An Annotated Bibliography
of
The United States Marine Corps' Concept of Close Air Support

by

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PREFACE

This bibliography is published for the information of all who are interested in the history of the Marine Corps concept of close air support. Inclusion of a particular work does not necessarily constitute Marine Corps endorsement of that work.

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AN ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY OF THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

CONCEPT OF CLOSE AIR SUPPORT

Compiled by

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Introduction

The list which follows consists of publications dealing in whole or in part with the development and employment of close air support by the Marine Corps. The scope of the bibliography covers a period of time which begins with the first real combat employment of the technique of close air support in Nicaragua in 1927 through the war in Vietnam.

To obtain the greatest possible value to the largest number of researchers and writers, broad criteria for selection of items to be included have been utilized. Inclusion of any given title does not, therefore, constitute Marine Corps acceptance or endorsement of an author's views, conclusions, or indeed, complete historical accuracy. By the same token, the annotation supplied is in the nature of description of the contents of books and articles rather than a critical evaluation.

The abbreviation "CAS" denotes the phrase "close air support." The annotation "notes" indicates that the publication is documented as to research sources; "bibliog." indicates that a bibliography of research materials is appended. The inclusion of illustrations is indicated by "illus."

A brief description of the role of Marine aviation in the air-ground team concept.


An argument for the adoption by the Army of a sounder doctrine of CAS with praise for the Marine concept of the doctrine.


The author extols the virtues and advantages of a proposed light attack aircraft (L2VMA) for use in counterinsurgency.


A presentation of the author's views on the type of aircraft that is needed in CAS missions.


A brief historical account of Marine aviation with only a few references on the doctrine of CAS.


This article enumerates the advantages and disadvantages of replacing the Douglas "Skyraider" (AD) with the Douglas "Skyhawk" (A4D) aircraft in regards to its use in CAS.

A pictorial history of Marine aviation with some reference to the development of CAS.


A brief explanation of directing aircraft to a target in air support missions.


Differing views on CAS as expressed by the Air Force and the Marine Corps.


The article outlines the duties of a forward air controller and proposes the substitution of enlisted Marines for Naval Aviators as forward air controllers.


This study is an attempt to provide a reasonably accurate body of data on the effectiveness of CAS in WW II and Korea from which certain conclusions can be derived.


The author advocates the incorporation of Marine Corps concepts in the Army's doctrine of CAS.

Presentation of certain recommendations by the author to aid in making CAS more effective.


Contains brief references to the development of CAS in the Marine Corps.


A concise discussion of aviation training in the Marine Corps.


Some general thinking on the use of CAS.


The author considers the necessity of modifying the methods used in CAS in accordance with nuclear age tactics.


A general look at the mission of Marine aviation with some references to CAS.

This article focuses attention on the development of night CAS while at the same time advocating the extended use of it.


The author, a veteran Marine pilot, describes the procedures that are necessary for the proper coordination of air and ground units and the intricacies involved in the execution of the tactics of CAS.


An examination of the differences in the CAS systems as utilized by the different services.


A historical account of Marine aviation from World War I to World War II with only minor reference to the development of CAS.


Contains a brief look at the growth of CAS.


This article includes a brief look at the development of CAS in the Marine Corps.

A discussion of the different types of aircraft that were used by the Marine Corps between 1914 and 1943.


Includes a discussion of innovations in the air-ground team concept during the post-Korean War years.


A record of the history and development of Naval aviation, including a brief synopsis on the history of Marine aviation with references to the growth of CAS in the Marine Corps.


The fundamentals and classification of air support operations and the planning, execution, air intelligence, and logistical considerations in the conduct of air operations are discussed. Also included is a chapter on the definition and the mission of CAS.


A review and comparison of jet versus conventional aircraft performance in CAS missions.

Recommendations by the author that an attack aircraft meet certain specific requirements before it is used in air support missions.


This article examines some of the techniques that are used in night CAS.


This article advocates the greater use of air support for ground forces.


A proposal that the Marine Corps increase the emphasis placed on night CAS.

NICARAGUA


Some references to the development of the doctrine of CAS during the 1920s.


This article takes into account the development of air/ground communications in jungle areas while providing a contemporary graphic description of the first use of dive-bombing in combat over Ocotal, Nicaragua.

Views by the author on the possible and potential employment of air power in bush warfare and the advantages that can be derived from its use.


An account of the development and the initial beginnings of the Marine air/ground team concept.


A history of early Marine Corps aviation with some mention of the development of air support.


Reprint of part of the weekly operations of Marine Observation Squadron Seven (VO-7M) with reference to support of ground forces.


A history of Marine aviation to the outbreak of World War II along with some remarks on the development of CAS.


A description of the growth of CAS in Nicaragua with recommendations by the author of what is needed in Vietnam to make the doctrine more effective there.
42. Capt Francis E. Pierce, USMC. "Infantry-Air Communication" *Marine Corps Gazette*, v. 13, no. 4 (Dec 1938), pp. 266-270.

A look at the methods utilized in accomplishing liaison between ground troops and supporting aircraft as envisioned during the late 1920s.


A very detailed treatise on Marine aviation in Nicaragua with a considerable amount of attention paid to the development of air-ground communications and the use of aircraft against enemy personnel.


A description of the first use of dive-bombing.


A general consideration of the various usages of Marine aircraft in Nicaragua with specific references to the intercommunication between the air and ground patrols and the use of air attacks directed by ground troops.


A booklet setting forth pre-World War II thinking on the mission, organization, characteristics, and tactical employment of Marine Corps aviation.
Chapter Nine, "Aviation" reflects pre-World War II thinking on the use of Marine aviation in small wars with some discussion on the employment of air support for ground troops.

The document is indicative of the thinking of the Marine Corps in the mid-1930s as to the tactical employment of Marine aviation in landing operations and small wars.

WORLD WAR II


A definition of tactics as used in early air support operations against the Japanese.


An evaluation of air operations affecting the Marine Corps during the war with Japan with a detailed exposition of the Marine doctrine and technique of CAS as developed in World War II.


An account of the use of air support for ground forces in the campaign along with a brief summary of the development of CAS in World War II.

A brief account of the use of air support on Okinawa.


Army aviation in support of operations from Guadalcanal to the Marianas, with only minor references on the use of Marine aviation.


Contains some mention of Marine aviation as utilized in the Philippines and at Ulithi.


A general chronicle of the activities of Marine aviation in World War II with emphasis on offensive air operations.


An outline of the mission of Marine aviation in regards to its support of ground troops.


Included in this volume is an evaluation of the use of air power against the enemy.

This work, although it contains no major references on the subject, does point out that Tinian saw the first extensive combat use of napalm.


A brief narrative on the employment of aviation is enclosed in the appendices.


Only very little mention on the use of air power in the battle.


Operations of Marine Corps units in the early phases of World War II. Although containing very little mention of CAS this work is useful in acquiring background knowledge for the later application and development of the theory during the war.


Includes some comments on the use of air support during the operation.

A short account of MAG-24's participation in the Luzon Campaign in support of the U. S. Army's 1st Cavalry Division.


A look at what was considered necessary for the effective utilization of CAS during World War II.


Traces the history of Marine aviation in World War II.


A record of the use of CAS in the Pacific.


Contains considerable material on Marines in the New Georgia and Bougainville operations with a few remarks on Marine aviation.


Only brief references to Marine aviation on Guadalcanal.

A report on the use of aviation during the first phase of the Guadalcanal campaign.


Includes some remarks on the use of air support.


Contains some brief statements on the use of air support.


An explanation and definition of the CAS doctrine as practiced by the Marine Corps.


Contains some scattered references to the use of air power during the campaign, but more important this volume points out that the modern Marine Corps technique of CAS had its beginning in this engagement.

The following Marine operations are covered in this volume: the Gilberts, the Marshalls, Saipan, and Guam. It also encompasses some commentary on the employment of aviation.


A detailed narrative of Marine campaigns in the Pacific from Feb 1943 to Jun 1944 with considerable attention given to the use of aviation.


A comprehensive and detailed study of Marine aviation in World War II with a look at the development and evolution of CAS during the war. The work also contains a brief background sketch of the early period of aviation in the Marine Corps.


Includes a number of remarks on the participation of Marine aviation in the liberation of the Philippines, 1944-1945.


Includes a discussion on air support for ground forces.

Primarily deals with the use of the doctrine in World War II, and to a lesser degree in Korea.


A critical evaluation of the use of CAS on Okinawa with a discussion on the lessons learned from World War II and how they can be applied to make the CAS doctrine more effective.


Incorporated within this work is an examination of the operations of the 1st and 2d Marine Aircraft Wings on Guadalcanal in the Solomons, 7 Aug 1942-9 Feb 1943.

KOREA


A short, general chronology covering the period from 5 Jul 1950 to 27 Jul 1953.


Brief comments on the controversy over CAS as practiced by the Marine Corps in Korea.

A two-way approach to the problem of CAS, giving the views of the pilot and the ground officer, with examples from the Korean War.


Comparison of CAS as practiced by the different branches of the services during the first months of fighting in Korea.


Recommendation by the author for more acceptance of point-blank bombing as was devised and used in Korea.


Depiction of a Marine air strike in support of ground operation demonstrating the interplay of forward air controllers, the air and ground units, and the Tactical Air Direction Center.


The article deals with the operations of Marine Attack Squadron (VMA) 312 in Korea.


Review of the services of Marine enlisted pilots in the war.
90. MSgt Fred G. Braitsch, Jr., USMC. "Marine Air War." 
   Leatherneck, v. 34, no. 11 (Nov 1951), pp. 30-35. illus.

   A general summation of the first year of Marine air operations in the war.

91. "Marine Air War." 

   A review of the second year of Marine air operations in the war.

92. "Night Intruders." 
   Leatherneck, v. 34, no. 12 (Dec 1951), pp. 21-25. illus.

   Marine Night Fighter Squadron (VMF(N)) 513 and the utilization of the Grumman F7F "Tigercats."

93. "Skyraiders." 

   A general look at the missions of Marine Attack Squadron (VMA) 121 and its use of the Douglas AD "Skyraider."


   An examination of the use of this technique by the Marine Corps during the first year of the war with emphasis on the close liaison between the air and ground forces.


   Recounts the first major test of the doctrine of CAS in blunting the attack of the Chinese Communists.

Deals with the employment of CAS at the Chosin Reservoir and its value in preventing a total disaster for ground forces.


A recapitulation of the activities of the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing immediately after the landings at Inchon with numerous references to the furnishing of air support to ground troops.


A brief, critical evaluation of the effectiveness of air interdiction in the war, especially that of night missions.


Night operations of Marine Night Fighter Squadron (VMF(N)) 513.


General history of Air Force operations in the war with many references to Marine Corps aviation.


A discourse on the initial use of CAS by the Marine Corps in Korea.

Primarily, a general account of Navy and Marine Corps operations through the Hungnam evacuation with some discussion on the employment of air support.


Extracts from a letter of appreciation from Major General Oliver P. Smith, Commanding General, 1st Marine Division, to Major General Field Harris, Commanding General, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, for the air support given to ground troops in the withdrawal from the Chosin Reservoir.


A fair amount of attention is paid to the operations of the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, 26 Oct-24 Dec 1950.

105 - - - - - - - - Maj Hubard D. Kuokka, USMC, and Maj Norman W. Hicks, USMC. *The East-Central Front---U. S. Marine Operations in Korea, 1950-1953*, v. IV. Washington: Historical Branch, G-3 Division, Headquarters, U. S. Marine Corps, 1912. 342 pp. illus., maps, notes, bibliog.

This volume embraces a great deal of information on the employment of Marine aviation and also the use of CAS, Dec 1950-Mar 1952.


Includes a chapter on Marine air support at the time of the Inchon landing.

Includes a number of references on the employment of Marine aviation.


Contains a brief statement on the use of CAS in the opening days of the war.


General review of Marine ground and carrier-based aviation in Korea between August 1950 and July 1953.


A brief explanation and discussion of the use of air support in Korea.


The story of the development of night CAS at the beginning of the Korean War.


An examination of the employment of CAS at night in the Chosin operation.

The author praises the cooperation that exists between Marine air and ground units while pointing out the lack of such cooperation between the Air Force and the Army.


Pertains to the cooperation between ground and air units in the Marine withdrawal from the Chosin Reservoir.


An explanation of why CAS worked for the Marine Corps and not for the Air Force and Army during the first weeks of the war.


Short definition on the mission of Marine aviation with emphasis on air support for ground troops.


A brief account, largely pictorial, of carrier-based aircraft including the operations of Marine Fighter Squadron (VMF) 323 and 214 aboard USS Badoeng Strait and Sicily, respectively.

Briefly considers the use of CAS in Vietnam.


The article extols the virtues of the OV-10, the proposed counterinsurgency aircraft, as a many-sided, all-around support aircraft.


A list of the assets of the OV-10A as a potential counterinsurgency weapon.


Proposal for the Marine Corps to obtain a counterinsurgency plane--LARA (Light Armed Reconnaissance Aircraft)--to be used in brush fire wars, such as Vietnam.


Includes some remarks on the employment of CAS in Vietnam.


A general description of the activities of Marine aviation in Vietnam with a capsule view on the utilization of CAS.
Comparison of the limitations and capabilities of helicopter gunships (more specifically the AH-16 with the OV-10A Bronco, a fixed-winged plane) in CAS missions.

An assessment of the reasons for the inadequacies of the Marine aerial observation system in Vietnam with recommendation for corrective action.

Primarily, an account of the Air Force and Army's version of the employment of CAS in Vietnam with a brief mention of the Marine Corps' interpretation of the doctrine.

Focuses attention on some of the procedures involved in air support in Vietnam.

A discussion by four officers on the use of armed helicopters with the conclusion that they will never replace fixed wing aircraft but do have a place in the air/ground team concept.

Student study dealing; basically with the effectiveness of the end product of CAS along with some remarks on the Marine Corps and its development of the doctrine.


An analysis and comparison by the "Pike Committee" of the doctrine of CAS as utilized by the Air Force and the Marine Corps in the early part of the war.