical Air Command Center	2-1
Direct Air Support Center	2-7
Tactical Air Control Party	2-10
Airborne Terminal Control Agencies	2-11
Other Terminal Control Agencies	2-13
Sector Antiair Warfare Coordinator	2-15
Tactical Air Operations Center	2-16
Marine Air Traffic Control Detachment	2-19
Marine Wing Communications Squadron	2-20
Ground-Based Air Defense Units	2-22

Chapter 3. Planning

Fundamentals	3-1
Planning Considerations	3-2
Assigned Mission	3-3
Control of Air Operations	3-3
ACE Planning Factors	3-4
MACCS Planning Issues	3-5
MACCS Planning Cycle	3-14
MACCS Estimate of Supportability	3-19
MACCS Planning Brief	3-20

Chapter 4. Operations

Employment	4-1
Concept of Operations	4-4
Concept of Employment	4-5
Expeditionary Operations	4-8
Execution	4-16

Chapter 5. Training

MACCS Integrated Simulated Training Exercise	5-1
Marine Aviation Planning Problem	5-2
Joint Service Training Exercise	5-2
Field Training Exercise	5-2
Unit Training	5-2
Formal Schools	5-3
Aviation Training and Readiness Information System	5-6
Training and Readiness Syllabus	5-6

Evaluating Training

5-9

Appendices

A	Planning Review Checklist	A-1
B	MACCS Planning Considerations	B-1
C	MACCS Planning Brief	C-1
D	Concept of Employment Brief	D-1
E	Glossary	E-1
F	References	F-1

Chapter 1

Fundamentals

The Marine air command and control system (MACCS) consists of various air command and control agencies designed to provide the Marine air-ground task force's (MAGTF's) aviation combat element (ACE) commander with the ability to monitor, supervise, and influence the application of Marine aviation's six functions. The Marine air control group (MACG) is responsible for providing, operating, and maintaining principal Marine air command and control system agencies.

FUNCTIONS

The Marine air command and control system contributes to Marine air-ground task force operations by—

- Providing the air command and control systems required to supervise and control the execution of the six functions of Marine aviation.
- Coordinating air operations with joint/multinational/Service and civil air command and control systems.
- Advising the MAGTF commander and joint force commander on the application and employment of Marine aviation.

ROLE

The Marine air command and control system provides the aviation combat element commander with the air command and control support facilities and infrastructure necessary to command, coordinate, and control air operations within an assigned area of operations or airspace sector and to coordinate MAGTF air operations with other Services. Principal MACCS agencies' activities are composed of air command and control suites that integrate manual and semiautomatic capabilities to provide air control and direction.

TASKS

The Marine air command and control system coordinates the employment of facilities, equipment, communications, procedures, and personnel that allow the ACE commander to plan, direct, and control aviation efforts in support of the MAGTF. The MACCS—

- Provides, maintains, and operates an air command and control system capable of expeditionary employment.
- Conducts airspace control and management within the Marine air-ground task force's area of operations or an assigned sector of responsibility.
- Conducts anti-air warfare operations to include the coordination and control of aircraft and surface-to-air missiles.
- Coordinates and controls assault support operations.
- Coordinates and controls air reconnaissance missions.