Appendix A

Close Air Support Aircrew Mission Planning Guide

Note: This is a notional mission planning guide. It provides a generalized list of planning considerations and information found to be useful by various combat units. Units should always prepare their own checklists and guidelines, and these should be tailored to their mission, situation, and equipment.

CLOSE AIR SUPPORT OVERVIEW

Friendly Situation

- Forward line of own troops (FLOT)
- CPs/IPs
- Scheme of maneuver
  - Target area
  - Key terrain
  - Terminal controller position and call sign
- Supporting arms:
  1. Artillery positions
(2) Mortars
(3) NSFS
(4) Gun target lines

- Control Measures:
  (1) FSCL/CFL
  (2) NFAs
  (3) FFAs
  (4) RFAs
  (5) Missile engagement zone (MEZ)/fighter engagement zone (FEZ) and status
  (6) Airspace control areas

**Intelligence**

- Enemy position and number
  - Projected intent
  - Likely avenues of approach
  - Observed tactics

- Supporting elements

- Threats
Locations

- Threat guidance (radar/optical/IR systems)
- Threat capabilities
- Indications and warnings
- Employment doctrine

Weather: Takeoff/Target/Land

- Ceiling
- Visibility
- Temperature/dew point
- Winds

Environment

- Sun azimuth
- Sun elevation
- Sunset time
- Moon azimuth
- Moon elevation
- Percent illumination
• Lux level
• Absolute humidity
• Historical temperature
• Predominant albedos
• Urban lighting

**Mission/Objective**

• Mission statement
• Unit supporting
• Target precedence
• Priority of fires
• Preplanned Missions
  • USMTF
  • Groups/series
  • Search sectors
• TOT/TOS
• Divert authority
• ROEs
Control Procedures

- AOA Entry
  - Routing
  - Altitude/airspeed
  - Available control agencies
  - Air asset deconfliction

- CEOI
  - Authentication
  - HAVE QUICK
  - Secure voice
  - Code/procedure words (pro words)
  - Changeover

EXECUTION

Ground Procedures

- Alert posture and upgrades
- Mission tape/cartridge load (DSU/DTUC, etc.)
• NVG eye lane
• AKAC issue/checkout
• Walk time
• Weapons preflight
• Aircraft preflight
• Engine start time
  • INS alignment anomalies
  • Aircraft lighting
  • FLIR checks
  • Built-in test (BIT) checks
• Marshal
• Go/no-go criteria (aircraft and systems)
• Check-in
  • HAVE QUICK checks
  • KY-58/secure voice checks
• Taxi plan
  • Foreign object damage (FOD) prevention
  • NVD checks
• Weapons arming
空气过渡

- 起飞
  - 位置
  - 捕获设备
  - 起飞类型
  - 呼叫
  - 起飞中止与弹药
- 攀升
  - 会合
  - 轮廓:
    - (1) 高度
    - (2) 空速
    - (3) 功率设置
  - 形成: 瞭望/扫描任务
  - NVD 戴上
  - 照明装置
En route

- C2
  - Primary check-in
  - Alternate check-in
  - Terminology
- Combat checks
  - Sensor boresight
  - Weapon boresight
  - Expendable checks
  - Environmental assessment
  - Radar altimeter check
- Routing
  - Stack/hold/push points
  - Time/fuel management
  - Emitter/lights management

Aerial Refueling

- Time
Close Air Support

- Track
- Base altitude/altitude blocks
- Tanker call sign
- Offloads
- Tank window/time on boom/cycle sequence
- Formation procedures
- Post-aerial refueling
- Aerial refueling emergencies

**Attack Phase**

- Threat zones
- Combat checks
- CAS brief
  - Holding:
    1. Profile
    2. Formation
    3. Tasking/responsibility
    4. Deconfliction
  - System interface
• Cadence
• System update

• Terminal control
  • Communications:
    (1) Required calls
    (2) Reasonable assurance
  • Restricted run-ins
  • Available marks
  • Laser code/code words
  • Minimum capable TOT

• Attack blueprint
  • Preplanned missions: changes to the plan
  • Immediate missions:
    (1) Push profile:
      (a) Formation
      (b) Tasking
    (2) Separation:
      (a) Initiation
      (b) Geometry/timing
(3) Attack Parameters:
   (a) Lead
   (b) Wingmen

(4) Acquisition Predictions:
   (a) Mark
   (b) Mil size of corrections
   (c) Target scan technique
   (d) Primary sensor
   (e) System aids

(5) Release:
   (a) Parameters
   (b) Mode
   (c) Weapons allocation
   (d) Abort criteria

(6) Off-Target:
   (a) Maneuver
   (b) Expendable
   (c) Cadence
   (d) Routing
(e) Mutual support

(7) Rendezvous:
   (a) Profile
   (b) Deconfliction
   (c) Cadence

- Attack blueprint variations
- Reattack plan
  - Criteria
  - Minimum disengagement:
    (1) Time
    (2) Distance
    (3) Terrain
  - Communication requirement:
    (1) Interflight
    (2) Terminal controller
  - Deconfliction

**Return to Force**

- Rendezvous
• Position
• Profile
• Damage assessment
• Dump target plan
• Combat checklist
• C2
  • Route
  • Profile
  • Tasking
  • Lame-duck/wounded-bird procedures
• C2 agencies
• BDA/S-2 push
• Integrated Air Defense System (IADS) penetration:
  1. IFF/lights/other emitters
  2. Air defense warning condition and weapons release status
• Divert/alternate/emergency airfields
Recovery

- C2
- Recovery type
  - Primary
  - Secondary
- NVD stowage
- Formation break-up
- Landing
  - Primary
  - Secondary
- Dearming/safing procedures