

MQA-10: OPD #1 – BASIC AIR FORCE DOCTRINE

PREREQUISITES: MQA-9

REQUIRED READING: JP 3-09.3; TO 1M-34; AFFTP 3-1 Vol 26 (ASOC & TACP Operations) Chapter 6

PURPOSE: Familiarize new ALO with Officer Professional Development briefing on basic Air Force doctrine.

Introduction - (Slide 2)

This lesson is an introduction to the Air Force's basic doctrine, Joint doctrine, and Air Force alignment with the Army. It is designed to give you an understanding that the Air Force, through operations in the air, space, and information environments, is a global strategic power that can protect national interests and achieve national objectives by rapidly projecting potent air, space or joint-force land power anywhere on the earth. The main focus of this lesson is to be an OPD given to the Army. Much of the Air Force doctrine is for ALO information just in case the Army ask questions about specific items. The concept is to highlight the important information as shown in the power point presentation. Some of the material was taken from a Joint Firepower Control Course (JFCC) paper along with Joint Publication. The subjects are as follows:

- The Three Types of Air Force Doctrine
- Air Force Mission
- Tenets of Air and Space Power
- Core Competencies
- Air and Space Power Functions
- Air Interdiction
- Close Air Support (CAS)
- Doctrinal CAS
- Air Force Alignment

The Three Types of Air Force Doctrine – (Slide 3)

Doctrine is constantly changing as new experiences and advances in technology point the way to the force of the future. Air Force doctrine is simply a guide for what we believe to be the most effective use of air and space power. The Air Force places air and space doctrine at different levels and depths of detail in the forms of basic, operational, and tactical doctrine.

Basic doctrine, contained in AFDD-1, states the most fundamental and enduring beliefs that describe and guide the proper use of air and space forces in military action.

Operational doctrine, contained in AFDD-2 series publications.

Tactical doctrine, contained in AFTTP-3 series manuals (formerly MCM 3-1 series manuals) are for force tactics, techniques, and procedures.

Air Force Mission – (Slide 4)

The mission of the Air Force is to defend the United States through control and exploitation of air and space. Teamed with the Army, Navy, and Marine Corps, the Air Force is prepared to fight and win any war if deterrence fails.

Tenets of Air and Space Power – (Slide 5)

The fundamental guiding truths of air and space power employment, which, in addition to the principles of war, provide specific considerations for air and space force employment. Air and space power is intrinsically different from surface power and its employment must be guided by different principles.

Centralized control/decentralized execution: Centralized control allows for one airman to establish priorities, and focus efforts of air and space power. Decentralized execution allows for tactical flexibility, letting commanders nearest the fight determine their tactics and respond quickly to new situations.

Flexibility/Versatility: Allows for air and space forces to exploit mass and maneuver simultaneously, flexibly, while these same powers can shift from strategic to operational to tactical, with equal effectiveness, enhancing its versatility.

Synergy: Maximizing all forces to produce total effects far greater than the sum of the individual efforts.

Persistence: The speed and range of air and space power allows us to quickly service and re-service targets nearly at will, allowing force to be brought upon targets without having to occupy the area.

Concentration: Air and space power is not very effective without concentration of fires, and high demand makes air and space power susceptible to dispersion. Air and space power must therefore be concentrated in purpose to ensure successful missions.

Priority: Due to high demand of air and space power, it must be prioritized to make the best contributions to the Joint Force Commander's (JFC) requirements

Balance: Air and space power is a finite resource, and these assets should be balanced against the benefits of employment and the associated risks to losing them

Core Competencies – (Slide 6)

Our core competencies represent the combination of professional knowledge, airpower expertise, and technological know-how that when applied, produce superior military capabilities. These competencies stem from two sources: functions that can be accomplished only by air and space forces and functions that confer advantages to the nation when performed by air and space forces. A particular core competency is not necessarily unique to the Air Force, but, speed, flexibility, and the global nature of its reach and perspective distinguish the Air Force's execution of these competencies. They are not doctrine per se, but are the enablers of our doctrine. They begin the translation of the central beliefs of doctrine into operational concepts.

Air and Space Superiority: An important first step in any battle, it provides the ability to attack and the freedom from attack. There are various degrees of control possible.

Superiority: Degree of dominance permitting friendly operation at a given time and place without prohibitive interference from the enemy.

Supremacy: Degree of superiority wherein enemy air and space forces are incapable of effective interference.

Global Attack: The ability to attack rapidly and persistently with a wide range of munitions anywhere over the surface of the earth, anytime.

Rapid Global Mobility: The timely movement, positioning, and sustainment of military forces and capabilities through air and space across the range of military operations.

Precision Engagement: The ability to forgo the brute force-on-force tactics of previous wars and apply discriminate force precisely where required.

Information Superiority: The ability to collect, exploit, and defend information while denying our enemies the ability to do the same.

Agile Combat Support: The ability to provide highly responsive support to a force that is poised to respond to global tasking within hours. This includes every facet of support from focused logistics, proving a reach-back sustainment capability that gives our forces a smaller logistical footprint in the theater, to providing focused home-base support for members and their families.

Air And Space Power Functions – (Slide 7)

Counter Air (CA): Counter air functions are to facilitate friendly operations against the enemy and protect friendly forces and vital assets through control of the air. Counter air is directed at enemy forces and target sets that directly (airborne aircraft, surface-to-air missiles, etc.) or indirectly (airfields; petroleum, oils, and lubricants; production facilities; etc.) challenge control of the air.

Offensive Counter Air (OCA): OCA consists of offensive operations aimed at destroying, disrupting, or limiting enemy air and missile threats. OCA operations include targets such as enemy air defense systems, airfields, and supporting infrastructure; theater missiles, ground, sea, and air-based launch platforms, and supporting infrastructure; as well as command, control, communications, computers, and intelligence nodes.

Defensive Counter Air (DCA): DCA is to protect friendly forces and vital interests from enemy air and missile attacks and is synonymous with air defense. DCA consists of active and passive air defense operations including all defensive measures designed to destroy attacking enemy air and missile threats or to nullify or reduce the effectiveness of such attacks should they escape destruction.

Counter Space: Counter space is the mission carried out to achieve space control objectives by gaining and maintaining control of activities conducted in or through the space environment. Counter space involves activities conducted by land, sea, air, space, information and/or special operations forces.

Offensive Counter Space (OCS): OCS operations destroy or neutralize an adversary's space systems or the information they provide at a time and place of our choosing through attacks on the space, terrestrial, or link elements of space systems. The principal means of conducting offensive counter space operations is through the use of terrestrial-based forces such as air attacks against space system ground nodes or supporting infrastructure.

Defensive Counter Space (DCS): DCS operations consist of active and passive actions to protect US space-related capabilities from enemy attack or interference

Strategic Attack: Strategic attack is defined as those operations intended to directly achieve strategic effects by striking directly at the enemy's centers of gravity. These operations are designed to achieve their objectives without first having to directly engage the adversary's fielded military forces in extended operations at the operational and tactical levels of war

Counter Land: Involves those operations conducted to attain and maintain a desired degree of superiority over surface operations by the destruction or neutralization of enemy surface forces.

Interdiction: Air operations are conducted to **divert, disrupt, delay, or destroy** the enemy's surface military potential before it can be used effectively against friendly forces. Air interdiction's ability to delay and disrupt may have a devastating impact on the enemy's plans and ability to respond to the actions of friendly forces,

even before friendly surface forces appear in the battle space. Interdiction attacks enemy C² systems, personnel, materiel, logistics, and their supporting systems to weaken and disrupt the enemy's efforts and may achieve tactical, operational, or strategic objectives. Joint force interdiction needs the direction of a single commander who can exploit and coordinate all the forces involved, whether air-, space- or information based.

Close Air Support (CAS): Air actions by fixed and rotary-wing aircraft against hostile targets, which are in, **close proximity** to friendly forces and which **require detailed integration** of each air mission with the fire and movement of those forces. Aircraft are directed against targets of immediate concern to surface commanders when organic fires are not available or mass concentration of firepower is needed.

Counter Sea: An extension of Air Force functions into a maritime environment. This is a collateral function per Joint Pub 1-02. The specialized functions are sea surveillance, anti-ship warfare, protection of sea lanes of communications (SLOCs), aerial mine laying, and air refueling in support of naval campaigns.

Counter-information (CI): CI is an aerospace function that establishes information superiority by neutralizing or influencing adversary information activities to varying degrees, depending on the situation. The focus of CI is on countering an adversary's ability to attain an information advantage. It does this through information denial, degradation, disruption, destruction, deception, and exploitation. All of these measures can confuse, delay, or inhibit adversary offensive actions and reduce reaction time for critical defensive measures.

Offensive Counter Information (OCI): Actions taken to control the information environment. OCI operations are designed to limit, degrade, disrupt, or destroy dependent on having an understanding of an adversary's information capabilities.

Defensive Counter Information (DCI): DCI includes those actions that protect information, information systems, and information operations from any potential adversary. DCI includes such programs as operations security (OPSEC), information assurance, and counterintelligence.

Airlift: Transportation of personnel and material through the air in support of national military objectives.

Inter theater Airlift: Inter theater airlift provides the air bridge that links theaters to the CONUS and to other theaters, as well as airlift within the CONUS.

Intra theater Airlift: Intra theater airlift provides the air movement of personnel and materiel within a CINC's area of responsibility.

Space lift: Space lift provides the Air Force with the ability to project power by delivering satellites, payloads, and material into or through space.

Special Operations: Special airpower operations used to conduct unconventional warfare, direct action, special reconnaissance, counter terrorism, foreign internal defense, psychological operations, and counter proliferation.

Combat Search and Rescue (CSAR): Air operations conducted to recover distressed personnel during wartime or contingency.

Air Refueling: Along with airlift, this function contributes to Joint U.S. Mobility. It is also a force multiplier when considering its ability to extend the range and on-station time of our weapon systems.

Intelligence: Intelligence provides clear, brief, relevant, and timely analysis on foreign capabilities and intentions for planning and conducting military operations.

Surveillance: Surveillance is the function of systematically observing air, space, surface, or subsurface areas, places, persons, or things, by visual, aural, electronic, photographic, or other means. Surveillance is a continuing process, not oriented to a specific "target".

Reconnaissance: Reconnaissance complements surveillance in obtaining, by visual observation or other detection methods, specific information about the activities and resources of an enemy or potential enemy; or in securing data concerning the meteorological, hydrographic, or geographic characteristics of a particular area.

Navigation and Positioning: Provides accurate location and time of reference in support of strategic, operational, and tactical operations.

Weather Service: Weather services provided by the Air Force supply timely and accurate environmental information, including both space environment and atmospheric weather, to commanders for their objectives and plans at the strategic, operational, and tactical levels.

Command and Control: The battle space-management process of planning, directing, coordinating, and controlling of forces and operations.

Air Interdiction – (Slides 8 - 10)

Air Force Doctrinal Air Interdiction

Air operations are conducted to **divert, disrupt, delay, or destroy** the enemy's surface military potential before it can be used effectively against friendly forces. Air interdiction's ability to delay and disrupt may have a devastating impact on the enemy's plans and ability to respond to the actions of friendly forces, even before friendly surface forces appear in the battle space. Interdiction attacks enemy C² systems, personnel, materiel, logistics, and their supporting systems to weaken and disrupt the enemy's efforts and may achieve tactical, operational, or strategic objectives. Joint force interdiction needs the direction of a single commander who can exploit and coordinate all the forces involved, whether air-, space- or information based (next slide).

Joint Publication Air Interdiction

Air operations conducted to **destroy, neutralize, or delay** the enemy's military potential **before** it can be **brought to bear** effectively **against friendly forces at** such **distance** from friendly forces **that detailed integration** of each air mission with the fire and movement of friendly forces **is not required.**" (JP 3-09.3) (next slide)

The key portion of the above definition deals with distance. Air interdiction is employed against enemy surface power *beyond the range* at which it can engage friendly surface forces. This minimizes the risk of fratricide against friendly ground forces, and reduces the need to deconflict between aerospace power and organic surface fires. AI has the flexibility to operate either in support of surface operations, or by itself as the main effort against the enemy ground force.

Close Air Support (CAS) – (Slides 11 - 14)

According to Joint Publication 1-02, Close Air Support is, "Air actions by fixed and rotary-wing aircraft against hostile targets, which are in, **close proximity** to friendly forces and which **require detailed integration** of each air mission with the fire and movement of those forces. Aircraft are directed against targets of immediate concern to surface commanders when organic fires are not available or mass concentration of firepower is needed" (next slide).

Close proximity: As used in relation to close air support, close proximity refers to enemy ground forces that are **currently within range to engage friendly forces with organic weapons.** This definition applies to those organic weapons that can supply a preponderance of effect on the battlefield, and does not apply to long-range weapons such as ballistic missiles and fixed- or rotary-wing attack aircraft (next slide).

Integration: As used in relation to close air support, detailed integration refers to that level of coordination required providing targeting guidance, synchronizing aerospace power with surface maneuver and fires, and

minimizing fratricide. This level of coordination is **typically bounded by the maximum range of friendly surface weapons** such as artillery or the multiple launch rocket system (MLRS) (next slide).

JCS Definition Of CAS from JP 3-09.3 explains that close proximity and detailed integration essentially Places the **transition between AI and CAS** at the **limit of the organic surface weapons range**. This is consistent with the established concept of air interdiction targeting enemy units that are not yet in contact with friendly surface forces, while close air support is flown against enemy forces that are currently engaging, and/or being engaged by, friendly surface units.

Doctrinal CAS – (Slides 15 - 18)

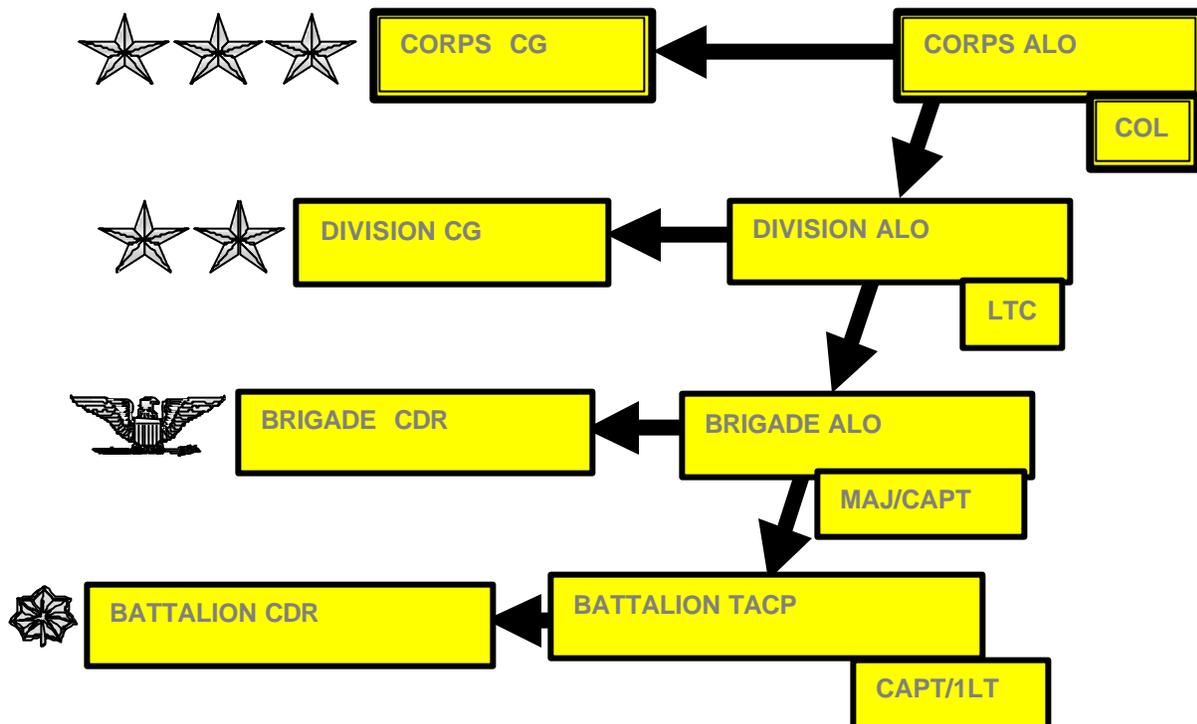
Apportionment: The Joint Force Commander (JFC) determination and assignment of the total expected air effort by percentage and/or priority that should be devoted to the various air operations and/or geographic areas for a given period of time.

Allocation: The Joint Forces Air Component Commander (JFACC) translation of the apportionment into total numbers of sorties by aircraft type available for each operation/ task.

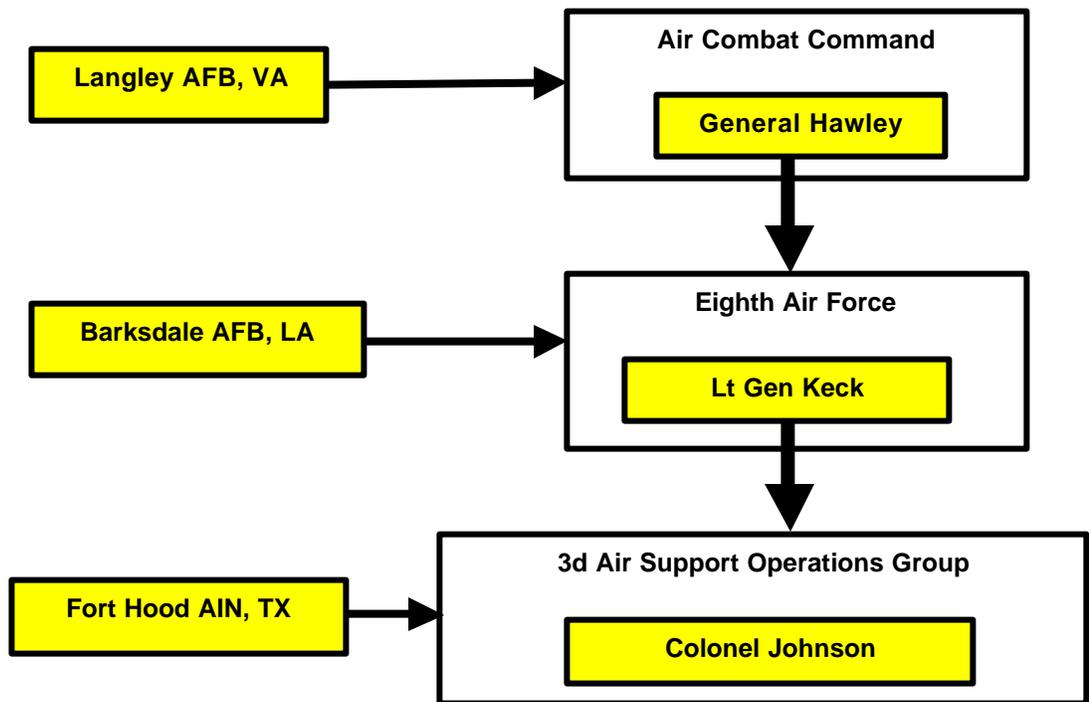
Distribution: A further subdivision of the allocation process in which sorties allocated to CAS are distributed among the various land maneuver units. In a single Corps theater, the corps commander will accomplish distribution among the corps and divisions. Division commanders may continue the distribution process to, but usually not below, the individual brigades These sorties are for planning purposes only; the unit may in fact receive additional or fewer sorties based on priorities.

Air Force Alignment – (Slides 19 - 21)

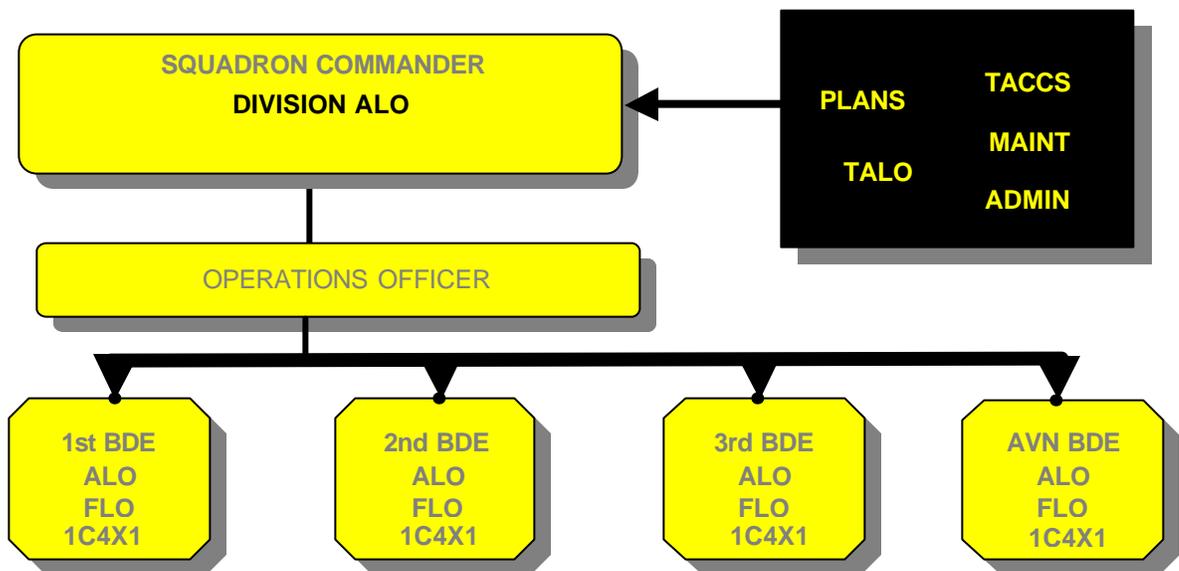
Big picture alignment:



3rd ASOG alignment (next slide):



TACP squadron alignment (next slide):



Conclusion – (Slide 22)

Realize that there is a lot more doctrine from the Air Force and the Joint Publications on how to do CAS. This lesson was just an introduction and a helpful presentation to give to the Army. Remember when giving academics to the Army; speak to their level of understanding. They haven't worked in the Air Force and don't understand a lot of information we take for granted.