Every Marine Corps leader has the responsibility to establish and conduct technical and tactical training for Marines to successfully accomplish the unit’s mission. The tools available to assist leaders in establishing the base for an effective training plan are relevance, standardization, efficiency, and specificity. Due to the complexities of amphibious, joint, and multinational operations, the importance of individual-, crew-, and unit-level training for DASC controllers and operators cannot be understated. The impact from meaningful, quality training reflects on a Marine’s proficiency.

Individual Training

DASC controller and operator training requirements are standardized by MCO P3500.19B, *Training and Readiness (T&R) Manual, Volume V, Marine Air Command and Control System (MACCS)*. It specifies training events and position requirements necessary for controllers and operators to progress through various level qualifications. Follow-on formal training is available to those Marines who demonstrate military occupational specialty (MOS) proficiency.

Formal Schools

*Entry-Level Training*

Entry-level training for DASC controllers and operators is conducted at Air School, Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School, Marine Corps Air-Ground Combat Center, Twentynine Palms, CA.
Air Support Control Officer Course

The Air Support Control Officer Course (ASCOC) provides instruction regarding DASC system capabilities, employment, crew operations, and system configuration. The ASCOC provides students with a thorough knowledge of air support, assault support, and techniques of direct air support employment in the operating force and Fleet Marine Force (FMF). Students receive specific instruction on the following:

- Procedural control of aircraft.
- Functions and roles of various DASC crewmembers.
- EW.
- Nuclear, biological, and chemical (NBC) defense in the DASC.

Air Support Operations Operator Course

The Air Support Operations Operator Course (ASOOC) provides training for enlisted Marines in the DASC’s operations. Course content includes the following:

- Operation and employment of DASC equipment.
- EW.
- NBC defense in the DASC.
- DASC crew training.

Graduate-Level Training

Air support officers (MOS 7208) exhibiting requisite technical and tactical proficiency may be selected by their commands to attend the Weapons and Tactics Instructor (WTI) Course. WTI provides students advanced training and practical application on planning, integration, and execution of the six functions of
Marine aviation. MOS 7208 students receive specific instruction in the following areas:

- MACCS.
- Air support planning considerations.
- DASC operational execution.

Prerequisites for WTI attendance include SAD qualification with MEB exercise/operation experience. Upon completion, students receive the MOS 7277 (WTI) designation.

A similar program, the Weapons and Tactics Crew Chief Instructor (WTCCI) Course, is available for DASC crew chiefs. The WTCCI Course addresses the same basic curriculum as the 7208 course, but the practical application is geared toward the DASC crew chief. Prerequisites include qualification as a crew chief and experience in a MEB exercise/operation.

**Follow-on Schools**

Additional formal schools are available for field grade officers including the WTI Commanders Course and WTI Refresher Course. Held at Marine Corps Air Station, Yuma, AZ, the WTI Commanders Course provides field grade officers with an opportunity to examine and discuss issues affecting the MACCS and considerations for MACCS employment. The WTI Refresher Course is conducted for WTIs who have been out of the FMF or serving in a non-DASC-related billet. The course is designed to update the WTI on current and evolving weapons, tactics, and threat information.
Other Schools

Other courses of instruction applicable to DASC operator proficiency are available from the expeditionary warfare training group (EWTG). Instruction from EWTG may be conducted at the schoolhouse or from onsite mobile training teams. EWTG periodically provides a list of available courses.

On-the-Job Training

Most DASC controller and operator MOS training is conducted at the squadron level. Requirements for both academic and practical application training and position qualification for DASC controllers and operators are specified in MCO P3500.19B. A specific T&R syllabus exists for MOS 7208 controllers and MOS 7242 operators. Tracking of individual readiness is computed by the aviation T&R information management system (ATRIMS). DASC controller and operator training are conducted at four progressive levels. Completion of each level equates to reaching a given combat readiness percentage (CRP). An outline of the phases, position qualifications reached, and corresponding individual CRP is outlined below.

Combat Capable Training

A Marine with this rating has a basic proficiency in air support operations and has a CRP of 60 percent. MOS 7208 controllers will be TAD and HD capable; MOS 7242 operators will be a capable net operator. Currently, this rating is a prerequisite for graduation from the ASCOC and ASOOC.
Combat Ready Training

This level of training constitutes a 75 percent CRP. MOS 7208 controllers will be a qualified HD and TAD; MOS 7242 Marines will be qualified net operators.

Combat Qualification Training

Personnel at this level of proficiency will have a 95 percent CRP and be combat qualified. MOS 7208 officers will attain MEB SAD qualification; MOS 7242 operators will be a qualified MEB crew chief.

Full Combat Qualification Training

The full combat qualified Marine is qualified as a MEF-level SAD (in the case of MOS 7208) or crew chief (in the case of MOS 7242) and is well versed in MACCS, MAGTF, and joint/multinational service operations. These individuals have attained a 100 percent CRP.

Special Qualifications

The instructor-under-training syllabus is designed to develop proficiency in instructional procedures and techniques. At the completion of this training, the individual should be capable of describing/demonstrating the training objectives of the syllabus. Instructor training is oriented toward the functional areas of either air support control instructor or threat tactics instructor. Students must complete the appropriate courses and be certified by a qualified DASC WTI. Once certified, the individual will be designated by the commanding officer in writing.
Crew Training

The DASC crew is the key to effective and efficient air support control. The MASS trains DASC crews through live exercises, command post exercises (CPXs), and DASC drills. The DASC drill consists of a DASC crew and a simulator cell. The simulator cell is usually a mirror image of the DASC crew and is staffed by more experienced personnel who execute the scenario as the FSC, aircrews, TACC, TACPs, etc., and assist in evaluating the performance of the DASC crewmembers. In addition, one or more experienced MOS 72XXs observe from inside the DASC to objectively evaluate the performance of the crewmembers and the crew coordination. The DASC drill and post-drill debrief are essential to build fundamental skills and crew coordination.

Unit Training

Unit training involves that training required to prepare the MASS to perform its mission. Unit training can take on many forms including CPXs and field training exercises (FTXs). During unit training, MASS personnel are intimately involved in preparing training plans and coordinating with higher, adjacent, and subordinate C2 and support elements.

Marine Aviation Planning Problem Exercises

Marine aviation planning problem (MAPP) exercises are low cost, low overhead training that allow commanders to train their staffs to perform special integration and control functions in a simulated environment. MAPP exercises are particularly effective for determining C2 requirements to support possible contingencies.
MACCS Integrated Simulation Training Exercise

The MACCS integrated simulation training exercise (MISTEX) is a MACG locally-produced exercise that involves detailed preparation of a simulated scenario and its subsequent execution at the MACCS level. The MISTEX can serve to prepare units for upcoming FTXs or contingencies. Individual Marine participation in filling a crew position during a MISTEX is a T&R requirement for position qualification.

Joint System Training Exercise

The joint system training exercise (JSTE) provides an integrated systems training that incorporates the challenge of integrating the MACCS in joint operations. JSTE scenarios have been developed to support joint C2 training for probable contingency operations worldwide.

Other Unit Training

In addition to CPX and simulated exercise type training, the DASC often deploys to the field to participate in FTXs.

Training Evaluation

The success of individual, crew, and unit training must be qualitatively measured to identify training deficiencies and create a baseline for designing future training. Evaluation tools to identify training deficiencies are MCO 3501.9B and MCO P3500.19B. The MCCRES is a standardized, Headquarters Marine Corps-directed evaluation program designed to measure a unit’s warfighting readiness. It specifies mission performance standards that agencies are expected to perform during their wartime mission. MCO P3500.19B specifies individual performance standards.