

**HEADQUARTERS
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**

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AIR DEFENSE ARTILLERY REFERENCE HANDBOOK

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Air Defense Artillery Reference Handbook

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Preface

The purpose of this field manual (FM) is to familiarize personnel with ADA operations and weapon systems. This FM will be useful to personnel serving in the following types of positions:

- staff positions requiring general knowledge of Air Defense Artillery systems and operations
- instructor positions in service schools and the Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC)
- members of advisory elements and groups assigned to missions in foreign countries
- advisory positions in reserve component forces
- command and leadership positions in special operations force units
- executive positions and advisory positions that require knowledge of air defense subjects

Readers are reminded that weapons systems and operations are continually changing. Publications such as technical manuals, tables of organization and equipment, and mission training plans (MTP) provide more detailed information on specific subjects. Many of these sources are referred to in appropriate sections of this field manual.

The proponent for this manual is HQ TRADOC. Send comments and recommendations on DA Form 2028 to Commandant, USAADASCH, ATTN: ATSA-DT-WF, Fort Bliss, TX 79916-3802.

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

Chapter 1

Air Defense Artillery Mission

This chapter addresses the Air Defense Artillery (ADA) mission and the relationship to the Army tenets and battlefield operating systems. ADA contributes unique capabilities to theater counterair and theater missile defense operations as part of a joint, multinational, or interagency team. The theater objectives of ADA are to preserve combat power, gain the initiative, and support offensive operations.

MISSION

1-1. The mission of US Army Air Defense Artillery is to protect the force and selected geopolitical assets from aerial attack, missile attack and surveillance.

FORCES

1-2. ADA commanders allocate active and reserve component ADA assets based on the supported commander's priorities. In addition, the mission is broadly written to include protection of critical assets, installations, and facilities along with joint and multinational forces when required.

GEOPOLITICAL ASSETS

1-3. Geopolitical assets are nonmilitary assets that US, allied, or host nation civil authorities nominate for air and missile defense protection. These assets could be political, religious, ethnic, historical, or territorial in nature. Since protection of geopolitical assets may not directly support military operations, integration of geopolitical assets into the air and missile defense priorities list must be done at the highest levels. Geopolitical assets may include US territories.

THREAT

1-4. The threat includes all aircraft, aerial surveillance platforms, and theater missiles. Chapter 2 provides more detail and information on the threat.

CONSEQUENCES

1-5. Successful air and missile defense is key to generating and sustaining combat power in force projection operations. The AD contribution to friendly efforts to counter threat reconnaissance, intelligence surveillance, and target acquisition efforts has gained greater emphasis. Current and future Army ADA capabilities, both active and reserve component, must synergistically combine with the AD assets of other services to defeat the multifaceted threat. Army ADA forces participate in operations at all levels of war.