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**Operations**



**CAF: BLUE FORCE TRACKING (BFT) DEVICE  
CONTROL AND ACCOUNTABILITY**

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(Col Joseph T. Callahan III)  
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This instruction implements AFD 10-7, *Information Operations* and CJCSI 8910.01A, *Joint Blue Force Situational Awareness Operations Guidance*. This instruction provides guidance for protecting and controlling Blue Force Tracking (BFT) capability (including hardware, software, data and networks) for Combat Air Forces (CAF) units. CAF units are all units assigned to Air Combat Command (ACC), as well as fighter, attack, combat search and rescue, command control intelligence surveillance reconnaissance and bomber units assigned to Pacific Air Forces (PACAF) and United States Air Forces in Europe (USAFE). It applies to all ACC, USAFE, and PACAF units, Air Force Reserve Command (AFRC) units under ACC oversight, and Air National Guard (ANG) units that operate and maintain BFT devices. Maintain records created as a result of prescribed processes IAW AFMAN 33-363, *Management of Records*, and disposed of them IAW the Air Force Records Disposition Schedule (RDS) at <https://afirms.amc.af.mil>. Contact records managers as required. Refer recommended changes and questions about this publication to the Office of Primary Responsibility (OPR) using the AF IMT 847, *Recommendation for Change of Publication*; through normal channels, to HQ ACC/A3CS, 205 Dodd Blvd, Suite 101, Langley AFB VA 23665. The use of the name or mark of any specific manufacturer, commercial product, commodity, or service in this publication does not imply endorsement by the Air Force.

## **1. Introduction.**

1.1. **Background.** Blue Force Tracking describes Department of Defense programs that provide systems for locating, tracking and determining the status of blue (US, allied, coalition) forces. BFT systems are part of the larger Blue Force Situational Awareness (BFSA) concept. These systems use Global Positioning System (GPS) to calculate the BFT device position and transmit that information to space-based, airborne, and ground-based receivers. Fielded forces and commanders at Command and Control (C2) nodes receive the data through a Tactical Display Processor (TDP), SIPRNET or

Command and Control Personal Computer (C2PC). Some BFT devices also can send limited status and intention information via brevity codes.

1.2. **Objectives.** This instruction provides guidance to ACC units on protection of information associated with BFT and proper control and accounting of BFT devices. Because of the sensitive nature of BFT technology, and the potential danger to all Service personnel should sensitive BFT information be compromised, ACC personnel must protect BFT devices and information. Currently, the only ACC forces that use BFT devices are combat search and rescue (CSAR) forces. This instruction provides guidance to those forces issued BFT devices from ACC, including PACAF, USAFE, ANG, and AFRC CSAR forces.

1.3. **Combat Search and Rescue (CSAR) BFT Device.** ACC CSAR forces use the Mayer Miniature Transmitter (MTX). The MTX is a US-controlled device incorporating sensitive technologies. Currently, ACC units use MTXs to aid in C2, prevent fratricide and provide situational awareness. Additionally, CSAR forces use BFT information in the tactical environment to execute CSAR missions. BFT is an integral part of CSAR operations.

## 2. Device Accountability and Security Protection Requirements.

2.1. **General.** Some BFT devices utilize highly sensitive technologies and contain cryptographic keys. The MTX is an unclassified device but contains sensitive technology. The following paragraphs outline BFT device accountability requirements and responsibilities. MTXs must be stored in a physically controlled area and accounted for in storage as “sensitive items”. Refer to the Collection of Broadcasts from Remote Assets (COBRA) Operational Support Message #3 for more details on MTX security and accountability, found on the Mission Management Center (MMC) web site. MMC contact information is provided in paragraph 2.5.

2.1.1. The current ACC CSAR BFT device (the MTX), National Stock Number (NSN) 5820-01-545-6448, is a serially controlled and accountable item. The Government Controlling Authority must grant buyer approval prior to purchase of an MTX unit. Units interested in obtaining additional/replacement MTXs should contact ACC/A3CS for guidance through their Wing/Group BFT Point of Contact (POC).

2.1.2. Shipping. The only approved carriers for the MTX are Federal Express® and DHL. When shipping MTX units within the continental United States (CONUS) they will be sent Federal Express® or DHL next day as a minimum. They should be shipped Monday through Thursday and not on Friday. Senders should always call the receiving end on the day the shipment is due to verify receipt. If the MTX unit is going outside of the CONUS, these CONUS precautions apply with the added constraint of extended shipping times. If at all possible, ship MTX units via official pouch system. If the MTX unit is going to or coming from an overseas remote location where Federal Express®, DHL, or official pouch services are not available, it must be hand-carried.

### 2.2. BFT Device Accountability.

2.2.1. Since MTX devices are an accountable, equipment item, units will track MTX devices on their Custodian Authorization / Custody Receipt Listing (CA/CRL) using allowance source code (ASC) 049ABFT. To do this, the custodians need to have their Supply Customer Service area create a detail on their account with ASC 049ABFT and total quantity on hand for NSN 5820-01-545-6448. This equipment is not tied to any UTC, but may be put on a mobility account.

The authorized amount is based on how many MTXs a unit has on hand and not how many aircraft or crews it has.

2.2.2. Units will not transfer or loan BFT devices between other units without prior approval from ACC/A3CS. For both permanent transfers and loans, units will follow accountability guidance in AFMAN 23-110, “*USAF Supply Manual*”, Volume 2, Part 13.

### 2.3. Responsibilities and Tasks for Device Control:

2.3.1. HQ ACC/A3CS will:

2.3.1.1. Maintain a database of all ACC CSAR MTXs. The database will include: programming information associated with each BFT device, unit issued the BFT, current location of the BFT and other information as needed. This database will provide the MAJCOM and deployed BFT managers with crucial information on ACC’s BFT devices. Reporting information from the field will be managed in accordance with report control symbol (RCS): ACC/A3CS(AR)0801, BLUE FORCE Device Tracking. New records are not established with these reporting instructions.

2.3.1.2. Provide BFT training and instruction materials to ACC units when devices are issued and on an as needed basis thereafter.

2.3.1.3. Report compromised, missing or destroyed BFTs to the MMC.

2.3.1.4. Act as the command’s Officer of Primary Responsibility (OPR) for CSAR BFT device control, accounting, and reporting procedures.

2.3.1.5. Act as the command’s OPR for requests for new or replacement BFT devices.

2.3.1.6. Coordinate with ACC/A8YA (A4YA) for any request ACC/A3CS receives for BFT installations on ACC aircraft.

2.3.1.7. Maintain a record of device transfers between ACC units.

2.3.1.8. Provide units information on the process to repair malfunctioning or failed BFT equipment and coordinate replacement if needed.

2.3.1.9. Maintain a website for distribution of BFT information.

2.3.1.10. Act as liaison to the National Reconnaissance Organization (NRO) and the MMC for all CSAR units.

2.3.2. HQ ACC/A8YA (A4YA) will:

2.3.2.1. Coordinate and manage all installations of new or replacement Kit-As for BFTs on ACC aircraft.

2.3.2.2. Forward all information regarding installation or removal of BFT T-1 modifications on ACC aircraft (to include unit, type aircraft, and tail number) to ACC/A3CS.

2.3.3. ACC units at home station in coordination with their Wing/Group BFT POC will (Note: deployed units will work through their home station):

2.3.3.1. Appoint a BFT primary and alternate POC via memorandum to ACC/A3CS via NIPRNET e-mail. BFT POCs must have a SIPRNET account and access to a secure phone.

2.3.3.2. Maintain accountability of their BFT devices on a CA/CRL as outlined in **paragraph 2.2.1.**

2.3.3.3. Report inoperative, malfunctioning, missing or destroyed BFTs to ACC/A3CS via SIPRNET e-mail within two duty days.

2.3.3.4. Report compromised BFTs via SIPRNET e-mail to the MMC and inform ACC/A3CS within 24 hours.

2.3.3.5. Notify ACC/A3CS when BFT devices are involved in mishaps or suspected to be involved in mishaps. Notification must occur within two duty days of the mishap. Make every effort to recover BFT devices involved in mishaps. Provide ACC/A3CS recovered BFT devices or destruction notification if devices are destroyed. Destruction notification must occur within two duty days of determination that the devices are destroyed.

2.3.3.6. Maintain the MTX device in good repair IAW MTX Owner's Manual, and return inoperative or malfunctioning BFTs to General Dynamics for repair using unit funds. Units may use the Government Wide Purchase Card (GPC) if the cost falls within allowable limits.

2.3.3.7. Report all aircraft T-1 BFT Kit modifications to ACC/A8YA /A4YA.

2.3.3.8. Designate via Memorandum for Record your unit BFT POC to ACC/A3CS for administrative purposes and 24 hour emergency/911 contact info. Currently, the theater Joint Personnel Recovery Centers are the focal point for the MMC to contact in the event of a "911" activation. Units may want to designate their command post or similar function within their unit as the secondary 24 hr contact point.

2.3.3.9. Notify ACC/A3CS when MTX devices are being deployed to a theater of operations. One week prior to deployment, notify ACC/A3CS via SIPRNET e-mail of the following: unit, serial #s to be deployed, location of deployment and/or geographic area of operations, time-frame expected for deployment and mission design series type. Subsequently, upon redeployment to the home base, notify ACC/A3CS of the same information.

2.3.3.10. Install BFT devices as a T-1 aircraft modification only as tested and approved by the System Program Office (SPO). Approved modifications can be viewed on the CSAR C2 CoP.

2.3.3.11. Contact ACC/A3CS before contacting the NRO or MMC.

2.3.3.12. Refer to **Attachment 2** for a snapshot of reporting events and timelines.

#### 2.4. Exercises and Training.

2.4.1. For exercises and tests where the user is directed to use a different frequency other than the one to which their MTXs are programmed (e.g. DESERT RESCUE, JFEXs, etc), the user must contact ACC/A3CS (via SIPRNET message) a minimum of 1 month prior to the exercise with the following information. ACC/A3CS will build a file to reprogram the MTXs and forward it to the unit(s) requiring the change. The request must state the following:

2.4.1.1. MTX serial numbers requiring change (e.g. MTX XXXXXX).

2.4.1.2. Operation supported/Theater where MTXs will be operated.

2.4.1.3. Geographic coverage requirements.

2.4.1.4. Dates and time periods for coverage.

## 2.4.1.5. POC.

2.4.2. Local Training: Users may use their MTXs during local training for familiarization. Contact the Mission Management Center (MMC) for available coverage times or ACC/A3CS to request coverage. Under no circumstances will the BFT “911” call be used unless in an actual emergency.

## 2.5. Contact Information:

2.5.1. ACC/A3CS SIPRNET Web Page: <http://www/acc/af/smil.mil/a3/a3c>.

2.5.2. ACC/A3CS SIPRNET e-mail: [acc.a3cs@langley.af.smil.mil](mailto:acc.a3cs@langley.af.smil.mil) (on global e-mail as ACC/A3CS CSAR C2 SUPPORT).

2.5.3. ACC/A3CS NIPRNET Web Page: <https://a3.acc.af.mil/doc/doc>.

2.5.4. ACC/A3CS NIPRNET e-mail: [acc.a3cs@langley.af.mil](mailto:acc.a3cs@langley.af.mil) (on global e-mail as ACC/A3CS CSAR C2).

2.5.5. ACC/A3CS NIPRNET CSAR C2 Community of Practice: <https://wwd.my.af.mil/afknprod/ASPs/CoP/OpenCoP.asp?Filter=AC-OP-00-65>

2.5.6. Mission Management Center (MMC) SIPRNET web page: <http://mmcweb.bft.army.smil.mil>.

2.5.7. MMC SIPRNET e-mail: [mmc@smdc-cs.army.smil.mil](mailto:mmc@smdc-cs.army.smil.mil).

## 3. BFT Information Control Requirements.

## 3.1. Classification of BFT Information:

3.1.1. The MTX used by ACC units is an unclassified device but contains sensitive technology. Association of MTX serial numbers with a CSAR squadron designation is unclassified. However, certain information associated with BFT devices and the means units use them may be classified for operations security (OPSEC). Classification during training and exercises will be in accordance with the security classification guidance of the training or exercise. Classification for contingency operations will be in accordance with the Combatant Commander’s OPSEC guidance. If OPSEC guidance is not provided, or unless otherwise specified, units will follow the guidance in **Table 1**.

**Table 1. MTX Information Contingency Classification Guidance.**

Element	Associated with	Classification
MTX Serial Number	Specific location plus the fact that a “911” brevity code has been transmitted	Secret*
MTX Serial Number	Operational mission brevity code cross-matrix (brevity code meaning)	Secret*
* Derived from Combatant Commander OPSEC guidance.		

3.1.2. If operating with USSOCOM/AFSOC units, adhere to their classification policies (see AFSOC Policy Letter on Classification of BFT Information located on the CSAR C2 CoP).

3.1.3. Certain technical information associated with the architecture used to support some BFT devices is classified. For the MTX, refer to *Collection of Broadcasts from Remote Assets (COBRA) Security Classification Guide*, found on the ACC/A3CS SIPRNET website and the MMC website. For other BFT devices, i.e. Iridium devices, refer to the appropriate security classification guide.

3.1.4. Only ACC/A3CS can authorize CSAR personnel to change MTX programming. Unauthorized changes could cause data from other devices not to be received properly from the national architecture. This could cause serious damage to the units involved.

### 3.2. Naming Convention Requirements:

3.2.1. The MMC in Colorado Springs is responsible for entering track names in the JUNIT table. These JUNIT track names then appear in the C2PC Common Operational Picture (COP) application. Various BFT using organizations coordinate naming conventions with the MMC to ensure that the track data is displayed in a consistent and understandable format for each user. When users do not pass naming information to the MMC, BFT track data will be seen in C2PC as unknown or incorrect tracks, which significantly reduces the usefulness of the data.

3.2.2. ACC uses standardized naming conventions for global operations. These naming conventions are shown in [Attachment 3](#). ACC/A3CS will coordinate with the MMC to ensure that all ACC CSAR devices are displayed via C2PC with these naming conventions. Theater BFT managers must inform ACC/A3CS via SIPRNET e-mail of any changes made to the naming conventions for ACC BFT devices in their area of responsibility within two duty days of coordinating the change with the MMC. This is because ACC/A3CS maintains a database that must match the MMC records. Only the first nine characters in the naming convention will be displayed on the COP.

### 3.3. Brevity Codes:

3.3.1. Brevity codes are codes that can be transmitted from a BFT device in conjunction with its normal geo-position data. These codes can be useful for relaying status of forces information one-way from the BFT user to other users and/or appropriate C2 nodes. Different BFT devices have different numbers and combinations of brevity codes. The MTX, for example, can send up to 16 different brevity codes based on the on or off status of four brevity code light emitting diodes (LEDs). Pressing the brevity buttons on the side of the MTX will toggle the corresponding LED on or off. All the LEDs in the on (illuminated) position defines an emergency condition, or "911". All the LEDs in the off (unlit) position is normally considered "situation normal". The other brevity codes can be defined per operation, and used to indicate a wide range of messages, including completion of execution checklist steps, etc. Similarly, other BFT devices may have permanently defined brevity codes, or may use no brevity codes at all. Users should pre-coordinate their concept of operations for brevity codes before operational use.

3.3.2. When using brevity codes, users must be aware that any person with access to the COP through a TDP will be able to see brevity codes transmitted by devices (unless the track data for

that device is kept in discreet COP channels). For unclassified exercises and tests, brevity code meanings are not classified.

JOHN D.W. CORLEY, General, USAF  
Commander

**Attachment 1****GLOSSARY OF REFERENCES AND SUPPORTING INFORMATION*****References***

CJCSI 8910.01A, *Joint Blue Force Situational Awareness Operations Guidance*, 30 April 2004

AFPD 10-7, *Information Operations*, 6 September 2006

AFI 10-701, *Operations Security (OPSEC)*, 18 October 2007

AFMAN 23-110, *USAF Supply Manual*, 1 October 2007

Air Force *Joint Blue Force Situational Awareness Enabling Concept*, 16 May 2007

*Collection of Broadcasts from Remote Assets (COBRA) Security Classification Guide*, (Secret/Releasable to USA, AUS, CAN, GBR, NZL), 17 May 2006

*COBRA Operational Support Message #3, Change 4*, 6 April 2007 (located on MMC Web Site)

*MTX Transmitter User's Manual, Revision*, 14 May 2002 (located on CSAR C2 CoP)

***Abbreviations and Acronyms***

**ACC**—Air Combat Command

**AFPD**—Air Force Policy Directive

**AFSOC**—Air Force Special Operations Command

**AOR**—Area of Responsibility

**ASC**—Allowance Source Code

**BFT**—Blue Force Tracking

**BFSA**—Blue Force Situational Awareness

**C2**—Command and Control

**C2PC**—Command and Control Personal Computer

**CA/CRL**—Custodian Authorization / Custody Receipt Listing

**CJCSI**—Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Instruction

**COBRA**—Collection of Broadcasts from Remote Assets

**CONUS**—Continental United States

**COP**—Common Operational Picture

**CoP**—Community of Practice

**CSAR**—Combat Search and Rescue

**GPS**—Global Positioning System

**HQ**—Headquarters

**LED**—Light Emitting Diode  
**MAJCOM**—Major Command  
**MMC**—Mission Management Center  
**MTX**—Mayer Miniature Transmitter  
**NIPRNET**—Non-Secure Internet Protocol Router Network  
**NRO**—National Reconnaissance Office  
**NSN**—National Stock Number  
**OPR**—Office of Primary Responsibility  
**OPSEC**—Operations Security  
**PJ**—Pararescue Jumper  
**POC**—Point of Contact  
**RCS**—Report Control Symbol  
**SIPRNET**—SECRET Internet Protocol Router Network  
**SORTS**—Status of Resources and Training System  
**SPO**—System Program Office  
**TDP**—Tactical Display Processor  
**UTC**—Unit Type Code  
**USSOCOM**—United States Special Operations Command

## Attachment 2

## RCS: ACC/A3CS(AR)0801, BLUE FORCE DEVICE TRACKING REPORT

<b>Report</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>To whom</b>	<b>Paragraph</b>
Inoperative, malfunctioning, missing or destroyed BFT	Within 2 duty days	ACC/A3CS	<a href="#">2.3.3.3.</a>
Compromise of BFT	Within 24 hours	MMC, cc ACC/A3CS	<a href="#">2.3.3.4.</a>
BFT involved or suspected in mishap	Within 2 duty days of mishap	ACC/A3CS	<a href="#">2.3.3.5.</a>
BFT destruction notification	Within 2 duty days of determining BFT was destroyed	ACC/A3CS	<a href="#">2.3.3.5.</a>
MTX being deployed	NLT one week prior to deployment	ACC/A3CS	<a href="#">2.3.3.9.</a>
MTX redeployed	Upon return	ACC/A3CS	<a href="#">2.3.3.9.</a>
Exercises using MTX	NLT one month out	ACC/A3CS	<a href="#">2.4.</a>
Naming convention change	Within 2 duty days	ACC/A3CS	<a href="#">3.2.2.</a>

## Attachment 3

## BFT NAMING CONVENTIONS (MTX SPECIFIC)

<b>Aircraft</b>		
Aircraft Type	Naming Convention	Example
HC-130P/E	CSARHC130 UNIT MTXnnnn	CSARHC130 71RQS MTX3456
HH-60G	CSARHH60 UNIT MTXnnnn	CSARHH60 41RQS MTX3456
MC-130P	CSARMC130 UNIT MTXnnnn	CSARMC130 130RQS MTX3456
<b>Non-Aircraft (PJ)</b>		
	CSARPJ UNIT MTXnnnn	CSARPJ 48RQS MTX3456
<b>Unassigned</b>		
	CSAR MTXnnnn	CSAR MTX3456

Key: nnnn = last 4 digits of BFT serial number.