



CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF INSTRUCTION

J-3

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CJCSI 3156.01A

30 April 2012

MANAGEMENT OF JOINT UNIT REFERENCE NUMBERS

- References: (a) DoD Directive 4630.05, 5 May 2004, "Interoperability and Supportability of Information Technology (IT) and National Security Systems (NSS)"
(b) MIL-STD 6017 Series (DoD Interface Standard), 30 October 2009, "Variable Message Format (VMF)"

1. Purpose. This instruction, issued under the authority of reference a, establishes policy for Combatant Commands, Services, and Agencies (C/S/A) on the management of Unit Reference Numbers (URNs). It specifically defines a management structure for the assignment of URNs that is responsive to the needs of C/S/A. URNs are associated with the variable message format (VMF) as defined by the Military Standard (MIL-STD) 6017 series. The authoritative joint definition of a URN is a reference number used in a VMF interface by units to uniquely identify friendly military units, broadcast networks, and multicast groups. URNs assist in the correlation of positional information in selected friendly force tracking (FFT) systems, serve as entity identifiers to facilitate situational awareness (SA) and/or command and control (C2) message exchange, and constitute a key element of the system initialization data required by select FFT and SA/C2 systems. Through the employment of URNs, friendly force SA is enhanced. These unique numbers facilitate tactical and operational battlespace situational understanding and allow for the reporting and correlation of friendly force position location information and friendly force status to reduce fratricide while increasing warfighting capability.

2. Cancellation. CJCSI 3156.01, "Management of Joint Unit Reference Numbers," 10 August 2007.

3. Applicability. This instruction applies to all Department of Defense (DoD) organizations responsible for assignment and input of URNs. To ensure interoperability, other Federal Agencies or allied and coalition nations that implement VMF, or interface with DoD systems or applications, and may

require URN utilization, should adhere to the applicable policy for URN management in this instruction.

4. Policy. This instruction complements the provisions of the VMF message standard. Nothing in this instruction is intended to usurp the activities and responsibilities of the Joint Multi-Tactical Data Link (TDL) Configuration Control Board (JMTCCB) in its development and maintenance of the VMF message standard. Joint policy for URN management will be categorized into two areas: URN assignment and Joint Unit Reference Number Repository (JUR) management.

a. URN Assignment

(1) C/S/A shall comply with the MIL-STD-6017 series definition and allocation in the assignment of URNs. Assignments shall be audited for accuracy.

(2) URNs shall be uniquely defined and assigned. A single unique URN shall exclusively identify an entity. At a minimum, URNs shall be assigned to all units or entities that implement VMF.

(3) C/S/A shall ensure URNs are assigned to their Active, Reserve, and Federalized National Guard Components subject to this instruction. C/S/A permanent URN assignments shall be reported to the JUR.

(4) Combatant Commands shall issue URNs to all theater resident allied and/or coalition forces requiring them to support VMF interoperability. Combatant Commands will execute allied and coalition URN assignments consistent with current releasability and communications security guidelines established with that multinational partner.

(5) C/S/A shall make URN assignments only within their block of URNs and shall not make an assignment to an entity previously assigned a URN by another C/S/A. The Combatant Commands shall not assign URNs to subordinate units or organizations that are fully apportioned by a Service or Agency. Allied and coalition partners under operational control of Combatant Commands will utilize URN block assignments from their host Combatant Command, and not draw new URNs.

(6) C/S/A shall determine requirements and set aside an appropriate quantity of URNs from within their allocation for temporary URN assignments (ad hoc URN assignment for task organized forces, special command relationships, or other unforeseen requirements that occur on a temporary basis). These may be assigned to organizations or entities that are temporary in nature, such as task forces and their supporting networks, and employed in developmental and training activities including tests, evaluations, exercises,

and experiments. Temporarily assigned URNs may be reported to the JUR to facilitate interoperability or achieve joint objectives.

(7) Each C/S/A shall designate an organization to be responsible for the input, modification, and maintenance of URN assignments to the JUR.

b. JUR Management

(1) The Joint Staff/J-3, as the DoD URN Manager, shall identify a JUR custodian. The JUR will serve as a Web-based, net-centric, automated database application to facilitate URN management. The JUR custodian shall accept, support, maintain, staff, and operate the JUR on the NIPRNET on a 24/7 schedule for support of DoD operations.

(2) The Joint Staff/J-3 shall establish and lead a URN Joint Configuration Control Board (JCCB) to address URN management, to include issues associated with the structure, management, and content of the JUR. The voting membership of the URN JCCB shall include representatives from all C/S/A who are allocated URN blocks by the MIL-STD-6017 and are responsible for the input, modification, and maintenance of URN assignments.

(3) The URN JCCB shall meet on an as required basis, but at least annually, to review C/S/A URN assignments (to include auditing currently assigned URNs). The URN JCCB shall also review URN definition and URN block allocation to determine if adjustments need to be made to MIL-STD-6017 series. Proposed changes shall be forwarded to the JMTCCB and the Joint Multi-TDL Standards Working Group (JMSWG) for action.

5. Definitions. See Glossary.

6. Responsibilities

a. The DoD URN Manager shall:

(1) Provide direction and guidance in the administration of this instruction.

(2) Establish and chair a URN JCCB to address URN management, to include issues associated with the structure, management, and content of the JUR, and the coordination of URNs with other DoD unique identifiers, as required.

(3) Provide or appoint representation to the URN JCCB.

(4) Coordinate with the JMSWG, through the VMF Sub-Group, on issues that impact VMF related standards.

(5) Report the status of the URN JCCB and JUR to the Military Communications Electronics Board – Interoperability Panel (MCEB-IP) on a semi-annual basis for monitoring execution of this policy.

b. C/S/A shall:

(1) In accordance with this instruction and reference (a), provide and maintain accurate URN assignment information pertaining to their organizations in the JUR. Combatant Commands have the additional responsibility to manage and report theater resident allied and coalition URNs in addition to their own URN assignments.

(2) Publish URN assignment policy and procedures internal to their organizations and provide courtesy distribution to the DoD URN Manager.

(3) Input, modify, and maintain URN assignments to the JUR.

(4) Appoint a URN manager and provide representation to the URN JCCB.

c. The Military Communications Electronics Board – Interoperability Panel shall provide direction on any URN-related issues that cannot be resolved by the URN JCCB.

d. The JUR Custodian shall:

(1) Ensure that a JUR is installed and operated in accordance with this instruction and directions of the URN JCCB.

(2) Publish the procedures for the access and utilization of the JUR, as approved by the URN JCCB. At a minimum, they shall include procedures for retrieving and posting URN assignments, obtaining and changing passwords, and obtaining assistance.

(3) Report the status of the JUR to the URN JCCB on a semi-annual basis.

e. The Joint Interoperability Test Command shall test all VMF-based joint interfaces to confirm the ability of the system under test to draw URN assignments from the JUR or a Service-level URN repository that conforms to the URN data format specified in the current version of MIL-STD-6017.

7. Summary of Changes. This revision of CJCSI 3156.01:

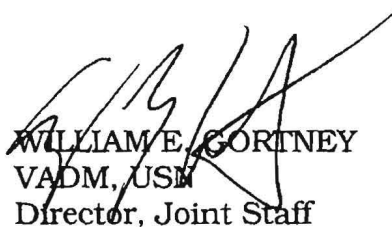
a. Aligns it with changes in organization and practice since the document was originally published.

b. Incorporates lessons learned from real-world experience, particularly with respect to interoperability across the Services and with allies and coalition partners.

8. Releasability. This instruction is approved for public release and distribution is unlimited. DoD Components (to include the Combatant Commands), other Federal Agencies, and the public) may obtain copies of this instruction through the Internet from the CJCS Directives Home Page--
<http://www.dtic.mil/doctrine>.

9. Effective Date. This instruction is effective upon receipt.

For the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff:



WILLIAM E. COURTNEY
VADM, USN
Director, Joint Staff

Enclosure:
GL - Glossary

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GLOSSARY

PART I – ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

C2	Command and Control
C/S/A	Combatant Commands/Services/Agencies
DoD	Department of Defense
FFT	Friendly Force Tracking
IP	Interoperability panel
JCCB	Joint Configuration Control Board
JINTACCS	Joint Interoperability of Tactical Command and Control Systems
JMSWG	Joint Multi-Tactical Data Link Standards Working Group
JMTCCB	Joint Multi-Tactical Data Link Configuration Control Board
JUR	Joint Unit Reference Number Repository
MCEB-IP	Military Communications Electronics Board – Interoperability Panel
MIL-STD	Military Standard
SA	Situational Awareness
URN	Unit Reference Number
VMF	Variable Message Format

GLOSSARY

PART II – DEFINITIONS

Unless otherwise stated, the terms and definitions contained in this glossary are for the purposes of this instruction only.

allocate. To assign a block of unit reference numbers (URNs) to an assignment authority.

assigned. A URN is assigned when the information from the five additional mandatory fields per the variable message format standard is associated with that URN.

broadcast. Broadcast is an efficient method of distributing information to many members across a network without having to annotate/provide an address for each host.

Combatant Command. A unified or specified command with a broad continuing mission under a single commander established and so designated by the President, through the Secretary of Defense and with the advice and assistance of the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. (JP 1-02. SOURCE: JP 1)

interoperability. 1. The ability to operate in synergy in the execution of assigned tasks. (JP 3-0) 2. The condition achieved among communications-electronics systems or items of communications-electronics equipment when information or services can be exchanged directly and satisfactorily between them and/or their users. (JP 1-02. SOURCE: JP 6-0)

joint. Connotes activities, operations, organization, etc., in which elements of two or more Military Departments participate. (JP 1-02. SOURCE: JP 1)

Joint Configuration Control Board (JCCB). A decision-making body empowered to review and approve functional/administrative requirements from the users; assess impact on capability, sustainment, and continued development; prioritize requirements, and approve/disapprove baseline change requests (BCRs) with regard to a specific assigned and managed task.

Joint Multi-Tactical Data Link Standards Working Group (JMSWG). A joint body chaired by DISA/Standards Management Branch (EE32) tasked with resolving joint and combined interoperability issues affecting the Joint Interoperability of Tactical Command and Control Systems (JINTACCS) Tactical Data Link (TDL) program.

Joint Multi-Tactical Data Link Configuration Control Board (JMTCCB). A joint board chaired, funded, and coordinated by the Defense Information Systems

Agency (EE32) to conduct configuration management of the JINTACCS TDL Standards.

Military Communications Electronics Board (MCEB). Formally established in 1958 to respond to military C-E matters referred by the Secretary of Defense, the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and other designated authorities. Its mission is to coordinate between DoD Components, other Government Agencies, and foreign nations; to provide guidance and direction to DoD components; and to furnish advice and assistance as requested.

multicast group. Multicast is an efficient method of distributing information to many hosts across the Internet without having to create a client and/or server connection for each host.

interoperability panel (IP). Chartered to review, develop, recommend, and coordinate studies, reports, and DoD policy for consideration by the Military Communications Electronics Board in the area of data systems interoperability (includes C4I systems operational architectures, operational and procedural standardization issues, and the standardization of data required for C4I information exchange).

Service. A branch of the Armed Forces of the United States, established by act of Congress, which are: the Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, and Coast Guard. (JP 1-02. SOURCE: JP 1)

tactical data link. A Joint Staff-approved, standardized communication link suitable for transmission of digital information. Also called TDL. (JP 1-02. SOURCE: JP 6-0)

unit. 1. Any military element whose structure is prescribed by competent authority, such as a table of organization and equipment; specifically, part of an organization. 2. An organization title of a subdivision of a group in a task force. 3. A standard or basic quantity into which an item of supply is divided, issued, or used. In this meaning, also called unit of issue. 4. With regard to Reserve Components of the Armed Forces, denotes a Selected Reserve unit organized, equipped, and trained for mobilization to serve on active duty as a unit or to augment or be augmented by another unit. (JP 1-02)

Unit Reference Number (URN). A reference number used by units in a variable message format interface to uniquely identify friendly military units, broadcast networks, and multicast groups.

Variable Message Format (VMF). VMF is a bit-oriented message interface standard with some limited character-oriented fields that are designed to support the exchange of digital data between combat units with diverse needs for volume and detail of information using various communications media.

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