



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS
3000 MARINE CORPS PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20350-3000

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MARINE CORPS ORDER 3093.4

From: Commandant of the Marine Corps
To: Distribution List

Subj: MARINE CORPS POLICY FOR ASSIGNMENT, MANAGEMENT, AND
OPERATIONAL USE OF THE VARIABLE MESSAGE FORMAT UNIT
REFERENCE NUMBER

Ref: (a) VARIABLE MESSAGE FORMAT (VMF) Interface Standard,
MIL-STD 6017B dtd 30 Oct 09
(b) CJCSI 3156.01, "Management of Joint Unit Reference
Numbers," August 10, 2007
(c) MARADMIN 032/06

1. Situation. The assignment and management of Unit Reference Numbers (URNs) are critical functions enabling the successful employment of Variable Message Format (VMF) messaging and the proper display of the Common Tactical Picture (CTP). VMF messages based upon Military Standard (MIL-STD) 6017B are used by small units and aircraft at tactical echelons where the very small size of these messages is a good match for the limited throughput of tactical radios. The Marine Corps has established the Marine Corps URN Repository (MUR) as the Authoritative Data Source (ADS) for URN assignments and the associated lookup table data. URN assignments associated with major units are stable, but operational necessity drives the need for temporary, dynamic assignments. It is the MUR from which operational units draw their URN assignments and to which they report their temporary assignments. Without proper URN assignment and management, key VMF messages will fail and the CTP will be seriously degraded.

2. Mission. This Order provides the policy for URN assignment and management by units using VMF messages in tactical Command, Control, Communications, and Computer (C4) and Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance (ISR) systems. This Order also defines the structure within the Marine Corps for the management of URNs in support of Marine Corps Operating Forces.

DISTRIBUTION STATEMENT A: Approved for public release;
distribution is unlimited.

a. Per reference (a), the URN is a reference number used by units in a VMF interface to uniquely identify friendly military units, broadcast networks, and multicast groups. Reference (a) allocates a block of URNs to the Combatant Commanders (COCOMs), each Service, and the U.S. Coast Guard, but does not direct how URNs will be assigned. Reference (a) also provides a format for a look-up table containing data related to each URN that is assigned. The format was included to ensure all systems using VMF would have a standard method of relating URNs to specific units. The fields required for the table are: URN, Long Name, Short Name, Nationality, Service/Agency, and MIL-STD 2525 Symbol Code.

b. Reference (b) establishes policy for COCOMs, Services, and Agencies (C/S/A) on the management of URNs, and specifically defines a management structure for the assignment of URNs.

c. Reference (c) assigned interim URN management responsibility and maintenance of the MUR to Marine Corps Systems Command (MARCORSYSCOM) Product Group 12 (PG-12).

3. Execution

a. Commander's Intent and Concept of Operations

(1) Commander's Intent. This Order complements the provisions of the VMF message standard and is not intended to interfere with development and/or maintenance of that standard. This Marine Corps policy addresses only the assignment and management of URNs.

(2) Concept of Operations

(a) URN Assignments

1. MARCORSYSCOM is designated as the Marine Corps agency responsible for:

a. Assigning, maintaining, distributing, and managing permanent Marine Corps URNs and required fields as defined in reference (a).

b. Allocating spare URNs.

c. Input, modification, and maintenance of Marine Corps URN assignments to the MUR.

d. Coordination with the Joint Staff (J-3) for the modification and maintenance of accurate Marine Corps URN assignments to the Joint URN Repository (JUR).

2. URNs shall be uniquely defined and assigned. A single URN shall exclusively identify an entity. The Marine Corps assigns permanent URNs to the following entities.

a. Units and billets from the effective Marine Corps Combat Development Command (MCCDC) Total Force Structure Division (TFSD) Tables of Organization (T/O) as identified in the Total Force Structure Management System (TFSMS).

b. Operational units identified as requiring URNs for tactical interoperability (e.g., Infantry Battalion Fire Support Coordination Center (FSCC), Headquarters elements (Forward and Rear)).

c. Selected aviation platforms from the Table of Equipment (T/E) with integrated devices operating over VMF not otherwise uniquely identified.

3. The Marine Corps allocates blocks of URNs to:

a. T/O units for use as temporary spares.

b. Marine Corps Tactical Systems Support Activity (MCTSSA) for use within the Systems Integration Facility (SIF).

4. Use of "generic" or "default" URNs is prohibited. System administrators and others with responsibility for initialization of C4 and/or ISR systems shall ensure devices are initialized with appropriately assigned URNs. Organizations shall not assign URNs outside their spares block.

(b) URN Management

1. MARCORSYSCOM shall maintain a central repository for permanent Marine Corps URNs. Through coordination with MCCDC (TFSD), the MUR will be updated as permanent T/O changes are published. MARCORSYSCOM shall synchronize the Marine Corps URN repository with the JUR once the JUR is formally established. Synchronizations will be

accomplished when significant changes to T/Os are made, but not less than once per quarter.

2. MARCORSYSCOM shall publish the policies and procedures for updating URN assignments, using, and accessing the MUR.

3. Each Marine Corps unit shall manage assignment of spare URNs subject to guidance from Marine Expeditionary Force (MEF) commanders.

4. MARCORSYSCOM shall establish a mirror repository to the central MUR for permanent Marine Corps URNs at the MCTSSA Operating Forces Tactical Systems Support Center (OFTSSC), which provides direct support to deployed Marine Corps units.

5. MARCORSYSCOM shall appoint a representative to the URN Joint Configuration Control Board (JCCB) per reference (b).

6. MARCORSYSCOM is designated as the USMC URN Manager and is responsible for the input, modification and maintenance of URN assignments to the JUR.

(c) URN Dissemination. The Marine Corps URN Manager shall coordinate with Marine Corps units and other C/S/As to develop dissemination procedures.

b. Subordinate Element Missions

(1) The Deputy Commandants for Aviation; Installations and Logistics; Plans, Policies, and Operations; Programs and Resources; Director, Command, Control, Communication, and Computers/Marine Corps Chief Information Officer (CIO); Commanding General, Marine Corps Combat Development Command, and Commanding General, MARCORSYSCOM shall ensure all agencies/entities under their sponsorship or direction comply with the provisions of this Order.

(2) The Deputy Commandant for Plans, Policies, and Operations, as Ground Combat Element advocate, shall identify personnel and funding to support Marine Corps and Joint URN policy development, management, and implementation.

(3) The Commanding General, Marine Corps Combat Development Command shall ensure that TFSD assists MARCORSYSCOM

by providing the TFSMS database updates when changes to T/Os are published. A Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) shall be established between TFSD and MARCORSYSCOM to identify additional specific support required for assignment and management of URNs.

(4) Commander, MARCORSYSCOM:

(a) Assign a URN Manager to assign and manage Marine Corps URNs and maintain the MUR.

(b) Serve as the single point of contact for issues related to Marine Corps URN assignments.

(c) Ensure all Marine Corps Tactical and Intelligence systems can store and use the data associated with Marine Corps URN assignments, consisting of the mandatory fields required by the VMF standard.

(d) Develop a standardized naming convention for Marine Corps units.

(e) Ensure URN assignment and distribution methodology is in compliance with reference (b).

(f) Ensure the Commanding Officer, MCTSSA, identifies the notional VII MEF URN assignments in support of testing.

(5) The Commanding Generals of Marine Force components (MARFORs, including Marine Forces Reserve) and Marine Expeditionary Forces (MEFs) shall:

(a) Publish standing operating procedures for the management of their permanent and spare URN assignments in accordance with the policies set forth in this Order.

(b) Coordinate with MARCORSYSCOM when modifications to their permanent assignments are required.

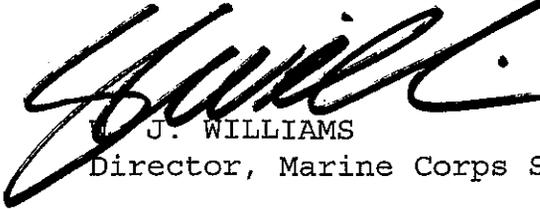
(c) Assign a command URN Manager.

4. Administration and Logistics. Recommendations concerning the contents of this Order may be forwarded to the URN Manager through the appropriate chain-of-command.

5. Command and Signal

a. Command. This Order is applicable to the Marine Corps Total Force.

b. Signal. This Order is effective the date signed.



J. WILLIAMS
Director, Marine Corps Staff

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