



Special Doctrine Update 1-15

The United States Army Combined Arms Center publishes the *Doctrine Update* periodically to highlight recent and upcoming changes to doctrine and provide information related to doctrine use. It also publishes *Special Doctrine Updates* as required.

This *Special Doctrine Update* provides information concerning the recent publication of JP 3-09, *Joint Fire Support*, and the definition change of fire support coordination line (also called FSCL). This *Special Doctrine Update* directs centers of excellence to review and submit changes of publications that use fire support coordination line.

The United States Army Combined Arms Center is the Army doctrine proponent. The preparing staff agency for *Special Doctrine Update* is the Combined Arms Doctrine Directorate (CADD), Mission Command Center of Excellence, United States Army Combined Arms Center. Comments and recommendations may be emailed to: usarmy.leavenworth.mccoe.mbx.cadd-org-mailbox@mail.mil; or mailed to Commander, U.S. Army Combined Arms Center and Fort Leavenworth, ATTN: ATZL-MCD (*Special Doctrine Update*, 1-15), 300 McPherson Avenue, Fort Leavenworth, KS 66027-2337. Points of contact for this update are Mr. Clinton J. Ancker III at clinton.j.ancker2.civ@mail.mil and LTC Averill Ruiz at averill.ruiz.mil@mail.mil.

For the Army doctrine proponent,


CLINTON J. ANCKER III
Director, Combined Arms Doctrine Directorate

Contents

Compendium of Recently Published Joint Doctrine..... 1
Definition Change of *Fire Support Coordination Line* **Error! Bookmark not defined.**
Significant Changes 2
Special Notice to Field and Doctrine Agencies 3

Compendium of Recently Published Joint Doctrine

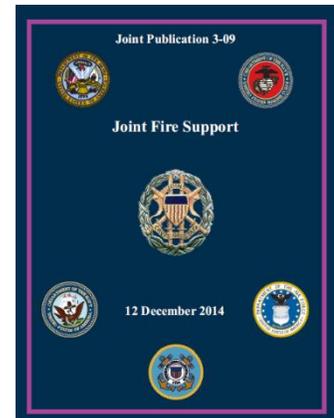
The doctrine community needs the most current information on recent publications. This discussion provides a short synopsis of new joint publications. This synopsis provide readers with the new doctrinal concepts introduced in JP 3-09, *Joint Fire Support*.

JP 3-09, *Joint Fire Support*, provides fundamental principles and guidance for planning, coordinating, executing, and assessing joint fire support during military operations.

This publication adds new chapters on joint fire support execution and assessment. It changes “concept of fires” to “scheme of fires” and expands the discussion. It expands the discussion on command and control in operational areas to include the supported and supporting joint fire support relationships. It updates the discussion on the joint targeting coordination board, adding information on the joint targeting working group. It also simplifies descriptions of command and control and joint fire support systems. This publication reorganizes the joint fire support and force capabilities section to include air-to-surface, surface-to-surface, and nonlethal subsections. It adds a discussion on the coordination of lethal and nonlethal actions. And it adds airspace coordinating measures to the coordination measures and reference systems section.

Joint fire support doctrine established in this publication applies to the Joint Staff, commanders of combatant commands, subordinate unified commands, joint task forces, subordinate components of these commands, the Services, and combat support agencies.

This publication is located at the following link:
http://www.dtic.mil/doctrine/new_pubs/jp3_09.pdf.



Significant Changes

JP 3-09, *Joint Fire Support*, dated 12 December 2014 significantly changes the definition and discussion of the fire support coordination line. Although much of the information is unchanged there are nuanced clarifications. Key points include the following:

1. The definition is shorter. A **fire support coordination line** is a fire support coordination measure established by the land or amphibious force commander to support common objectives within an area of operation; beyond which all fires must be coordinated with affected commanders prior to engagement, and short of the line, all fires must be coordinated with the establishing commander prior to engagement. Also called **FSCL**.
2. The FSCL remains a permissive fire support coordination measure established by the land or amphibious force commander. The FSCL requires the coordination of joint fires in support of common objectives beyond the measure with affected force headquarters. The permissive part is that area beyond the coordination measure itself. The discussion now identifies the Air Force perception that the FSCL has a restrictive aspect since the FSCL does not allow air-to-surface attack short of the FSCL without coordination with the establishing headquarters.

3. The decision of location (or even use of) an FSCL requires careful consideration. Placement of the FSCL should strike a balance, so as not to unduly inhibit operational tempo, while maximizing the effectiveness of organic and joint force interdiction assets.

a. The FSCL is not a boundary—the synchronization of operations on either side of the FSCL is the responsibility of the establishing commander, out to the limits of the land or amphibious force boundary. Establishing an FSCL within a land maneuver commander's area of operations requires that commander to coordinate with the joint force air component commander's designated coordination agency to engage targets beyond the FSCL with the land maneuver commander's own assets in his own area of operations.

b. The optimum placement of the FSCL varies with specific circumstances of that area of operations. Considerations include the ground forces' positions, anticipated scheme of maneuver during the effective time of the FSCL, and their indirect fire support systems' range limits, where typically the preponderance of lethal effects on the area of operations shifts from the ground component to the air component. For example, when rapid movement such as an armor advance is anticipated, the FSCL is placed at a greater distance from the forward line of own troops than when an attack is conducted solely by dismounted infantry. In the defense, the FSCL may be placed much closer to friendly forces, perhaps at the identified maximum range of the bulk of the defending force artillery unless counterattack plans require placement at greater depth.

c. A change to the FSCL requires notification to all affected forces within the area of operations and must allow sufficient time for these forces and components to incorporate the FSCL change. Current technology and collaboration tools among the elements of the joint force determine the times required for changing the FSCL. A series of planned or on-call FSCLs may further facilitate adjusting the FSCL. Too many possible FSCLs may cause confusion. For example, if coalition units do not have the communications notification ability, they may miss the change to the FSCL and not know which FSCL is in effect.

4. Engagements beyond the FSCL must be consistent with the establishing commander's priorities, timing, and desired effects, and be de-conflicted, whenever possible, with the supported headquarters. Establishment of an FSCL does not establish a free fire area beyond the FSCL. Fire support coordination measures established beyond the FSCL remain in effect as do the rules of engagement and other commander's guidance.

5. Simply put, the land component has to coordinate to fire beyond (long of) the FSCL; the air component has to coordinate to fire short of the FSCL. Appendix A of JP 3-09 provides a detailed discussion of the FSCL.

Special Notice to Field and Doctrine Agencies

All doctrine publications discussing fire support coordination lines may be impacted. Centers of excellence need to review all their publications for alignment and consistency in doctrine concerning fire support coordination lines. Those publications that no longer align will need to

be changed. Each center of excellence needs to submit a list of those publications requiring changes along with a plan and timeline to CADD no later than 26 January 2015.