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# **J-SEAD Suppression of Enemy Air Defenses**

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**U.S. Marine Corps**

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## **Executive Summary**

Suppression of enemy air defenses (SEAD) is any activity that neutralizes, destroys, or temporarily degrades enemy surface based air defense. Joint SEAD (J-SEAD) is a broad term that encompasses all SEAD activities provided by components of a joint force in support of one another. This publication provides J-SEAD information at both the operational level (of interest to JTF planning staffs) and at the tactical level (of interest to Mission Commanders, Package Commanders, and Flight Leads).

Chapter I defines SEAD, J-SEAD, and related terminology. It breaks J-SEAD down into the categories of Area of Responsibilities/Joint Operating Area Air Defense System suppression, Localized suppression, and Opportune suppression. The chapter then describes the means of suppression (destructive and disruptive), and the categories of tactics used to accomplish the J-SEAD mission (concurrent suppression and sequential suppression). Finally, it includes a general discussion of typical air defense threats and the ways in which J-SEAD concepts are applied to protect friendly forces.

The second chapter provides descriptions, characteristics, and planning considerations for a wide variety of platforms and systems that contribute to the J-SEAD effort. The chapter is divided into sections on Reconnaissance, Surveillance, and Target Acquisition (RSTA) aircraft, Overhead Reconnaissance assets, Electronic Attack and Strike Aircraft, Decoys and Chaff Dispensers, and Weapons.

Chapter III discusses operational-level J-SEAD considerations, focusing on JTF staff functions, functional and service component responsibilities, Joint Air Operations Center (JAOC) responsibilities, and the Air Tasking Order (ATO) process. This section summarizes and amplifies information from existing joint and service publications, in the context of J-SEAD operations.

Chapter IV focuses on the detailed planning and execution of J-SEAD missions. This chapter functions at both the operational and tactical levels, with detailed illustrations, event matrices, and system by system employment considerations.

The document's appendices provide mission planning guides, quick-reference system capabilities tables, coordination checklists, frequency deconfliction tables, and a listing of Electronic Order of Battle and Intelligence resources available to the J-SEAD planner.

J-SEAD is a complex endeavor. This publication is intended as an aid for planners and operators who need to "get their arms around" the J-SEAD problem.

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### **CLASSIFICATION**

This executive summary is unclassified. The publication itself is classified **SECRET**.