



Apr - Jun 2025

## THE AIR LAND SEA SPACE APPLICATION (ALSSA) CENTER NEWSLETTER 25-02



Since 1975, multi-Service tactics, techniques, and procedures (MTTP) for **the joint warfighter**

### HOT OFF THE PRESS!

<https://www.alssa.mil/mttps/>

**MTTP Catalog** is now available.

**Dynamic Targeting** is now available.

**Nonlethal Weapons** is now available.

**Brevity** is now available.

**SCAR** signature draft is now available.

**Tactical Radios** is in ALSSA final review.

**TCO** is in ALSSA final review.

### SUBMIT RESEARCH & STUDY TOPICS

<https://forms.osi.apps.mil/r/6kTa3bXnhE>

### ALSSA JOINT WORKING GROUPS\*

<https://www.alssa.mil/jwgs/>

- Personnel Recovery #2 (Virtual/JB Langley-Eustis):  
15 – 17 July
- Airspace Control #1 (Virtual/JB Langley-Eustis):  
5 – 6 August
- Electromagnetic Spectrum Operations (EMSO) #2 (Virtual/JB Langley-Eustis):  
8 – 12 September
- Airspace Control #2 (Virtual/JB Langley-Eustis):  
15 – 16 September
- Airspace Control #3 (Virtual/JB Langley-Eustis):  
22 – 25 October

*\*All dates are subject to change*

### ALSSA EVENTS

- SDD Council (Virtual):  
13 August

### ALSSA OUTREACH & ENGAGEMENTS\*\*

- Large Scale Exercise 25:  
28 Jul – 8 August
- Launched Effects Symposium:  
11 – 15 August
- NORTHERN EDGE 25:  
14 – 28 August
- REFORPAC Lessons Learned:  
14 – 22 August

*\*\*ALSSA is not the lead POC but is attending.*

### **ALSSA: 50 Years Addressing Joint Interoperability Gaps**

For 50 years, the Air Land Sea Space Application (ALSSA) Center has addressed joint interoperability gaps across the warfighting domains, allowing for seamless execution of operations across the spectrum of conflict at the tactical level. However, ALSSA had a humble beginning as a simple good idea from two senior leaders. Originally only a two-Service agency approved through a US Army Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC) and US Air Force Tactical Air Command (TAC) “dialogue,” ALSSA has grown to incorporate the five Armed Services.

In July 1975, the “TAC-TRADOC Dialogue,” led by TRADOC’s General William E. DePuy and TAC’s General Robert J. Dixon, formally established ALSSA’s predecessor, the Air Land Forces Application (ALFA) agency. Upon ALFA’s standup, it started capturing the best practices implemented in the field, but the scale and scope of the doctrinal endeavor was huge. General DePuy acknowledged a realistic timeline for operational inculcation of new US doctrine and tactics: “The

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critical manuals for the combat arms have first priority. It will be several more years before 51% of the commanders in the Army...operate instinctively in accordance with the principles of FM 100-5. At that time, it will be genuine doctrine.”<sup>1</sup> As General DePuy’s US Air Force counterpart, General Dixon shared the same sense of urgency. The personal and professional relationships between these general officers and their staff paved the way for tremendous progress that purposely avoided the quagmire of bureaucratic processes.

In 1977, "Our dialogue will continue and will increase with the single goal of increasing the combat capability of the US military forces. This goal has real pressure behind it. ALFA was thus put into the position of **catalyst in addressing joint problems**, solving the organizational dilemma.”  
*General Robert Dixon, USAF, 1977<sup>2</sup>*

On October 25th, 1983, the US launched Operation URGENT FURY to restore order and protect the lives of American citizens following a military coup on Grenada. While it accomplished its objectives, the operation experienced numerous shortfalls in joint integration, including incompatible communications equipment, incorrect target strikes, and a lack of reliable fire support.<sup>3</sup> Just five months later at ALFA, one of the most impactful Joint Actions Steering Committee (JASC) decisions occurred because of those lessons from URGENT FURY. The frustrations associated with gunfire integration, limited interoperability, and most importantly fratricide, led the agency to brief members on the need for a single source joint fire support handbook. There was agreement to include Navy and Air Force procedures and guidance to “move on joint fires rapidly.”<sup>4</sup> In July of 1985, the original **Joint Application of Firepower (J-FIRE)** pamphlet was published with about 43,000 copies distributed worldwide. After forty years, it remains the highest-demand multi-Service publication by both US and coalition partners, and is still printed in a waterproof, tactical handbook format.

In January 1991, ALFA sponsored a joint working group to develop a concept of employment for the Joint Surveillance Target Attack Radar System (Joint STARS) during Operation DESERT STORM (ODS). Based on operational needs and requests from US Central Command (USCENTCOM), ALFA completed the concept in just 10 days for in-theater modification. Ultimately, Joint STARS provided crucial real-time intelligence

on moving Iraqi forces, particularly tank columns, which allowed coalition commanders to effectively target and destroy enemy units. The success of ODS and the validation of aspects of AirLand Battle doctrine resulted in the formal expansion of ALFA.

Although the Navy and Marines Corps contributed to select projects prior, they didn’t officially join until 1992, when ALFA became the Air Land Sea Application (ALSA) Center. Bringing the Navy and USMC on board strengthened the joint force and increased MTTP publication visibility and use. ALSA followed in the wake of joint doctrine as it called for the joint force to meet anticipated future challenges and rewrite the military lexicon to accommodate new and emerging ideas. Therefore, these topics became a priority and demonstrated the new core representation of all four Services: **Theater Air-Ground System (TAGS)**, **Foreign Humanitarian Assistance Operations**, and **Joint Close Air Support (J-CAS)**.

In 1995, ALSA had six publications approved for DoD-wide dissemination, ranging from antiradiation missile employment to the use of Tactical Air Control Parties. In 2000, tactical warfighters petitioned to have ALSA take lead of the highly-requested **Brevity Codes** manual to reconcile an observed divergence between the Services. The current **Brevity** MTTP remains a high-demand publication, most recently published in April 2025.

One of the most ambitious and complex new projects was the **Air Defense of the United States (ADUS)** MTTP. To develop the classified publication, ALSA hosted joint, interagency working group, where 42 subject matter experts (SMEs) developed the first draft. In addition to normal Service SME attendees, a large representation of non-DoD agencies involved in the air defense mission also participated – a first for any ALSA MTTP. The **ADUS** working groups provided an excellent forum for multiple issues to be resolved, such as handoff procedures while prosecuting tracks of interest. The final 140-page document provided users with a tremendous wealth of information regarding all the operation participants, their capabilities, and how they should fit together to accomplish the overall mission. This included the best way to employ both DoD and non-DoD assets.

From 2003-2008, the JASC approved ALSA to develop numerous COIN-centric MTTP to continue supporting the Global Warr on Terrorism, like

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**Cordon and Search, Tactical Convoy Operations (TCO), and Conventional Force-Special Operations Forces Integration.** For **TCO**, the JASC approved a 6-month fast-track development process resulting in a tactical handbook that was distributed by the Services to units rotating into Iraq and Afghanistan.

By the end of 2008, ALSA's library consisted of 33 publications with **ADUS, Unmanned Aircraft Systems, Cordon and Search Operations, and Civil Support Operations** as the newest MTTP. ALSA continued to revise COIN-centric MTTP; however, topics like **Fighter Integration** and **Air Control Communication (ACC)** came to the forefront as the Services began a strategic shift to focus on the threat posed by China in the Indo-Pacific theater and moved away from the irregular ground warfare that dominated the post-9/11 era.

Today, ALSSA publications are released to allies and partners from over 70 countries. Additionally, annual update briefs and discussions take place at TRADOC Headquarters with their Foreign Liaison Officers. For the past several years, senior military leaders have reiterated the importance of the United States' partnerships with allies in the Indo-Pacific to manage competition with China. This importance extends to the tactical edge. The most highly requested publications are **J-FIRE, J-SEAD, Dynamic Targeting, and Kill Box Operations.**

As it enters its 50th year, ALSSA continues to review joint and Service doctrine, examine lessons learned, and survey SMEs to determine existing doctrinal gaps, interoperability issues, and emerging technologies and threats. Normally, feedback from the Services supports the revision of existing publications every two to four years. The joint force and joint doctrine communities have proven and validated MTTP to expand upon for decades. However, "the emergence of Russia and China as great-power competitors has brought new urgency to the question of how the United States leverages its air and ground—not to mention sea, space, and cyber—power to prevail against a formidable adversary."<sup>5</sup>

In Fiscal Years 25-26, ALSSA will develop and publish MTTP on **Electromagnetic Spectrum Operations** and conduct a revision of the increasingly evolving **Air and Missile Defense** MTTP. Very similar to the late 70's, there remains the need for an effective catalyst in addressing

these complex issues. Additionally, ALSSA will publish Tactical Bulletins to discuss / present emerging MTTP to joint warfighters that can be further assessed at joint, Service, and coalition exercises; provide the Services an effective way to highlight and refine doctrine and MTTP; present evolving MTTP in a framework that is possibly incorporated into existing or new multi-Service and joint doctrine; and stay current with the expanding operational environment to effectively spread the "latest and greatest" practices from the field.

The fast-paced evolution and distribution of doctrine and MTTP must continue to reach the deployed tacticians and staff officers as well as prepare future leaders for their entry into the joint force. Along with the Service doctrine centers, the ALSSA Center will continue to capture, develop, and revise MTTP for the joint warfighter to remain timely and relevant.

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#### Notes

1 General DePuy, Air Land Forces Application Notes, February 1976

2 General Dixon, Air Land Forces Application Notes, 1977

3 Ronald H. Cole, Operation Urgent Fury, Grenada, Joint History Office, Washington, DC 1997

4 Air Land Forces Application Joint Actions Steering Committee Notes, 1984

5 Shared Problems, RAND, September 2018

#### **Army Publishing Directorate:**

<https://armypubs.army.mil/ProductMaps/PubForm/ContentSearch.aspx?q=AFTTP&em=False&ptype=0&prop=0&ff=1>

#### **MTTP Hard Copy Ordering Information:**

<https://www.alssa.mil/mttps/order/>

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