

ALARACT 070/2024

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SUBJ/ALARACT 070/2024 – JOINT FIRES OBSERVER QUALIFICATION

THIS ALARACT MESSAGE HAS BEEN TRANSMITTED BY JSP ON BEHALF OF HQDA, DCS, G-3/5/7

1. (U) REFERENCES:

1.A. (U) JOINT FIRES OBSERVER MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING, (AVAILABLE AT [HTTPS://ARMYEITAAS.SHAREPOINT-MIL.US/SITES/TR-FCOE-AMTC/SITEPAGES/JOINT-FIRES-OBSERVER.ASPX?PROMOTEDSTATE=0](https://armyeitaas.sharepoint-mil.us/sites/tr-fcoe-amtc/sitepages/joint-fires-observer.aspx?promotedstate=0))

1.B. (U) TC 3-09.8, CHAPTER 6, FIRE SUPPORT AND FIELD ARTILLERY CERTIFICATION AND QUALIFICATION (AVAILABLE AT MILSUITE: [HTTPS://WWW.MILSUITE.MIL/BOOK/GROUPS/TC-3-098-FIELD-ARTILLERY-GUNNERY](https://www.milsuite.mil/book/groups/tc-3-098-field-artillery-gunnery))

2. (U) THIS MESSAGE OUTLINES REQUIREMENTS FOR UNITS TO MAINTAIN THEIR JOINT FIRES OBSERVER (JFO) PROGRAM AND DOCUMENTATION REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL REQUIRED JFO TRAINING.

3. (U) JOINT FIRES WITHIN LARGE SCALE COMBAT OPERATIONS DEMONSTRATE THE IMPORTANCE OF MAINTAINING QUALIFIED JFOS SO UNITS CAN SAFELY EXPLOIT AND INTEGRATE FIXED WING, ROTARY WING, AND SURFACE DELIVERED FIRES. JFOS ARE CRITICAL TO THE EMPLOYMENT OF CLOSE AIR SUPPORT (CAS), WORKING IN CONJUNCTION WITH JOINT TERMINAL ATTACK CONTROLLERS (JTACS) AND FORWARD AIR CONTROLLERS-AIRBORNE (FAC(A)). BEFORE UNITS BECOME AVAILABLE FOR OPERATIONS, COMMANDERS WILL ENSURE THAT PERSONNEL ASSIGNED TO MODIFIED TABLE OF ORGANIZATION AND EQUIPMENT DUTY POSITIONS CODED WITH THE ADDITIONAL SKILL IDENTIFIER (ASI) L7 REMAIN QUALIFIED.

3.A. (U) A QUALIFIED JFO—

3.A.1. (U) CAN REQUEST, CONTROL, AND ADJUST SURFACE-TO-SURFACE FIRES, NAVAL SURFACE FIRE SUPPORT, AND ATTACK AVIATION CALL-FOR-FIRE.

3.A.2. (U) CAN PROVIDE TIMELY AND ACCURATE TARGETING INFORMATION TO A JTAC/FAC(A) IN SUPPORT OF CAS OR DIRECTLY TO AIRCRAFT WHEN AUTHORIZED BY THE CONTROLLING JTAC/FAC(A).

3.A.3. (U) CAN PERFORM TERMINAL GUIDANCE OPERATIONS.

3.B. (U) JFOS CANNOT ISSUE CLEARANCE FOR WEAPONS RELEASE TO ATTACKING AIRCRAFT. TERMINAL ATTACK CONTROL AUTHORITY IS MAINTAINED BY A QUALIFIED JTAC OR FAC(A).

4. (U) INITIAL CERTIFICATION. PERSONNEL ASSIGNED TO AN ASI L7 CODED POSITION RECEIVE INITIAL CERTIFICATION BY ATTENDING AN ACCREDITED TRAINING COURSE. UNITS CAN SCHEDULE ATTENDANCE TO AN ACCREDITED ARMY COURSE, 2E–SIL7/250–ASIL7–(MC), THROUGH THE ARMY TRAINING REQUIREMENTS AND RESOURCES SYSTEM.

5. (U) SUSTAINMENT TRAINING. COMMANDERS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR ENSURING THEIR JFOS REMAIN QUALIFIED BY CONDUCTING THE SEMI-ANNUAL TRAINING TASKS AND EVALUATION REQUIREMENTS LISTED IN REFERENCE 1.B. IN ACCORDANCE WITH TC 3–09.8, “A JFO CERTIFIED FIRE SUPPORTER IS NOT CONSIDERED FIRE SUPPORT CERTIFICATION COMPLETE UNTIL THE JFO HAS COMPLETED ALL ANNUAL CURRENCY EVENTS, SEMI-ANNUAL CURRENCY EVENTS, AND AN EVALUATION.” SEMI-ANNUAL TRAINING AND EVALUATIONS CAN BE CONDUCTED EITHER LIVE OR SIMULATED, AND MUST BE ADMINISTERED BY A DESIGNATED JFO EVALUATOR (JFO–E), OR A JFO–INSTRUCTOR (JFO–I) AT AN ACCREDITED JFO TRAINING INSTITUTION OR A JFO–I/E THAT IS A JTAC OR FAC(A) AND MAINTAINS QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS. TRAINING REQUIREMENTS ARE PRESCRIBED IN TC 3–09.8 AND THE JFO MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT.

NOTE: FOR ALL LIVE CAS TRAINING, A JTAC OR FAC(A) IS REQUIRED TO CONDUCT TERMINAL GUIDANCE OF THE CAS CONTROL.

6. (U) TRAINING RECORDS. COMMANDERS ARE REQUIRED TO DOCUMENT ACCOMPLISHMENT OF INITIAL JFO TRAINING/CERTIFICATION AND SEMI-ANNUAL TRAINING REQUIREMENTS. COMMANDERS MUST MANAGE JFO RECERTIFICATION AND DOCUMENTATION AT UNIT LEVEL AND WILL INPUT REQUIRED DATA INTO THE U.S. ARMY TRAINING AND DOCTRINE COMMAND (TRADOC) JFCO COLLABORATION WEBSITE.

7. (U) ARMY SERVICE LEVEL JFO OVERSIGHT. THE FIELD ARTILLERY (FA) COMMANDANT SUPPORTED BY THE ARMY MULTI-DOMAIN TARGETING CENTER (AMTC) IS THE OVERSIGHT AGENCY FOR THE ARMY JFO SERVICE LEVEL PROGRAM. THE FA COMMANDANT WITH THE SUPPORT OF AMTC OVERSEES JFO COMPLIANCE TRAINING STANDARDS, CONDUCTS SERVICE-LEVEL ACCREDITATIONS ON ARMY JFO TRAINING INSTITUTIONS, AND CONDUCTS JFO STAFF ASSISTANCE VISITS AND COMPLIANCE ASSESSMENTS OF OPERATIONAL UNITS. THE JFO OVERSIGHT TEAM ASSESSES AND REPORTS UNITS AS ONE OF THREE CATEGORIES.

7.A. (U) COMPLIANT. THE UNIT JFO PROGRAM IS IN FULL COMPLIANCE WITH REFERENCE 1.B. REQUIREMENTS. POSITIVE AND NEGATIVE OBSERVATIONS HAVE BEEN NOTED AND REPORTED TO UNIT LEADERSHIP. AREAS OF RECOMMENDED IMPROVEMENT TO JFO PROGRAM EXECUTION, QUALITY OF TRAINING OR COMBAT CAPABILITY ARE ADDRESSED IN THE COMPLIANCE ASSESSMENT REPORT.

7.B. (U) COMPLIANT WITH DEFICIENCY. COMPLIANT WITH REFERENCE 1.B. REQUIREMENTS WITH NOTABLE ISSUES THAT DETER FROM THE EXECUTION OF THE UNIT JFO PROGRAM, QUALITY OF TRAINING, OR COMBAT CAPABILITY THAT DOES NOT WARRANT NON-COMPLIANCE. RECOMMENDED CORRECTIVE ACTIONS WILL BE ACCOMPLISHED AT THE DISCRETION OF THE UNIT JFO PROGRAM MANAGER AND UNIT LEADERSHIP AS TIME AND FUNDING PERMIT. DEFICIENCIES WILL BE ADDRESSED IN THE COMPLIANCE ASSESSMENT REPORT AND REVIEWED FOR CORRECTION IN SUBSEQUENT COMPLIANCE ASSESSMENT REVIEWS.

7.C. (U) NON-COMPLIANT. ISSUE OF NON-COMPLIANCE WITH REFERENCE 1.B. REQUIREMENTS, WHICH IF NOT CORRECTED BY PRESCRIBED FOLLOW-ON ACTIONS WITHIN SPECIFIED TIMELINES, WILL LEAD TO RECOMMENDATION TO STOP ALL JFO TRAINING UNTIL A CORRECTIVE PLAN CAN BE IMPLEMENTED. BASED ON WHEN THE DISCREPANCY OCCURRED, JFOS AND JFO-ES MAY LOSE QUALIFICATION ISSUED DURING THE IDENTIFIED PERIOD. THE DIVISION ARTILLERY FIRE SUPPORT MASTER GUNNER WILL PROVIDE DISCREPANCY STATUS UPDATES TO THE JFO OVERSIGHT TEAM, AND THE JFO OVERSIGHT TEAM TRACKS DISCREPANCIES FOR THE FA COMMANDANT UNTIL RESOLVED BY THE UNIT.

8. (U) TRADOC'S JFO COLLABORATION WEBSITE WILL BE THE CENTRAL LOCATION TO STORE TRAINING TRACKERS FOR OVERSIGHT PURPOSES UNTIL ARMY TRAINING INFORMATION SYSTEM IS OPERATIONAL. THE DIVISION ARTILLERY FIRE SUPPORT NONCOMMISSIONED OFFICER/JFO PROGRAM MANAGER WILL UPLOAD THEIR UNIT JFO TRAINING TRACKER QUARTERLY TO THE JFO COLLABORATION WEBSITE IN THE APPROPRIATE UNIT FOLDER. THE URL FOR THE JFO COLLABORATION WEBSITE IS [HTTPS://ARMYEITAAS.SHAREPOINT-MIL.US/SITES/TR-FCOE-AMTC/SITEPAGES/JOINT-FIRES-OBSERVER.ASPX?PROMOTEDSTATE=0](https://armyeitaas.sharepoint-mil.us/sites/tr-fcoe-amtc/sitepages/joint-fires-observer.aspx?promotedstate=0).

9. (U) POINT OF CONTACT FOR THIS MESSAGE IS MAJOR JACOB S. LOFTICE, CHIEF JOINT INTEGRATION DIVISION, FORT SILL, OKLAHOMA, AT JACOB.S.LOFTICE.MIL@ARMY.MIL, DSN 639-1407.

10. (U) THIS ALARACT MESSAGE EXPIRES ON 3 SEPTEMBER 2025.