



## AJP-01, *Allied Joint Doctrine*



Allied Joint Publication (AJP)-01, *Allied Joint Doctrine* is NATO's capstone standard that details the principles, concepts and procedures that govern its military operations. Designed to foster effective cooperation among member states, the latest edition of AJP-01, Edition F Version 1, updates key theories and introduces new approaches to meet evolving security challenges. It covers the continuum of competition, multi-domain operations and updates to NATO's deterrence and defence strategies. AJP-01 is also the first NATO doctrine publication to be produced as an audiobook.

### Key updates in AJP-01, *Allied Joint Doctrine*, Edition F Version 1

**Continuum of competition.** AJP-01 introduces the continuum of competition, a framework that describes the various types of relationships between states and groups, ranging from cooperation to armed conflict. It emphasises the intrinsic competitive nature of international relations and the necessity for NATO to manage these dynamics to maintain global stability.

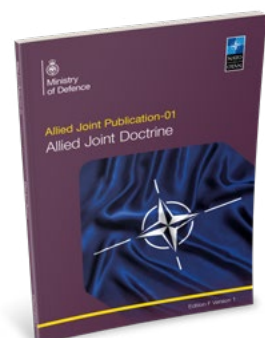
**Multi-domain operations.** The publication introduces multi-domain operations, which orchestrates efforts across land, sea, air, space and cyberspace to secure the freedom and security of NATO members. This approach is crucial for coordinating NATO's comprehensive capabilities to achieve strategic objectives.

**Conflict triangle.** The conflict triangle is a model introduced to explain the interactions between contradiction, actor attitudes and behaviours. These elements collectively influence the dynamics of conflict, providing a framework for understanding and managing international disputes.

### NATO's core policies and tasks

AJP-01 outlines NATO's core tasks in the current security environment, including deterrence, defence, projecting stability, crisis prevention and cooperative security. It highlights NATO's enduring commitment to collective defence (Article 5), projecting stability, and combating terrorism. The doctrine emphasises a whole-of-Alliance approach, pooling military, political and civilian resources to maximise effectiveness while adhering to international legal and ethical standards. It updates NATO's campaign themes to reflect the direction of the *NATO 2022 Military Strategic Concept* and Supreme Allied Commander Europe's (SACEUR's) *Concept for the Deterrence and Defence of the Euro-Atlantic Area*.

**Strategic adaptation and enduring tenets.** AJP-01 reintroduces campaign themes, which are aligned with NATO's broader military strategy, updating approaches to deterrence and defence to reflect the evolving security landscape. The comprehensive approach, manoeuvrist approach and mission command are joined by the behaviour-centric approach, ensuring cohesive and adaptable responses to threats. This publication stresses the importance of mission command,



which relies on trust, mutual understanding and clear communication among military leaders and their subordinates. This principle is essential for enabling decentralised execution, rapid decision-making and effective operations within multinational forces. Within the continuum of competition there is a renewed focus on influencing audiences to enhance deterrence and avoid conflict. Audience/behaviour-centric planning with narrative-led execution is changing NATO's approach to planning.

**Engagement space.** The term 'engagement space' updates the traditional 'battlespace', reflecting the broader and interconnected nature of modern military operations and aligning with SACEUR's *Comprehensive Operations Planning Directive*. Whilst both terms can still be used, engagement space is preferred. The engagement space includes physical, cognitive and virtual dimensions, requiring a holistic approach to planning and execution. The publication also emphasises the importance of understanding the operating environment and integrating various actions to create strategic effects.

**Command and control.** NATO's evolving command and control requirements, emphasising the importance of unity of command and the integration of joint and multinational forces. The publication outlines the structure and principles guiding NATO's command and control architecture, ensuring effective coordination and decision-making across complex, multi-domain operations.

**Interoperability.** Interoperability is a force multiplier and is core to the effectiveness of the Alliance, enabled through a combination of technical, human and procedural interoperability. This edition of AJP-01 describes, for the first time, levels of interoperability from 'not interoperable' to 'integrated'.

**Second and third order effects.** Commanders are advised to be vigilant about the unintended consequences of their actions, referred to as second and third order effects. These can significantly impact operational outcomes and the broader strategic environment, underscoring the need for continuous assessment and adaptive planning.

## Conclusion

AJP-01, *Allied Joint Doctrine* is a comprehensive guide that describes the context for NATO doctrine and equips NATO commanders with the principles and frameworks necessary to navigate the complexities of modern military operations. By updating its doctrines and embracing new strategic approaches, NATO aims to maintain its effectiveness in safeguarding the freedom and security of its member states amidst an ever-evolving global security environment.

### AJP-01, *Allied Joint Doctrine* audiobook

AJP-01 is the first NATO doctrine audiobook to be produced, aiming to offer an alternative mechanism for assimilating NATO's capstone doctrine. Feedback is not only welcome but essential to know if this sort of product should be pursued in the future. Any comments should be submitted to [UKStratCom-IWC-JTDocmulti-user@mod.gov.uk](mailto:UKStratCom-IWC-JTDocmulti-user@mod.gov.uk).



### Want to read more about AJP-01, *Allied Joint Doctrine*?

AJP-01 is written at the OFFICIAL classification to access the widest possible audience. It should be of value to joint commanders and staffs, the single Services, the broader defence community and other government departments, as well as UK partners and allies.



Find out more about joint operational-level doctrine at the links below.

[gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk)

[defnet](https://defnet.org)

[Defence Gateway](https://www.defencegateway.org)

