

JTAC COMMs

9-line charts and more

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Purpose

The 9-Line is a compact, standard way for a JTAC/Tactical Controller to give attacking aircrew the essential targeting information they need to prosecute a weapons release safely and effectively. It focuses on the target location/description, friendly positions, weapon/fuze constraints, and ingress/egress.

“ Note: There are several doctrinal variations of the 9-line (service/country differences, doctrinal updates). The version below is the widely used **JTAC → aircraft** functional breakdown (what pilots expect to hear).

Check In as soon as leaving ATC ZONE. Usually 5 miles.

Knight 1-1, Snake 1.

Snake 1, Knight 1-1: pass message.

Knight 1 flight is a 2 ship Hornet; loaded with 4 x AGM65E; 8 x GBU38; 4 x CBU 99. PLAYTIME 30 MINUTES. *NOTE: load out is for entire flight.*

Knight 1, Snake 1; Proceed to the ALPHA HOLD at 22k

Knight 1, Snake 1. At the ALPHA HOLD 22K *(When established at the hold)*

Knight 1-1, Snake 1. Type 2 in effect. Advise when ready to copy 9-line *(Type 2 means only the JTAC/AFAC needs eyes on the target)*

Knight 1-1 ready to copy

1,2,3 N/A; 278ft MSL; Shilka; LM40125-62110; Mark the laser 1688; Troops NW of target; Egress EAST. Advise when ready for remarks and further talk on. *(This could be precise MGRS coords with no lasing)*

Ready to copy remarks *(Once pilot has entered height/coords)*

Use AGM65E; Ingress 120-160 *(May be include ingress to avoid friendly troops)*

278; LM40125-62110; 120-160 *(Pilot reads back height, coords and ingress)*

Readback correct. Report IP inbound 10 miles to target

Knight 1-1 IP Inbound *(Pilot will then call back in at 10 miles to target)*

Continue

Knight 1-1 LASER ON *(At appropriate distance to launch, i.e. in range)*

Laser on. Lasing.

SPOT *(When you have acquired the laser. YOU DO NOT HAVE PERMISSION TO FIRE)*

Cleared in HOT

Knight 1-1 OFF to the EAST *(When attack run is complete)*

Knight 1-1, Return to Alpha hold

Wait instructions for next run in.

Pre-9-Line items

These are the common radio items you should send **before** the 9-line so aircrew can prepare and respond:

- **Check-in** — identifies flight, position or that you're leaving an ATC zone.
Example: "Check in as soon as leaving ATC ZONE. Usually 5 miles. Knight 1-1, Snake 1."
- **Readback/request to copy** — controller tells the flight to be ready to copy the 9-line.
Example: "Knight 1-1 ready to copy."

- **Mission/ordnance and brief note** — brief description of the flight loadout or playtime.
Example from picture: “Knight 1 flight is a 2 ship Hornet; loaded with 4 x AGM65E; 8 x GBU38; 4 x CBU 99. PLAYTIME 30 MINUTES. NOTE: load out is for entire flight.”
 - **Hold / IP / clearance to engage** — where to hold and when to expect the IP call.
Example: “Proceed to the ALPHA HOLD at 22k. Report IP inbound 10 miles to target.”
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The 9 lines — explanation + example mapping

Line 1 — **IP/BP or Call-in** (Initial Point / Battle Position)

- **What it conveys:** Method of attack reference point for the run; where the aircraft will start the attack (or “IP inbound”).
- **Example from picture:**
“Knight 1-1 IP Inbound (Pilot will then call back in at 10 miles to target)”
— or the controller may simply say “IP inbound 10 miles to target” as part of the pre-brief.

Line 2 — **Heading** (attack heading / bearing to target)

- **What it conveys:** Attack heading or the magnetic/true bearing the aircraft should fly over the target (or heading from IP to target).
- **Example:** your screenshot shows “**Use AGM65E; Ingress 120-160 (May be include ingress to avoid friendly troops)**” — the 120-160 is the ingress corridor/attack heading. In a 9-line you’d give: “**Attack heading 120-160.**”

Line 3 — **Distance**

- **What it conveys:** Distance from IP to target (or distance from the aircraft position given at the time). Could be nautical miles.
- **Example mapping:** The screenshot implies distances implicitly (IP inbound 10 miles). In a 9-line you might say: “**Distance: IP to target 10 NM.**”

Line 4 — **Target elevation / height**

- **What it conveys:** Elevation of the target or height above mean sea level (MSL). Important for fuzing and sensor slant.
- **Example from picture:** “278ft MSL” appears in the sample. So Line 4 = “**Target elev:** 278 ft MSL.”

Line 5 — **Target description**

- **What it conveys:** One-line description of the target (type, size, known threats nearby). Keep it short and unambiguous.
- **Example from picture:** “Shilka” (a AAA threat) — you could expand to: “**Target:** Shilka SPAAG (vehicle).”

Line 6 — **Target location**

- **What it conveys:** Grid reference (MGRS), lat/long, or other precise coordinates. If laser code/bearing used, include here.
- **Example from picture:** “LM40125-62110” (looks like a grid/MGRS) — so Line 6 = “**MGRS:** LM40125-62110.”

Line 7 — **Mark / Type of attack / Orbit direction**

- **What it conveys:** How the target will be marked (laser, smoke, IP talk-on) and the attack profile (type of ordnance or attack heading). Could also include the ballistics/markings laser code.
- **Example from picture:** “Mark the laser 1688; Laser on. Lasing.” → Line 7 = “**Mark: Laser (Code 1688).**”
Also the weapon selection/remarks earlier could be included here (e.g., “Using AGM-65E”).

Line 8 — **Friendlylies (location of friendly troops / restrictions)**

- **What it conveys:** Location of friendly elements relative to the target — direction and distance or MGRS. Also may include restrictions.

- **Example from picture:** “Troops NW of target” and the additional safety: “**SPOT (When you have acquired the laser, YOU DO NOT HAVE PERMISSION TO FIRE).**”
So Line 8 = “**Friendlylies: Troops NW of target (distance if available).**”

Line 9 — **Egress / Remarks / Fuze / Clearance (ROE)**

- **What it conveys:** Egress direction, clearance level (Type 2/3, Restricted), fuzing or other restrictions, or additional remarks.
- **Example from picture:**
 - “**Egress EAST.**” (egress direction)
 - “**Type 2 in effect.**” (level of control — Type 2 means JTAC has to see/mark the target and give clearance)
 - “**Advise when ready for remarks and further talk on.**”
So Line 9 could be: “**Egress: East. Remarks: Type 2 in effect. Advise when ready for remarks.**”