



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON, DC

AFI17-212_AFGM2016-01

18 October 2016

MEMORANDUM FOR DISTRIBUTION C
MAJCOMs/FOAs/DRUs

FROM: SAF/CIO A6
1800 Air Force Pentagon
Washington, DC 20330-1800

SUBJECT: Air Force Guidance Memorandum to AFI33-217 *VOICE CALL SIGN PROGRAM*

By Order of the Secretary of the Air Force, this Air Force Guidance Memorandum immediately changes AFI33-217 *Voice Call Sign Program*, 27 May 2014. Compliance with this Memorandum is mandatory. To the extent its directions are inconsistent with other Air Force publications, the information herein prevails, in accordance with (IAW) AFI 33-360, *Publications and Forms Management*. Ensure that all records created as a result of processes prescribed in this publication are maintained IAW Air Force Manual (AFMAN) 33-363, *Management of Records*, and disposed of IAW Air Force Records Information Management System (AFRIMS) Records Disposition Schedule (RDS).

As a result of the publication of AF Policy Directive (AFPD) 17-2, *Cyberspace Operations*, which supersedes AFPD 33-1, *Cyberspace Operations*, dated 9 August 2012, AFI 33-217 is hereby renumbered as AFI 17-212. This Memorandum is a renumbering of AFI 33-217 only; the title and content remain unchanged. I hereby direct the Office of Primary Responsibility (OPR) for AFI 33-217 to conduct a special review in accordance with AFI33-360 to align its content with AFPD17-2. This will result in a rewrite or rescind action of AFI 33-217.

This Memorandum becomes void after one year has elapsed from the date of this Memorandum, or upon rescinding or rewrite of AFI 33-217, whichever is earlier.

WILLIAM J. BENDER, Lt Gen, USAF
Chief of Information Dominance and Chief
Information Officer

**BY ORDER OF THE
SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE**

AIR FORCE INSTRUCTION 33-217

27 MAY 2014



Communications and Information

VOICE CALL SIGN PROGRAM

COMPLIANCE WITH THIS PUBLICATION IS MANDATORY

ACCESSIBILITY: Publications and forms are available on the e-publishing website at www.e-publishing.af.mil for downloading and ordering.

RELEASABILITY: There are no releasability restrictions on this publication.

OPR: AF/A3CS/A6CS

Certified by: AF/A3C/A6C
(Maj Gen Earl D. Matthews)

Supersedes: AFI33-217, 8 October 2002

Pages: 8

This instruction implements Air Force Policy Directive (AFPD) 33-2, Information Assurance, and establishes call sign policy and procedures for the identification of military aircraft, organizations, activities, bases, units, operational facilities (except global high frequency stations and navigational aids), staff personnel and geographic locations. This AFMAN applies to the Air National Guard (ANG) and the Air Force Reserve (AFR) unless indicated otherwise. Voice Call Signs (VCS) are used to establish and maintain voice communications. 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), United States Coast Guard (USCG), unified commands, and other government agencies are also included at the request of the JCS. Air Force publication AFKAO-1(series), USAF Voice Call Sign Instructions publication has been canceled, and was replaced by the Voice Call Sign List Instructions (VCSLI). The VCSLI contains detailed procedures on acquiring, classifying, releasing and using call signs. Call signs are available to end-users only in softcopy form. Soft copy products are available on the Voice Call Sign SIPRNet web site. Products are comprised of between one and four editions for each month. Instructions for accessing the web site may be acquired by contacting the USAF VCS office. Major commands (MAJCOM), field operating agencies (FOAs) and direct reporting units (DRUs) should direct questions or comments on the contents of this instruction through appropriate command channels to the Voice Call Sign Program Management Office (VCS PMO), Air Force Lifecycle Management Center (Cryptologic Systems /HNC), 230 Hall Blvd, suite 200, San Antonio, TX 78243. Refer recommended changes and conflicts between this and other publications to Secretary of the Air Force for Warfighting Integration and Chief Information Officer, SAF/A6PPA, C&I Policy Branch, 1800 Air Force Pentagon, Washington DC 20330-1800. The

authorities to waive wing/unit level requirements in this publication are identified with a Tier (“T-0, T-1, T-2, T-3”) number following the compliance statement. See AFI 33-360, Publications and Forms Management, Table 1.1 for a description of the authorities associated with the Tier numbers. Submit requests for waivers through the chain of command to the appropriate Tier waiver approval authority, or alternately, to the Publication OPR for non-tiered compliance items. Ensure that all records created as a result of processes prescribed in this publication are maintained in accordance with Air Force Manual (AFMAN) 33-363, Management of Records, and disposed of in accordance with the Air Force Records Disposition Schedule (RDS) located in the Air Force Records Information Management System (AFRIMS).

SUMMARY OF CHANGES

This revision of AFI 33-217 updates web references, organizational office symbols, addresses, and procedures for non-Air Force entities. The Voice Call Sign List Instructions have also been updated.

Chapter 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Introduction. The Air Force Voice Call Sign Program (VCSP) establishes call sign procedures to identify military aircraft, organizations, activities, base units, operations facilities (except global high frequency [HF] stations and navigational aids), staff personnel, and geographic locations. Voice Call Signs (VCS) are used to establish and maintain voice communications.

1.2. Applicability. This instruction is applicable to all users of the VCSSL1, VCSSL2, VCSSL3 (formerly AFKAI-1, AFKAI-2 and AFKAI-3).

1.3. General Information. The VCS PMO is located at Lackland AFB, San Antonio, Texas. The VCS Manager is responsible for managing supported entities' call signs and works with Major Commands to ensure regulatory compliance. The following contact information applies:

AFLCMC/HNCD
Voice Call Sign Program
230 Hall Blvd, Suite 200
San Antonio, TX 78243-7056

NIPRNet Email: CallSigns@us.af.mil
Phone: (210) 925-1789 / DSN 945-1789
Alternate Phone: (210) 977-5810 / DSN 945-5810

1.3.1. Air Force units should send all requests concerning call signs through their MAJCOM or equivalent. Under most circumstances, the VCSPMO will communicate only with units' MAJCOM VCS POC.

1.3.2. Other AF activities and supported non-AF activities may submit requests directly to the VCSPMO.

1.3.3. VCSSL-1 (USAF Voice Call Sign List), VCSSL-2 (Air Combat Command Standard VCSSL-1 Extract), and VCL-3 (Sensor Pacer) are available at the following web site: <http://intelshare.intelink.sgov.gov/sites/usafcallsigns/SitePages/Home.aspx> (*Case Sensitive*).

Chapter 2

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

2.1. The Voice Call Sign Program Management Office (VCSPMO).

2.1.1. Manage the USAF VCS Program.

2.1.2. Process call sign assignment and change requests.

2.1.3. Provide call sign management support to non-AF agencies and services on a case-by-case basis and only after a signed Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the VCSPMO and the submitting agency or service.

2.2. Major Commands and Non-AF Organizations Equivalent will:

2.2.1. Ensure compliance with this instruction and the VCSLI.

2.2.2. Serve as the call sign focal point for all subordinate units.

2.2.3. Ensure changes to personnel and/or contact information are provided to the VCSPMO in a timely manner.

2.2.4. Validate unique units registered in the VCS database at least annually, and as requested by the VCSPMO. Annually, the VCSPMO will provide MAJCOMs and other activities with a list of unique units with assignments in the database. The intent of this requirement is to ensure the database reflects only existing units and only units with call sign requirements. Additional information can be found in the VCSLI.

2.3. Non-AF entities supported by the VCSPMO. Adhere to all regulations governing the AF VCS program. Establish an MOA with the VCSPMO in order to receive support on VCS.

Chapter 3

VOICE CALL SIGN PROCEDURES

3.1. VCS Standard Procedures.

3.1.1. Use English dictionary words as the basic call sign, with a single- or two-digit numeric suffix (T-2).

3.1.1.1. Aircraft call signs are restricted to words four to six letters in length (T-3).

3.1.1.2. Words are currently not permitted to be truncated in order to comply with the DoD Flight Information Publication (FLIP). Any future implementation of call sign truncation will be promulgated in the VCSLI. Other call signs are comprised of up to two words with a minimum of 4 characters and a maximum of 15 characters, including the space.

3.1.1.3. The VCSLI contains additional details. Authorized variations are listed in Annex A of the VCSLI.

3.1.1.4. Units are authorized one static call sign for every permanently assigned aircraft.

3.1.2. Users should download and locally save sufficient editions of the VCSLI to sustain operations during rare network/web site outages.

3.1.3. Use voice call signs to identify military aircraft, organizations, activities, bases, units, operational facilities, staff personnel, and geographic locations (T-2).

3.1.4. Use changing call signs on clear voice circuits to the maximum extent practicable to enhance operational security (OPSEC).

3.1.5. Use changing call signs for classified operations and missions; during exercises and contingency operations; while conducting research and development testing, and when evaluating programs.

3.1.6. Call signs will not contain any of the following unless specifically authorized by the VCSLI (T-2).

3.1.6.1. Air Force.

3.1.6.2. Acronyms.

3.1.6.3. Part of a unit or MAJCOM name.

3.1.6.4. Abbreviations.

3.1.6.5. Phonetic alphabet.

3.1.6.6. Spoken numbers, other than authorized suffixes.

3.1.7. Ensure OPSEC is considered before requesting static call sign assignments, or other unchanging variations outlined in Annex A of the VCSLI.

3.1.8. Submit requests for call signs only to meet mission requirements.

3.1.9. Do not use or request personalized call signs. Call signs are assigned to meet mission needs only.

3.2. VCS Exceptions to Standard Procedures.

3.2.1. Global HF systems are identified by the geographical name of the station or location (e.g., Andrews Global)

3.2.2. Aircraft control facilities are identified by using the base or location and service required (e.g., Nellis Tower) as outlined in FAAO JO 7110.65 and FAAO JO 7110.10 (See Attachment 1 Reference).

3.2.3. The following call signs are not managed by the Air Force VCS program Office:

3.2.3.1. Military Affiliate Radio System (MARS).

3.2.3.2. Base Land Mobile Radio (LMR) call signs, which are managed by the Personal Wireless Communications System (PWCS) Manager or equivalent.

3.2.3.3. Call signs used in theaters of operation under the operational control of a theater or task force commander, which are assigned and managed by the respective commander.

3.3. Application of the USAF VCS Program. The VCSLI contains detailed procedures for requesting, assigning, and using voice call signs, and is available on the VCS SIPRNet web site: <http://intelshare.intelink.sgov.gov/sites/usafcallsigns/SitePages/Home.aspx> (*Case Sensitive*).

3.3.1. VCSL-1 contains static and changing call sign assignments for use around the world by various USG and Canadian entities. VCSL-1 has an overall classification of CONFIDENTIAL.

3.3.2. VCSL-2 is an operational extract from VCSL-1. This publication is produced explicitly for the USAF Air Combat Command (ACC) MAJCOM. This product may only be used aboard certain aircraft when authorized by the controlling authority and ACC/A6. VCSL-2 has an overall classification of CONFIDENTIAL.

3.3.3. The VCSL-3 is an operational product produced explicitly for the Intelligence community for the Air Force Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance Agency (AFISRA). VCSL-3 has an overall classification of SECRET.

MICHAEL J. BASLA, Lt Gen, USAF
Chief, Information Dominance and
Chief Information Officer

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

The *Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995*

AFPD 33-2, *Information Assurance (IA) Program*, 3 August 2011

AFI 10-701, *Operations Security (OPSEC)*, 8 June 2011

AFI 33-360, *Publications and Forms Management*, 25 September 2013

AFMAN 33-363, *Management of Records*, 1 March 2008

Air Force Records Disposition Schedule, Air Force Records Information Management System (AFRIMS)

FAAO JO 7110.65, Air Traffic Control, 3 April 2014

FAAO JO 7110.10, Flight Services, 11 January 2013

VCSL-1, *USAF Voice Call Sign List*

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

VCSLI, *USAF Voice Call Sign List Instructions*

Abbreviations and Acronyms

AF—Air Force (used on forms only)

AFDIR—Air Force Directory

AFI—Air Force Instruction

AFLCMC—Air Force Life Cycle Management Center

AFMAN—Air Force Manual

AFPD—Air Force Policy Directive

COMSEC—Communications Security

DoD—Department of Defense

HF—High Frequency

JCS—Joint Chiefs of Staff

LMR—Land Mobile Radio

MAJCOM—Major Command

NIPRNET—Non-secure Internet Protocol Router Network

PWCS—Personal Wireless Communications System

SIPRNET—Secret Internet Protocol Router Network

USA—United States Army

USAF—United States Air Force

USCG—United States Coast Guard

USMC—United States Marine Corps

USN—United States Navy

VCS—Voice Call Sign

VCSL—Voice Call Sign List

VCSPMO—Voice Call Sign Program Management Office

Terms

Voice Call Sign (VCS)—An identifying word provided primarily for voice communications. Use English language pronounceable dictionary words usually suffixed with two digits (01 through 99) to establish identity and to maintain voice communications.

Static Call Sign—An unchanging identifying word permanently assigned to a specific purpose, unit, activity, or staff position.

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.