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JOINT SURVEILLANCE TARGET ATTACK RADAR SYSTEM (Joint STARS)

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PREFACE

This manual provides doctrine and the tactics, techniques, and procedures (TTP) for the employment of the Joint Surveillance Target Attack Radar System (Joint STARS). It also describes the equipment, function, and placement on the battlefield.

This manual describes the doctrine and TTP for the E-8 aircraft crew down to the individual ground station module (GSM) operator. Appendix A is classified and contains Joint STARS mission planning factors. Appendixes B through D describe specific Joint STARS techniques and procedures.

This manual is designed for use by commanders and their staffs; all MI commanders, their staffs, and trainers; and MI personnel at all echelons. It applies equally to the Active Army, United States Army Reserve (USAR), and Army National Guard (ARNG). It is intended for commanders and staffs of joint and combined commands; content may be applicable to United States Navy (USN), United States Marine Corps (USMC), United States Air Force (USAF), and the military forces of allied countries.

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

This manual does not implement any International Standardization Agreements but complies with Standardization Agreement (STANAG) 5620, Standards for the Interoperability of Fire Support Automatic Data Processing (ADP) Systems.

Chapter 1

INTRODUCTION

We will never again want to fight without a Joint STARS kind of system

—LTG William C. Key, USMC Commanding General, 2d Marine Division (during DESERT STORM)

Joint STARS provides continuous wide area surveillance of surface activity. It serves the ground component commander in much the same way as the Airborne Warning and Control System (AWACS) serves the Air Component Commander (ACC).

WHAT IS JOINT STARS?

Joint STARS is an Army and Air Force multiservice system designed to provide real-time surveillance, intelligence, targeting, and battlefield management information to the Land Component Commander (LCC).

MISSION

The primary mission of Joint STARS is to provide dedicated support to the corps commander and other ground commanders, under the overall direction of the Joint Force Commander (JFC).

One Joint STARS consists of an Air Force owned E-8 aircraft staffed by Air Force and Army personnel and GSMs staffed by Army personnel. Figure 1-1 shows a GSM deployment. Three to five positions onboard the E-8 are staffed by Army personnel who provide tasking and reporting channels between the E-8 and the GSMs.

WHAT DOES IT PROVIDE?

Joint STARS provides Ground Component Commanders (GCCs) access to near-real-time (NRT) radar imagery data that is valuable and accurate and supports the decisionmaking process. Joint STARS provides—

 A value-added capability because it provides NRT indications and warnings (I&W) of threat activity during peacetime or pre-hostilities.