



OPD 4 – CAS REQUEST PROCEDURES & EXECUTION



DEVELOPED BY: 3rd ASOG Standardization Office

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

PURPOSE: Instruct Army Commanders and staff in CAS request procedures and execution of CAS.



OVERVIEW



- ◆ CAS REQUESTS
- ◆ TAGS – THEATER AIR GROUND SYSTEM
- ◆ BATTLE RHYTHM FOR CAS
- ◆ AIRSPACE COORDINATION AREA (ACA)
- ◆ CAS CHARACTERISTICS
- ◆ CAS CONTROL MEASURES
- ◆ CONDITIONS FOR EFFECTIVE CAS



CAS REQUESTS



Preplanned CAS:

CAS sorties which make the Air Tasking Order/Integrated tasking Order (ATO/ITO); the aircraft flying the missions are scheduled for a particular time or time period. **These requests are made through Army channels and are generally the responsibility of, and approved/disapproved by, the S3/G3**

- ◆ **Scheduled CAS:** Puts the CAS assets overhead the point on the battlefield where they are needed most, at a preplanned time
- ◆ **On-call CAS:** Puts the aircraft on ground-based or airborne alert during a preplanned time period when the need for CAS is likely, but not guaranteed

(JP 3-09.3)



CAS REQUESTS



- ◆ Information for Preplanned CAS is gathered by the ALO or the ALOs CAS planning personnel
- ◆ ALO gives CAS information to S3 Air
- ◆ S3 Air fills out the DD Form 1972
- ◆ S3 Air sends completed 1972's through Army channels to Division G3 Air
- ◆ S3 Air is responsible for retrieving Air Tasking Order (ATO), Special Instructions (SPINS), and section 2 or 3 of 1972's from the Division G3 Air



CAS REQUESTS



JOINT TACTICAL AIR STRIKE REQUEST			See Joint Pub 3-09.3 for preparation instructions.	
SECTION I - MISSION REQUEST				DATE _____
1. UNIT CALLED _____	THIS IS _____	REQUEST NUMBER _____	SENT	
			TIME _____	BY _____
2. PREPLANNED: <input type="checkbox"/> A PRECEDENCE _____ <input type="checkbox"/> B PRIORITY _____			RECEIVED	
IMMEDIATE: <input type="checkbox"/> C PRIORITY _____			TIME _____	BY _____
3. TARGET IS / NUMBER OF				
<input type="checkbox"/> A PERS IN OPEN _____	<input type="checkbox"/> B PERS DUG IN _____	<input type="checkbox"/> C WPNS/MG/RR/AT _____	<input type="checkbox"/> D MORTARS/ARTY _____	
<input type="checkbox"/> E AAA ADA _____	<input type="checkbox"/> F RKTS MISSILE _____	<input type="checkbox"/> G ARMOR _____	<input type="checkbox"/> H VEHICLES _____	
<input type="checkbox"/> I BLDGS _____	<input type="checkbox"/> J BRIDGES _____	<input type="checkbox"/> K PILLBOX, BUNKERS _____	<input type="checkbox"/> L SUPPLIES, EQUIP _____	
<input type="checkbox"/> M CENTER (CP, COM) _____	<input type="checkbox"/> N AREA _____	<input type="checkbox"/> O ROUTE _____	<input type="checkbox"/> P MOVING N E S W _____	
<input type="checkbox"/> Q REMARKS _____				
4. TARGET LOCATION IS				CHECKED
<input type="checkbox"/> A _____ (COORDINATES)	<input type="checkbox"/> B _____ (COORDINATES)	<input type="checkbox"/> C _____ (COORDINATES)	<input type="checkbox"/> D _____ (COORDINATES)	BY _____
<input type="checkbox"/> E TGT ELEV _____	<input type="checkbox"/> F SHEET NO. _____	<input type="checkbox"/> G SERIES _____	<input type="checkbox"/> H CHART NO. _____	
5. TARGET TIME / DATE				
<input type="checkbox"/> A ASAP _____	<input type="checkbox"/> B NLT _____	<input type="checkbox"/> C AT _____	<input type="checkbox"/> D TO _____	
6. DESIRED ORD / RESULTS				
<input type="checkbox"/> B DESTROY _____	<input type="checkbox"/> C NEUTRALIZE _____	<input type="checkbox"/> A ORDNANCE _____		
<input type="checkbox"/> D HARASS / INTERDICT _____				
7. FINAL CONTROL				
<input type="checkbox"/> A FAC / RABFAC _____	<input type="checkbox"/> B CALL SIGN _____	<input type="checkbox"/> C FREQ _____		
<input type="checkbox"/> D CONT PT _____				
8. REMARKS				
1. IP _____		9. EGRESS _____		
2. HDNG _____ MAG _____	OFFSET: L/R _____	10. BCN-TGT _____ MAG _____	BCN/GRID _____ / _____	
3. DISTANCE _____		11. BCN-TGT _____ METERS _____	TGT/GRID _____ / _____	
4. TGT ELEVATION _____ FEET MSL		12. BCN ELEVATION _____ FEET MSL		
5. TGT DESCRIPTION _____				
6. TGT LOCATION _____				
7. MARK TYPE _____ CODE _____				
8. FRIENDLIES _____				



CAS REQUESTS



SECTION II - COORDINATION			
9. NGF	10. ARTY	11. AIO/G-2/G-3	
12. REQUEST <input type="checkbox"/> APPROVED <input type="checkbox"/> DISAPPROVED	13. BY	14. REASON FOR DISAPPROVAL	
15. AIRSPACE COORDINATION AREA <input type="checkbox"/> A IS NOT IN EFFECT <input type="checkbox"/> B NUMBER		16. IS IN EFFECT <input type="checkbox"/> A (FROM TIME) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> B (TO TIME) _____	
17. LOCATION <input type="checkbox"/> A _____ (FROM COORDINATES) <input type="checkbox"/> B _____ (TO COORDINATES)		18. WIDTH (METERS)	19. ALTITUDE / VERTEX <input type="checkbox"/> A _____ (MAXIMUM VERTEX) <input type="checkbox"/> B _____ (MINIMUM)

SECTION III - MISSION DATA			
20. MISSION NUMBER	21. CALL SIGN	22. NO. AND TYPE AIRCRAFT	23. ORDNANCE
24. EST / ACT TAKEOFF	25. EST TOT	26. CONT PT (COORDS)	27. INITIAL CONTACT
28. FAC / FAC(A) / TAC(A) CALL SIGN / FREQ	29. AIRSPACE COORDINATION AREA	30. TGT DESCRIPTION	31. TGT COORD / ELEV



CAS REQUESTS



Immediate CAS:

CAS sorties which do not make the ATO/ITO; requests usually resulting from unanticipated needs on the battlefield, often of an emergency nature. **Final approving/disapproving authority for immediate CAS requests is the ground commander through his staff!**

(JP 3-09.3)



CAS REQUESTS



Immediate Request Flow:

- ◆ ALO/FAC/TACP transmits request to ASOC via radio
- ◆ ASOC Fighter Duty Officer (FDO) copies request on DD Form 1972
- ◆ FDO coordinates with FSCCOORD, validates with intel, deconflicts with other aircraft, and gets approval from corps G-3 Air for the request
- ◆ **Corps G-3 Air** (Representing the Army Command Structure) determines availability/suitability of Corps organic artillery and **has final approval authority for the request**

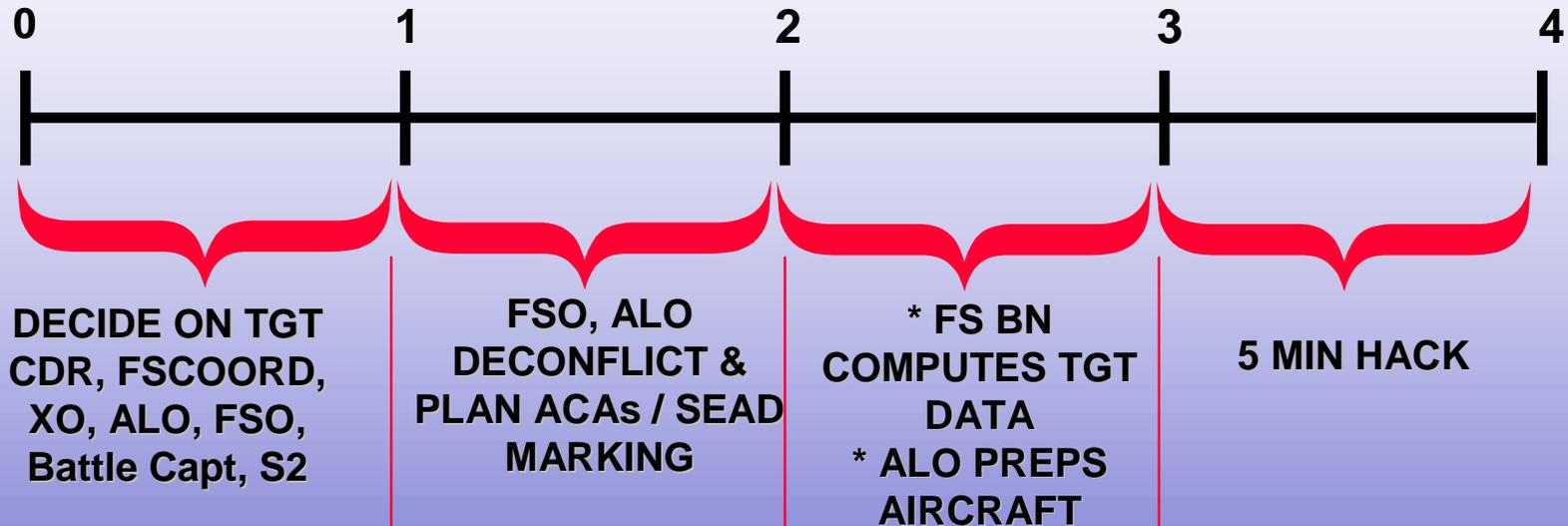


BATTLE RHYTHM FOR CAS



- ◆ Targeting cell decide on target - XO, S2, FSO, ALO, and Battle Captain (Best if done prior to A/C arrival)
- ◆ Plan & deconflict ACAs/SEAD/marketing round (FSO/ALO)
- ◆ Battle Captain update friendly locations
- ◆ S2 determine best read on enemy
- ◆ Compute target data (Fire Support (FS) Bn)
- ◆ Prep aircraft (ALO)
- ◆ 5 minute hack (ALO, FSO, FS Bn, aircraft)

BATTLE RHYTHM FOR CAS



1. Formal process on decision will reduce time - SOP.
2. Formal process on decision will reduce time - SOP.
3. Dedicated / planned SEAD Shooter - speeds processing.
4. Can not really reduce in a low air war environment or if using MLRS or other high altitude artillery.

Other considerations: Type Aircraft and Ordnance, target designation capability, C2 Assets, UAV feeds, JSTAR read



AIRSPACE COORDINATION AREA (ACA)



- ◆ A three-dimensional block of airspace in a target area, established by the appropriate ground commander, in which friendly aircraft are reasonably free from friendly surface fires. May be formal or informal.
 - ◆ **Formal ACA:** usually in effect longer than an informal ACA
 - ◆ **Informal ACA:** is most often used and is preferred. It is used due to flexibility during the dynamic flow of the battle. Usually beneficial to both the ALO and artillery.

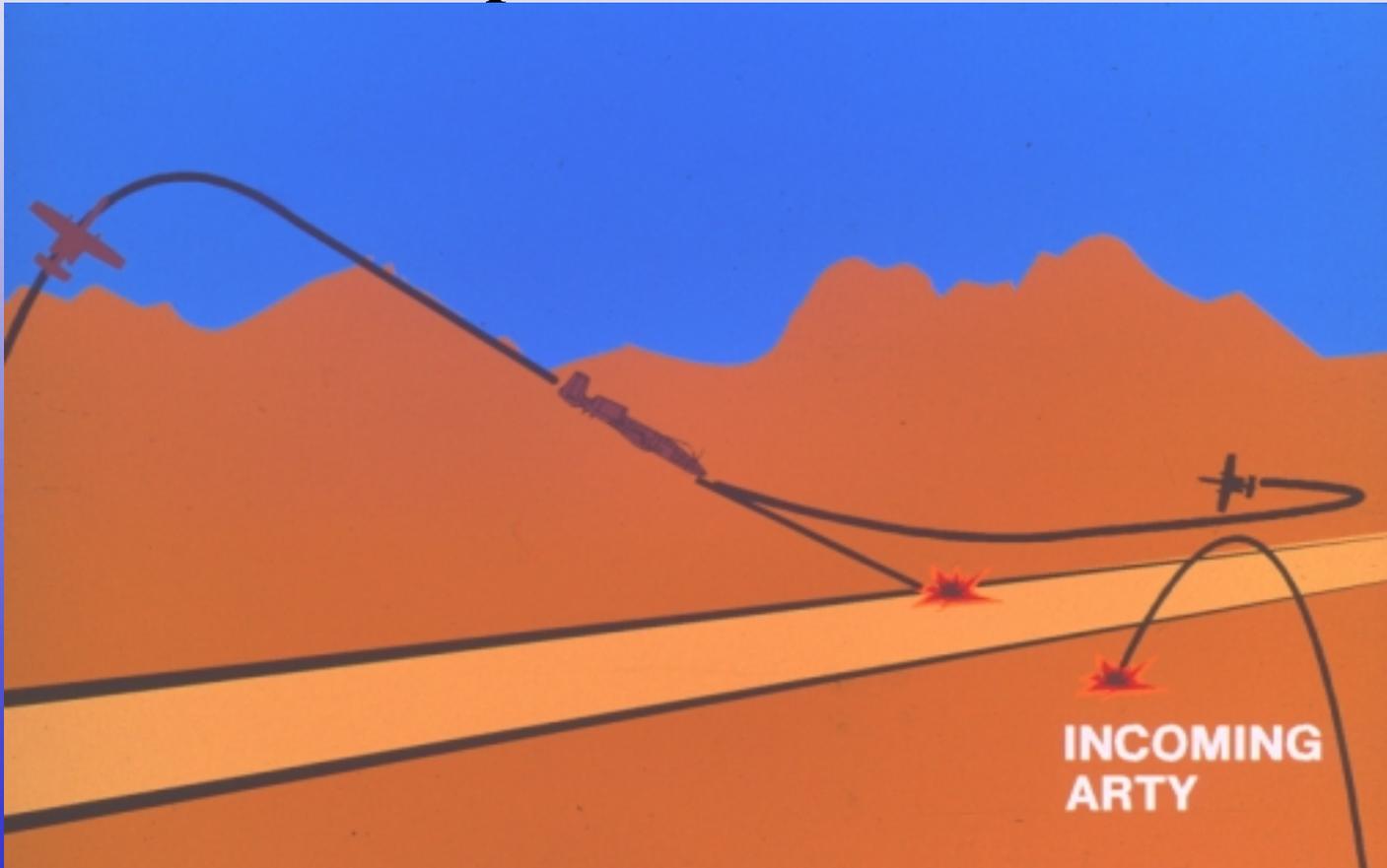
(JP 3-09.3)



AIRSPACE COORDINATION AREA (ACA)



◆ Maximize Airspace





CAS CHARACTERISTICS



- ◆ When applied in mass, CAS has immediate physical and psychological effects on enemy capabilities
- ◆ **Provides** the surface commander with **highly mobile, responsive, and concentrated firepower, enhances the element of surprise,** is capable of employing munitions with **great precision,** and is able to **attack targets** which are **inaccessible or invulnerable to surface fire**
- ◆ CAS offsets shortages of surface firepower during the critical landing stages of airborne, airmobile, and amphibious operations by friendly forces

(JP 3-09.3)



CAS CHARACTERISTICS



- ◆ Reliable air-to-ground communications are mandatory when operating in close proximity to friendly forces in order to prevent fratricide
- ◆ Ground terminal attack controllers (ETACs) normally provide targeting instructions, final attack clearance, and fratricide avoidance instructions to CAS aircraft (can also be performed by airborne forward air controllers)
- ◆ Due to the high potential for fratricide during CAS operations, specific procedures and training are required for air and ground terminal attack controllers and CAS aircrew

(JP 3-09.3)



CAS CHARACTERISTICS



- ◆ CAS should be massed to apply concentrated firepower where it is most needed by the ground commander
- ◆ Since available CAS assets are usually limited, airpower is best applied against:
 - ◆ Targets of immediate concern to surface forces when those forces cannot produce the desired effect with organic weapons alone
 - ◆ When surface forces are committed without normal organic weapons support
 - ◆ When the disposition of targets prevents successful attack by surface firepower

(JP 3-09.3)



CAS CONTROL MEASURES



◆ Release Authority – Two levels

- ◆ **Positive Control** - An attack controlled by a ground or air FAC either directly or indirectly (Preferred method)
 - ◆ Direct control: The controller can either see the aircraft and target, or can use other means to confirm the aircraft is attacking the correct target
 - ◆ Indirect control: variation of positive control where the controller cannot see the aircraft or target, but a trained observer is in position to see both and has direct communications with the terminal controller



CAS CONTROL MEASURES



◆ Release Authority (Continued)

- ◆ **Reasonable assurance** - used when no ground or air-based controller is in position to observe the target area
 - ◆ Primary factor is an acceptable separation between friendly and enemy ground troops that reduces the risk of fratricide
 - ◆ Used only when circumstances defined and published by the JFC have been met, and the air and ground component commanders concur with its use

(JP 3-09.3)



CONDITIONS FOR EFFECTIVE CAS



- ◆ Air superiority: allows CAS missions to concentrate on the task
- ◆ **SEAD is perhaps the most important aspect of air superiority to the CAS pilot**
- ◆ CAS is highly demanding of aircrew situational awareness, and proper execution of the mission is not normally possible while searching for or reacting to enemy air/ground threats
- ◆ Indiscriminately pushing CAS missions beyond the range of organic firepower can be dangerous; such missions will out-range ground-based suppressing fire and may fly into a much higher threat arena.
- ◆ CAS packages do not have the threat suppression assets that are resident in AI packages
- ◆ Target marking: can be accomplished through various means, including smoke rockets or artillery rounds, laser designation, IR designation, and flares



CONDITIONS FOR EFFECTIVE CAS



- ◆ Can increase accuracy of CAS attacks and reduce the potential for fratricide through target misidentification
- ◆ Accurate friendly locations
- ◆ Favorable weather: perhaps more important to effective CAS than other forms of air attack
- ◆ Since identification of the target through visual or electro-optical means is usually required for target confirmation and fratricide avoidance, poor weather can often prevent CAS missions from attacking their target(s).... or worse... attacking the wrong one
- ◆ New weapons may allow CAS aircraft to hit stationary targets through the weather, but mission success under such circumstances is dependent on target coordinate accuracy that is difficult to achieve on the battlefield



REVIEW



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QUESTIONS

