

MCWP 3-25.4

MARINE TACTICAL AIR COMMAND CENTER HANDBOOK



U.S. Marine Corps

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FOREWORD

The Marine air command and control system (MACCS) provides the Marine aviation combat element (ACE) 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. Marine Corps Warfighting Publication (MCWP) 3-25, *Control of Aircraft and Missiles*, addresses basic Marine Corps air command and control philosophy. MCWP 3-25.3, *Marine Air Command and Control System Handbook*, addresses basic planning considerations for MACCS interoperability, employment, and operations among MACCS and joint Service agencies.

MCWP 3-25.4, *Marine Tactical Air Command Center Handbook*, complements and expands on the information in MCWPs 3-25 and 3-25.3 by focusing on the details of Marine tactical air command center (TACC) operations and the role it plays in integrated MAGTF, joint, and multinational operations.

This publication presents the baseline TACC that would be fielded by a single-wing ACE supporting a standing Marine expeditionary force (MEF) in the conduct of sustained operations ashore. Larger- and smaller-scale operations can be supported by adding to or subtracting from the baseline configuration.

Designated for MAGTF, naval expeditionary force, and joint force commanders and staffs, as well as all MAGTF officers and staff

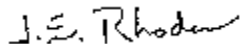
noncommissioned officers, MCWP 3-25.4 highlights tactical air command center—

- | Organization and manning.
- | Equipment.
- | Planning considerations.
- | Operational fundamentals.
- | Employment options.
- | Training fundamentals.

By investigating these areas, MCWP 3-25.4 provides the requisite information needed by commanders and their staffs to understand and evaluate the operational principles and capabilities of the Marine tactical air command center.

Reviewed and approved this date.

BY DIRECTION OF THE COMMANDANT OF THE MARINE CORPS



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Marine Tactical Air Command Center Handbook

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Chapter 1

Fundamentals

The ACE commander is normally the MAGTF tactical air commander (TAC) and advises the MAGTF commander on the most effective employment of ACE assets. The ACE battlestaff assists the ACE commander in executing duties by providing specialized expertise and advice.

The ACE battlestaff (fig. 1-1) consists of the chief of staff, the principal staff officers (G-1, G-2, G-3, G-4, G-6, and aviation logistics division [ALD] representative), and special staff officers (e.g., staff judge advocate, surgeon, chaplain) required by the situation or the ACE commander.

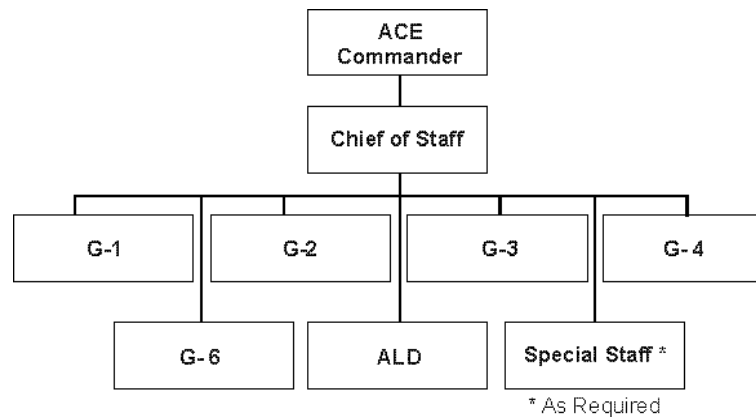


Figure 1-1. ACE Battlestaff.

The chief of staff is the principal assistant and advisor to the ACE commander. The principal staff officers provide functional expertise and recommendations during deliberations. The staff principals facilitate the ACE's capability to plan and conduct missions across the operational spectrum by directing the activities of their respective staff sections based on a shared understanding of the ACE commander's intent.

The ACE commander convenes the battlestaff, while the chief of staff coordinates and directs the battlestaff's efforts. The battlestaff will normally meet regularly with the ACE commander to review ongoing operations and assist in forming the ACE's concept of operations for planned activities.

MISSION AND FUNCTIONS

The ACE commander exercises air operations authority through the Marine air command and control system. The tactical air command center (TACC) is the senior MACCS agency. It is the operational wing command post from which the ACE commander and his staff plan, supervise, coordinate, and execute MAGTF air operations (this includes the planning and execution of all air tasking orders [ATOs] and the execution of the current ACE operation order [OPORD] or fragmentary order [FRAGO]). The TACC is the MACCS agency that exercises command. The TACC integrates the six functions of Marine aviation with the MAGTF command element through linkage with the MAGTF combat operations center (COC) and the force fires coordination center (FFCC). The TACC provides functional interface for employment of MAGTF aviation in joint and multinational operations. It is referred to as the Marine TACC to avoid confusion with the Navy tactical air control center.