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Communications and Information

VOICE CALL SIGN PROGRAM

COMPLIANCE WITH THIS PUBLICATION IS MANDATORY

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This instruction implements Air Force Policy Directive (AFPD) 33-2, *Information Protection*, and establishes call sign procedures to identify military aircraft, organizations, activities, bases, units, operational facilities (except global high frequency [HF] stations and navigational aids), staff personnel, and geographic locations. Voice call signs are used to establish and maintain voice communications within the Air Force. Specific personnel and activities of the Executive Branch, Department of Defense (DoD), Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS), United States Army (USA), United States Navy (USN), United States Marine Corps (USMC), unified commands, and other government agencies are also included at the request of the JCS. Air Force Cryptological Aids Operations (AFKAO)-1, *USAF Voice Call Sign Instructions*, contains detailed instructions on acquiring, classifying, releasing, and using call signs. Major commands (MAJCOM), field operating agencies, and direct reporting units, send one copy of final supplement to Headquarters Air Force Communications Agency (HQ AFCA)/XPXP, 203 W. Losey St, Room 1060, Scott AFB IL 62225-5233. Send comments and suggested improvements on AF Form 847, **Recommendation for Change of Publication**, through channels, to the Voice Call Sign Program Management Office (PMO), Cryptologic Support Group (CPSG)/ZSW, 230 Hall Blvd, Suite 225B, San Antonio TX 78243-7056. Send information copies to HQ AFCA/XPXP and Air Force Communications and Information Center (AFCIC)/SYNI, 1250 Air Force Pentagon, Washington DC 20330-1250. A glossary of references, abbreviations, and acronyms can be found at **Attachment 1**.

SUMMARY OF REVISIONS

Administrative changes throughout. Changes "callsign" to "call sign." Changes address of the Program Management Office.

1. Terms Explained.

1.1. Voice Call Sign.

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1.1.1. An identifying word provided primarily for voice communications.

1.1.2. Pronounceable English language dictionary words usually suffixed with two digits (01 through 99), used to establish identity and to maintain voice communications.

1.2. Static call sign. An unchanging identifying word permanently assigned to a specific purpose, unit, activity, or staff position.

1.3. Changing voice call sign. An identifying word randomly generated, selected, and assigned to a specific purpose, unit, activity, or staff position, and changed at periodic intervals.

2. Procedures. Air Force activities will:

2.1. Use a spoken English language dictionary word as the basic call sign with a single- or two-digit suffix. Aircraft call signs are restricted to four- to six-letter words; other call signs use one or two words, with a maximum of 15 characters. Certain minor deviations are permitted by AFKAO-1, Annex A.

2.2. Use voice call signs to identify military aircraft, organizations, activities, bases, units, operational facilities, staff personnel, and geographical locations when establishing and maintaining voice communications.

2.3. Use changing call signs to the maximum extent practicable to enhance the security of Air Force operations.

2.4. Direct the mandatory use of changing call signs for classified operations and missions, during exercises and contingency operations, and while conducting research, and development testing and evaluation programs. Use **Attachment 2** and AF Form 2519, **All Purpose Checklist**, to develop a Unit Checklist for Air Force Call Sign Applications.

2.5. Do not use the term "Air Force" (for example, "Air Force One," "Air Force Rescue," and so forth) or the acronym of a MAJCOM's name, or any other acronym, abbreviation, or phonetic alphabet as a call sign prefix except as specifically authorized in AFKAO-1. **NOTE:** Commanders must ensure operations security is considered before requesting static call sign assignments or other unchanging variations outlined in AFKAO-1, Annex A, instead of changing call signs (see AFI 10-1101, *Operations Security*).

2.6. Only submit call sign requests to meet mission requirements and do not personalize them.

3. Exceptions to Standard Procedures.

3.1. Identify Global HF systems by the geographical name of the station or location (for example, "Andrews Global").

3.2. Identify aircraft control facilities by using the base or location, and service required (for example, "Kelly Homer Beacon," "Andrews GCA," "Nellis Tower," and so forth). (See Allied Communications Publication [ACP] 121/US Supplement 2, *Communications Instructions General Air-Ground*.)

3.3. Military Affiliate Radio System call signs are managed and assigned by HQ AFCA/SYXM, 203 West Losey Street, Room 3065, Scott AFB IL 62225-5234.

4. General Information.

4.1. The Voice Call Sign PMO manages the voice call sign program for Headquarters, United States Air Force. Units should send requests for call sign assignments, or proposed changes to existing assignments, through channels to their appropriate MAJCOM call sign representative and to the Voice Call Sign PMO.

4.2. The JCS, USA, USN, USMC, unified commands, and certain Executive Branches, State Departments, and other DoD activities may submit requests to HQ AFCIC/SYNI or direct to the Voice Call Sign PMO.

5. Application of the United States Air Force Voice Call Sign Program. The following publications administer the United States Air Force (USAF) Voice Call Sign Program:

5.1. Procedures. AFKAO-1 contains detailed procedures for requesting, assigning, and using USAF voice call signs. Order this specialized COMSEC publication through the host base COMSEC account.

5.2. Call sign Assignments.

5.2.1. Air Force Cryptological Aids Instruction (AFKAI)-1, *USAF Voice Call Sign Lists*, contains worldwide voice call sign listings. AFKAI-1 also lists specific assignments for JCS, USA, USN, unified commands, other DoD activities, the State Department and certain Federal agencies.

5.2.2. AFKAI-2, The Air Combat Command (ACC) Standard AFKAI-1 Extract, is a special operational AFKAI-1 extract. This extract may be used aboard certain aircraft when authorized by the controlling authority.

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Director, Communications and Information

Attachment 1

GLOSSARY OF REFERENCES, ACRONYMS, AND ABBREVIATIONS

References

AFPD 33-2, *Information Protection*

AFI 10-1101, *Operations Security*

AFKAI-1, *USAF Voice Call Sign Lists*

AFKAI-2, *The Air Combat Command (ACC) Standard AFKAI-1 Extract*

AFKAO-1, *USAF Voice Call Sign Instructions*

ACP 121/US Supplement 2, *Communications Instructions General Air-Ground*

Abbreviations and Acronyms

ACP—Allied Command Publication

AFCIC—Air Force Communications and Information Center

AFKAI—Air Force Cryptological Aids Instruction

AFKAO—Air Force Cryptological Aids Operations

AFPD—Air Force Policy Directive

ARTCC—Air Route Traffic Control Center

COMSEC—Communications Security

CPSG—Cryptological Support Group

DoD—Department of Defense

HF—High Frequency

HQ AFCA—Headquarters Air Force Communications Agency

JCS—Joint Chiefs of Staff

MAJCOM—Major Command

OPSEC—Operations Security

PMO—Program Management Office

USA—United States Army

USAF—United States Air Force

USMC—United States Marine Corps

USN—United States Navy

Attachment 2

FORMAT FOR UNIT CHECKLIST FOR AIR FORCE CALL SIGN APPLICATIONS

- A2.1.** Are spoken dictionary words used as the basic call sign?
- A2.2.** Are call sign requirements requested and processed through your MAJCOM voice call sign manager?
- A2.3.** Are static call signs used in the local area suffixed? (Four and five letter call signs may be suffixed from one through 99, while six letter call signs can only be suffixed from one through nine.)
- A2.4.** Prior to suffixing call signs, have you ensured there are no other aircraft using the same call sign within the same Air Route Traffic Control Center (ARTCC) and have these call signs been approved by your MAJCOM call sign manager?
- A2.5.** Are changing call signs used to the maximum extent?
- A2.6.** Are changing call signs used for classified operations and missions?
- A2.7.** Are changing call signs used while conducting research and development testing and evaluation programs?
- A2.8.** AFKAO-1 contains the procedures for Air Force voice call sign applications. Obtain this publication from your base COMSEC Manager. Are the users of Air Force call signs familiar with the instructions in AFKAO-1?