Headquarters,
Department of the Army

FIELD MANUAL
24-7

Tactical Local Area Network (LAN) Management

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Distribution Restriction: Approved for public release; distribution is unlimited.

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*This publication supersedes FM 11-75, 20 September 1994 and FM 24-16, 7 April 1978.

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Preface

This manual concentrates on tactical local area network (LAN) management at echelons corps and below (ECB). Command and control (C2) systems in a tactical LAN are integrated to collect, combine, process, exchange and present information to support the commander across the battlefield. The commander can effectively plan, coordinate, control, and direct the battle when the proper procedures in establishing, managing, and maintaining a tactical LAN are met. This manual outlines the responsibilities and procedures that apply to all levels of command.

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Unless this publication states otherwise, masculine nouns and pronouns do not refer exclusively to men.

Chapter 1

Tactical Operations Center LAN Overview

Commanders depend on command and control (C2) systems to collect, combine, process, and exchange vital information needed to gain information dominance. The C2 systems in each tactical operations center (TOC) connect forming a local area network (LAN). These systems connected to the TOC LAN enhance C2 of the forces. This chapter gives an overview of a TOC, LAN, Army Battle Command and Control System (ABCS), Standard Army Management Information System (STAMIS), and data transport systems.

TOC

1-1. The TOC serves as the unit's C2 hub and assists the commander in synchronizing operations. Most of the staff coordination, planning, and monitoring of key events occurs at the TOC. Its personnel must ensure all resources are in the right place at the right time. They must function efficiently and effectively as a team in a fast-paced, unforgiving environment. All users, individually and collectively, must understand the overall function of the TOC. Basic TOC functions include–

- Receiving, distributing, and analyzing information.
- Submitting recommendations to the commander.
- Integrating and synchronizing resources.

1-2. The TOC functions primarily as an information center processing a high volume of message traffic, reports, and orders. It must act, direct, inform, and decide based on that information. An efficient TOC communicates internally and externally, and it integrates all its players. It is very easy for units to experience information overload unless they have simple and effective systems in place to receive and process information.

TOC LAYOUT

1-3. The physical layout of a TOC contributes to how efficiently information is passed from one staff section to another, and how easily sections communicate with one another. There is no standardized method on how a TOC should be configured. It is basically at the discretion of the individual unit. However, the most effective TOCs have the following factors in common:

- A high degree of organization.
- Configured in a manner that was functional to the unit and did not segregate staff sections.
- Planning areas were segregated from TOC briefing and operations areas.