

Ground Control Interceptor (GCI). FAC: 1341

CATCODE: 134335

OPR: AFFSA

OCR: AFNIC/AF/A3O-A

1.1. **Description.** This system serves functions for pilot training over a specific range by (A) remote ground control of drone aircraft; (B) ground control directions to piloted fighter aircraft successful combat archer of drone targets and combat training of other ground control intercepts in a combat scenario.

1.1.1. **Ground-controlled interception (GCI)** an air defense tactic whereby one or more radar stations or other observational stations are linked to a command communications center which guides interceptor aircraft to an airborne target. This tactic was pioneered during World War II by the Royal Air Force with the *Luftwaffe* to follow closely. Today, GCI is still important for most nations, although Airborne Early Warning and Control, with or without support from GCI, generally offers much greater range due to the much more distant horizon.

1.1.2. Today the term GCI refers to the style of battle direction, but during World War II it also referred to the radars themselves. Specifically, the term was used to describe a new generation of radars that spun on their vertical axis in order to provide a complete 360-degree view of the sky around the station. Previous systems, notably Chain Home (CH), could only be directed along angles in "front" of the antennas, and were unable to direct traffic once it passed behind their shore-side locations. GCI radars began to replace CH starting in 1941/42, allowing a single station to control the entire battle from early detection to directing the fighters to intercept

1.2. A defined facility standard is not currently available for this CATCODE. By default, all requirements are user justified until a standard is established or adopted.