

ARMY, MARINE CORPS, NAVY, AIR FORCE



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TAGS

MULTISERVICE PROCEDURES FOR THE THEATER AIR-GROUND SYSTEM

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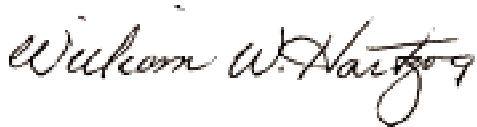
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MULTISERVICE TACTICS, TECHNIQUES, AND PROCEDURES

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 provides a generic concept and procedures for Theater Air-Ground System (TAGS) operations. It is a “primer” for all planners to facilitate the integration of air operations and ground combat operations. It offers readers a basic understanding of joint and component air-ground systems and operations, an overview of the joint air tasking order (ATO) cycle, and the command and decision-making process at component and joint force levels. Since an unclassified, generic TAGS is described, practitioners in mature theaters should refer to theater manuals and standard operations instructions for theater-specific procedures. This publication has worldwide application and can serve as a model for any level of conflict. It is intended to supplement Joint Publication 3.56-1, *Command and Control for Joint Air Operations*, by providing detailed information regarding component contributions to the TAGS.

2. Purpose

Each component brings unique capabilities to a joint operation. Successful theater operations require effective synchronization of all forces: ground, air, naval, space, and special operations. Coordinated air operations permit joint forces commanders (JFCs) to rapidly develop the battlespace to meet their operational objectives by dominating the airspace and striking the enemy in depth. The TAGS is a system of systems, a synergy of the various component air-ground systems, orchestrating the planning and execution of air-ground operations. The objective of this publication is to describe how each of the component’s systems operate within the TAGS. For the purpose of this publication, the TAGS refers to organizations, personnel, equipment, and procedures that participate in the planning

and execution of all air-ground operations. Key to the TAGS is an understanding of the systems and how to maximize each component's capabilities to achieve quick and decisive results in combat.

3. Application

The tactics, techniques, and procedures (TTP) described in this publication apply to all elements of a joint force. This publication uses approved joint and service doctrine and terminology as its foundation. The publication identifies methodologies to use existing service command and control (C2) systems to facilitate air-ground operations. ***Note: Air/naval gunfire liaison companies (ANGLICOs) are scheduled for deactivation in FY 98 and 99. The Marine Corps is establishing a Marine liaison group to provide interface with foreign militaries—an ANGLICO function. This multiservice tactics, techniques, and procedures (MTTP) does not reflect how these changes will affect the TAGS.***

4. Implementation Plan

Participating service command offices of primary responsibility (OPRs) will review this publication, validate the information, and reference and incorporate it in service manuals, regulations, and curricula as follows:

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b. This publication reflects current joint and service doctrine, C2 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.

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TAGS
Multiservice Procedures
for the
Theater Air-Ground System

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

TAGS

Multiservice Procedures for the Theater Air-Ground System

Overview

The Theater Air-Ground System (TAGS) is not a formal system in itself but rather the sum of the component air-ground systems operating in the theater. It is applicable to all theater operations to include air, ground, maritime, and amphibious operations. This TAGS publication applies to a joint task force (JTF) established on a geographic area basis since functional JTFs are typically associated with unified commands for transportation, space, special operations, and strategic operations.

This publication serves as a primer for all practitioners in the air-ground community by providing a single source of information regarding component operations within the TAGS to include organization, capabilities, planning, and command and control. It is an extension of Joint Publication 3.56.1, *Command and Control of Joint Air Operations*, in that it provides detailed information on interoperability of systems, coordination procedures, and transitions.

The first chapter provides an overview of the joint force and TAGS relationships within the force. Chapters II through VI provide information about component air-ground systems, which together form the TAGS. Chapter VII focuses on the TAGS itself, providing information on the joint air tasking order (ATO) cycle and joint air defense operations.

This revision of TAGS includes a standardization of component chapters and an update of all information to reflect current doctrine and joint terminology. Information that pertained to multiple services, such as transfer of air control ashore for amphibious operations and coordination procedures/measures, were moved to separate appendices. An appendix explaining how to break out ATO, special instructions, and an air control order was added as a reference aid. Two new appendices added are carrier battle group planning and execution of air operations and transition between sea- and land-based joint force air component commanders.

Summary

The key to an effective TAGS is a clear understanding of component air-ground systems relationships to one another, 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 FORCE

1. Background

It is important that personnel assigned to or working with the Theater Air-Ground System (TAGS) understand the decision-making processes and problems associated with the operational level of command. Armed with this knowledge, commanders and staffs will better understand TAGS functions and how to work within the system to receive or give support. Actions at the joint force level establish the “ground rules” for the TAGS, including the theater commander in chief’s (CINC’s) guidance, perspective, and strategy; the CINC or joint force commander’s (JFC’s) theater/joint operations area (JOA) strategy, command organization and relationships; the campaign plan; assignment of objectives; and apportionment of forces. This chapter summarizes the joint task force (JTF) level considerations and organizational options that influence theater air-ground operations. It describes the role of the JFC, command relationships, the role and responsibilities of the joint force air component commander (JFACC), and TAGS joint liaison requirements.

2. Establishing the JTF

The Secretary of Defense, a CINC (also referred to as a commander of a combatant command), subordinate unified commander, or an existing JFC establishes JTFs. Joint forces are established on either a geographic or functional basis. Establishing a joint force based on a geographic area is the most common method of assigning responsibility for continuing operations. This publication applies to a JTF established on a geographic area basis since functional JTFs are typically associated with unified commands for transportation, space, special operations (SO), and strategic operations.

3. JFC

If the CINCs decide to delegate authority for an assigned mission, they will designate a JFC to command a subordinate JTF. In this publication, JFC means either a theater combatant commander or a subordinate who is designated a JFC. The JFC has the authority to organize forces to best accomplish the assigned mission based on the concept of operations by establishing subordinate commands, assigning responsibilities, establishing or delegating appropriate command and support relationships, and establishing coordinating instructions for the component commanders. The JFC has full authority to assign missions, redirect efforts, and direct coordination among subordinate commanders and will exercise operational control (OPCON) over assigned and (normally) attached forces. The JFC will assemble a joint staff with appropriate members in key positions of responsibility from each service or functional component having significant forces assigned to the command. The manner in which JFCs organize their forces directly affects the responsiveness and versatility of joint force operations. According to Joint Publication 3-0, *Doctrine for Joint Operations*, the JFC’s vision and concept of operations are the basis for organizing forces to accomplish the mission.

4. Components of the Joint Force

All joint forces include service component commands, which provide administrative and logistic support. Normally, the JFC will establish functional component commands to provide centralized direction and control of certain functions and types of operations when it is feasible and necessary to fix responsibility. The need for a functional