

MCRP 3-25.10A

Low Altitude Air Defense (LAAD) Gunner's Handbook



U.S. Marine Corps

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Unless otherwise stated, whenever the masculine gender is used, both men and women are included.

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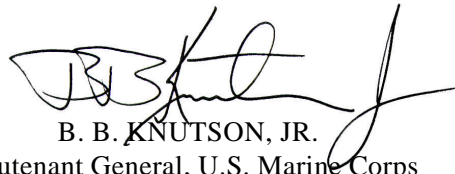
FOREWORD

Marine Corps Reference Publication (MCRP) 3-25.10A, *Low Altitude Air Defense (LAAD) Gunner's Handbook*, complements and expands on the information in MCWP 3-25.10, *LAAD Handbook*, by providing information on tactics, techniques and procedures and employment of the Stinger weapon system for the LAAD gunners.

MCRP 3.25.10A supersedes Fleet Marine Force Reference Publication (FMFRP) 5-53, *LAAD Gunner's Handbook*. This MCRP is designed as a pocket reference primarily for LAAD section, LAAD firing team, and the LAAD gunner (military occupational specialty [MOS] 7212).

Reviewed and approved this date.

BY DIRECTION OF THE COMMANDANT OF THE MARINE CORPS



B. B. KNUTSON, JR.
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Low Altitude Air Defense Gunner's Handbook

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Chapter 1

Fundamentals

The mission of a low altitude air defense (LAAD) unit is to provide close-in, low altitude surface-to-air weapons (SAWs) fires in defense of forward combat areas, vital areas, and installations. It also provides SAW support for units engaged in special and independent operations. Each LAAD firing team has the mission to protect the supported unit from attack by aircraft. LAAD operations are provided by the LAAD battalion or battery under the Marine air control group within the Marine air wing. LAAD units are often task-organized to support the entire spectrum of Marine air-ground task force (MAGTF) contingencies.

ORGANIZATION

The firing team is the LAAD battery's basic combat unit. (See fig. 1-1 on page 1-2) It consists of a team leader and assistant gunner/driver. Both team members are trained as gunners and in communications, target detection, and aircraft recognition. Normally, the assistant gunner/driver will fire the Stinger missile(s), allowing the team leader to evaluate targets and make engagement decisions. During periods of intense enemy air activity, both man-portable air defense (MANPAD) team members may act as gunners to increase their rate of fire. There are three variations of LAAD teams; their combat loads may be altered according to the mission.

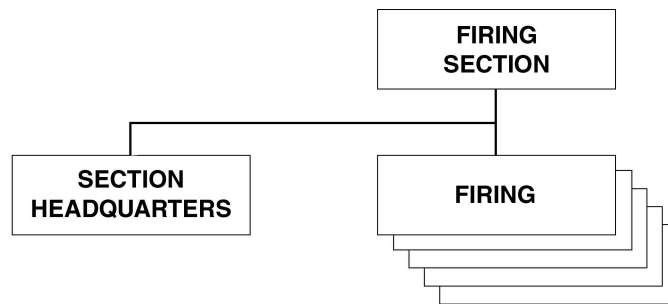


Figure 1-1. LAAD Firing Section and Team Organization.

- | **Avenger.** Each Avenger team carries a basic load of eight missile rounds and one gripstock container comprised of two gripstocks and eight battery coolant units.
- | **MANPAD.** Each MANPAD team carries a basic load of four weapon rounds and two missile rounds.
- | **Dismounted.** Dismounted teams normally carry a basic load of one weapon round.

COMMAND AND CONTROL

The LAAD section leader commands and controls firing teams through established rules of engagement (ROE) and detailed procedures. Because teams are usually located far from the section leader's command post, direct and personal supervision is normally not possible. Team leaders must possess a strong sense of responsibility. Team members, once their position has been established, must realize the importance of providing section leaders with accurate site location information.