

W5YI

America's Oldest Ham Radio Newsletter

REPORT

Up to the minute news from the world of amateur radio, personal computing and emerging electronics. While no guarantee is made, information is from sources we believe to be reliable.

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ORACLE Begins WRC-99 Campaign to End Code Requirement

ORACLE, the New Zealand based "Organization Requesting Alternatives by Code-Less Examinations, Inc." has sent a formal letter to the telecommunications regulatory agencies of 64 different countries. In it they ask support in ending the Amateur Radio manual telegraphy requirement.

ORACLE was the group that persuaded their government in 1994 to support an end to the international Morse code requirement. ORACLE representatives used to be affiliated with New Zealand's national radio society, New Zealand Amateur Radio Transmitters, Inc. They left NZART to lobby New Zealand's telecommunications regulatory body, the Ministry of Communications. At WRC-95, held Oct./Nov. 1995 in Geneva, the New Zealand government proposed (on October 31, 1995) to Working Group 4C to abolish RR2735 (which was renumbered to Article S25-5).

Actually, no Amateur Radio issue was on the agenda for WRC-95. The proposal was introduced into the ITU conference through an on-going review "...to study 'Allocation and improved use of the Radio frequency Spectrum and Simplification of the Radio Regulations.'"

RR2735 (S25-5) is the international regulation that requires Amateur radio operators to prove that they are "...able to send correctly by hand and to receive correctly by ear, texts in Morse code signals" when the operation takes place below 30 MHz. The New Zealand MOC said that the following Radio Regulation 2736 (renumbered to Article S25-6) was

all that is necessary for the ITU countries to require Morse code proficiency if they believed it important.

RR2736 simply reads "Administrations shall take such measures as they judge necessary to verify the operational and technical qualifications of any person wishing to operate the apparatus of an amateur station."

Some administrations (including the United Kingdom) supported the proposal -- others (including Germany, Israel, Switzerland and Canada) wanted to study the matter further. It was agreed to recommend Item 2-2 for inclusion in the WRC-99 agenda. Agenda Item 2-2 simply reads "Consideration of Article S25 concerning the Amateur Service and the Amateur-satellite Service."

The ORACLE letter, dated August 13, 1997, "...seeks the support of your administration on preparation for updating international radio regulations for the amateur service. Our New Zealand based organization formed in 1994 continues to develop international connections with amateur radio operators who seek regulatory changes."

The letter points out that "The WRC-95 Conference agreed on a provisional agenda for WRC-99, which includes 'consideration of Article S25 concerning the amateur and amateur-satellite services' (Resolution PLEN-5). Article S25 in the simplified regulations was formerly called Article 32. This review of Article S25 was triggered by the New Zealand Administration introducing a proposal at WRC-95 to remove S25.5 (formerly RR2735)."

ORACLE included a copy of the WRC-95 input paper entitled Corrigendum 1 to Document 29-E 27 October 1995 along with their letter. "Our organization supports the New Zealand position described in this WRC-95 paper, and we are advised that the New Zealand administration is continuing to seek removal of S25.5."

"In order to prepare a suitable path to the future for amateur radio, we recommend that your administration should, at the WRC-97 Conference, confirm that review of Article S32 be an agenda item for WRC-99."

"Nearer to the time of the Conference that reviews Article S25, which will hopefully be WRC-99, our organization intends to provide administrations with a prepared package of detailed recommendations for changes. It is also our intention to become an ITU recognized organization and to attend selected Conferences with observer status, especially WRC-99, which is likely to be where administrations make various decisions on amateur radio regulations."

"In summary, we make two points:

- 1.) Please support the agenda item for timely review of Article S25 at WRC-99
- 2.) Note that many operators in the amateur service seek timely changes to international regulations, especially regarding S25.5.

"Attached is a summary of issues on Morse testing in the amateur service."

Restrictive practice

The letter is signed by Dave Walker, ZL2BHE - ORACLE's Overseas Publicity Officer. Included with the letter was an August 1997 "Summary of Issues Concerning Morse Code Testing in the Amateur Service."

ORACLE suggested that "...proficiency in sending and receiving texts in Morse code has not been a genuine international licensing requirement for many years, but instead is a form of **restrictive practice** aimed at limiting participation on frequencies below 30 MHz. We understand that the international regulations are intended to act as guiding principles, thereby retaining flexibility in order to keep pace with telecommunication developments."

ORACLE said that "International regulation S25.6 is broad enough to encompass all forms of technical and operational qualification requirements. In 1997, we therefore question whether or not Morse code proficiency is a genuine international licensing requirement for an amateur operator to access any amateur band. We suggest the way ahead is to allow for individual administrations to introduce suitable alternative ways of qualifying, such as a higher level technical examination."

Discrimination

ORACLE believes that "...requiring candidates to demonstrate proficiency in a subject that is not a genuine

requirement is a form of **discrimination**. The subject of individual human rights is dealt with in some detail by the United Nations with an internationally agreed document entitled International Covenant of Civil and Political Rights.

"This is available from the Internet at <http://www.hrweb.org/legal/cpr.html>. The folly of current Morse testing regulations is easily illustrated by the policy used by some Administrations to grant waivers to persons with disabilities, which is in effect 'reverse discrimination'. We suggest this practice of granting waivers to persons who could not undertake a test is proof enough that Morse code proficiency is not a genuine international qualification requirement."

Sovereignty with respect to national regulations

"Removal of S25.5 has the outcome that individual Administrations will then have a choice of what each can specify in national regulations regarding amateur radio qualifications. National regulations are a suitable place for specifying such detail. We respect the sovereignty of administrations.

"Removal (suppression) of S25.5 begins the process of Administrations introducing (in national regulations) alternative ways of qualifying, thereby giving candidates a choice that best suits each of their particular circumstances. As it is clear that Morse code currently has a significant interest group following, Morse code tests could therefore continue as one of the alternatives to choose from.

Scrutiny and contestability of policies

"There are some strongly held views for and against Morse code testing in the amateur service. We suggest that all amateur radio regulations should be publicly contestable (be debated far wider afield than by the incumbents alone), and that any parts considered to involve discrimination, restrictive practices or technology promotion be consistent with overall economic, social and scientific policies of your Administration.

"The amateur radio qualification requirements need to be fit for the purpose of administering the amateur service as part of a range of modern radio services. The self-training aspect of amateur radio is a low cost way of young persons being able to experiment with radio technologies and likely some will be attracted to seek careers in the radio and communications industries. Having successful radio and communications industries adds to national value, and the low cost introductory aspect that amateur radio can provide should not be under-estimated.

"We believe the drop in the number of amateur radio licensees and candidates for amateur radio examinations in recent years in some countries are not good signs for the future of amateur radio. It is questionable to continue with restrictive international regulations in such

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a situation. This is where individual sovereignty should decide on appropriate solutions to problems with licensing under national jurisdictions, with guidance for compliance coming from the principles set by international regulation.

Overhaul of international regulations is overdue

"International regulations pertaining to the Amateur Service are in need of overhaul if the amateur service is to survive well into the future. We applaud the administration of New Zealand for introducing the amateur radio Morse code issue to WRC-95, as this is one of the major topics of concern as it needlessly limits the public image of amateur radio.

"We are now aware of consequent developments and growing support by administrations to remove \$25.5 from the international radio regulations. There are also several other international improvements that can be made that will help the future of amateur radio.

"In fast moving times, amateur radio needs similar attention as occurs for other radio services in being able to keep up to date. Our organization was formed to provide independent commentary in order to show that amateur radio can do better than continuing to keep falling behind the times.

"We are uncomfortable with an image of amateur radio being the dinosaur of radio services. We are hopeful that amateur radio can have a long future, but for this to be possible we believe that there needs to be timely updating of the international radio regulations at WRC-99."

RECIPROCAL LICENSING ESTABLISHED WITH U.K.

The following announcement was copied from last week's GB2RS news broadcast prepared by the *Radio Society of Great Britain* for UK radioamateurs.

The RSGB is the Amateur Radio national society in the United Kingdom (Great Britain.) GB2RS is similar to the American Radio Relay League's W1AW news bulletin station. Here is what GB2RS had to say:

"On the 12th of August, the Radiocommunications Agency (the RA is the UK radio regulatory agency, similar to our FCC) announced that it had made a number of new reciprocal licensing agreements. UK Full Class B amateurs visiting the USA can now apply for an American Technician Class reciprocal license. This is the first time that UK Class B amateurs will have been able to operate in the USA."

So far, the FCC has not said anything about the new UK reciprocal arrangements. Actually reciprocal licensing arrangements have been in existence for some time with the United Kingdom, but apparently the newer No-Code Technician was not part of these arrangements.

There are two classes of Amateur Radio licenses in the United Kingdom, the 'Full' and the 'Novice' license. Each has an 'A' (code) and a 'B' (no-code) variant.

Holders of the 'A' variant are permitted to transmit on all the amateur frequency bands allocated to the class.

The 'B' license holder is restricted to transmitting on frequency bands above 30 MHz. British radioamateurs are initially issued a 'B' license which is converted to an 'A' license once the applicant passes a Morse code exam (either 5 or 12 wpm) administered by the RSGB.

Holders of UK Novice license are restricted to transmitting on a small number of the frequency bands. 'Full' license holders are issued a station call sign beginning with 'G' or 'M'. Novice call signs always begin with the numeral '2'.

Interestingly, FCC rules (Section 97.107(b)(2)) preclude foreign amateurs operating on a reciprocal permit from having frequency privileges in the U.S. when they are not offered in their own country. The 2-meter band in Great Britain only extends from 144 to 146 MHz. Their repeaters operate only in the 145 MHz band.

On the surface, this appears to mean that UK amateur operating on a reciprocal permit won't be able to legally operate on our repeaters. The majority of U.S. 2-meter repeaters are located on 146-148 MHz spectrum not available in Great Britain to their Amateur Service.

GB2RS also said the United Kingdom had established reciprocal licensing arrangements with Japan for Class A amateurs. "Both Class 1 and Class 2 licensees from Japan who are visiting the UK will be offered a UK Class A license, and UK amateurs visiting Japan will be offered either a Class 1 or a Class 2 Japanese license."

LEAGUE WANTS HAM COMMENTS ON RM-9150

ARRL Petition Seeks New Enforcement Procedure

The ARRL wants amateurs to support and comment on their March 1997 petition for rulemaking. In RM-9150, the League asks the FCC to establish a new type of privatized Amateur Service enforcement.

The new private complaint procedure would permit the ARRL to take serious rule violations directly to the FCC's Administrative Law Judges. The present policy requires a lengthy and expensive administrative process conducted by Wireless Telecommunications Bureau officials. The objective of the new procedure would be to maximize the benefit of work by volunteers.

ARRL says the new system "...would also expedite the enforcement process, while at the same time minimizing the administrative burden on the Commission's staff in preparing and presenting enforcement cases to the Administrative Law Judges for adjudication."

The League also believes "...it would encourage compliance overall, by creating a sense of deterrence to violative behavior generally."

"There is a great deal of value and utility in the work of the many volunteers in the Amateur Auxiliary in documenting instances of serious rule violations, most notably malicious interference, and the identification of the sources of such."

"This resource is not being used to its greatest advantage under present Commission enforcement procedures. A private complaint procedure as a means of initiating adjudication of malicious interference would, with appropriate safeguards, provide a means of maximizing the benefit of the work of these volunteers and expediting the enforcement process."

"Such a procedure would reduce the burden on the Commission's Wireless Telecommunications Bureau and its Compliance and Information Bureau in preparing cases for adjudication. The increased use of volunteer resources would seem to be entirely appropriate in the Amateur Service, which involves avocational, public service and public safety uses of radio only."

Here is how the ARRL would amend the new FCC rules covering privatized enforcement to read:

Section 0.351 of the Commission's rules governing the authority of the Chief Administrative Law Judge would be amended to add a new subsection (j) to read as follows:

(j) The Chief Administrative Law Judge shall also have authority to receive, and to review complaints from specified licensed amateur radio operators alleging repeated, willful or malicious interference to radio communications of a station licensed under Part 97 of these regulations; to determine whether the complaint and the accompanying materials establish a prima facie case; to issue show cause orders to the subjects of such complaints in appropriate cases; and designate for hearing those complaints which are timely contested by the accused in response to any such show cause order.

2. Subpart A of Part 1 of the Commission's rules would be amended by addition of a new Section 1.96, to read as follows:

§1.96 Formal Complaints of Malicious Interference in the Amateur Service.

(a) Specified amateur radio licensees, pursuant to an agreement with the Commission's Compliance and Information Bureau, as participants in the Amateur Auxiliary program, may submit a formal Complaint directly to the Chief Administrative Law Judge, alleging that a person or persons repeatedly, willfully or maliciously interfered with or caused interference to radio communications of a station licensed under Part 97 of these regulations.

(b) The Complaint must include:

(A) a full recitation or statement of facts believed to be relevant, along with supporting affidavits and documentation, including transcripts of offending transmissions if relevant, original sealed tapes and the like, together with a recitation of the procedures used in preparing the tape(s), sufficient on their

face to establish repeated instances of willful or malicious interference and the identity of the perpetrator, and the means by which the accused was identified;

- (B) a copy of, or a description by category and location of all documents, evidence, and tangible things in the complainant's possession, custody or control that are relevant to the facts that are alleged, and which are or may be disputed and which are alleged specifically in the Complaint;
- (C) the name, address, and telephone number of each individual likely to have discoverable information relevant to the disputed facts in the complaint, including the subjects of such information;
- (D) the specific relief or action desired by the Complainant;
- (E) a statement that good-faith efforts to resolve or mediate the matter have been exhausted, and of what those efforts consisted; and
- (F) a statement as to whether there is any other proceeding at the Commission or before any other adjudicatory authority involving the same parties, and/or the same facts asserted.
- (c) The Complaint, and all supporting materials, must be submitted to the Chief Administrative Law Judge, who will make a threshold determination whether the Complaint, and the incorporated evidentiary material, establishes, prima facie, both the violation and the identity of the perpetrator. If not, the material will be returned to the submitter without further action. If the Complaint and supporting material is determined by the Chief Administrative Law Judge to establish a prima facie case, the Complaint will be assigned to an Administrative Law Judge who will issue a Show Cause order addressed to the accused, and a hearing proceeding commenced in accordance with the hearing procedures set forth in this Part.
- (d) In cases in which the accused is an amateur licensee, the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau will be made a party to each proceeding. In cases in which the accused is not a licensee, the Compliance and Information Bureau will be made a party to each such proceeding.

Comments to the FCC should reference RM 9150. Send an original and four copies of comments by August 31, 1997, to Secretary, Federal Communications Commission, 1919 M St NW, Washington DC 20554. Reply comments are due by September 30, 1997.

■ **Canadian hams linked to success of Mars Rover**
JPL (Jet Propulsion laboratory) in California recently issued a news release thanking - among others - Bob

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Rouleau, VE2PY, President of Data Radio of Montreal, and members of his design team for their contributions to the Mars Rover communications system. *Thanks RAC*

■ **USAF 50th Anniversary** - The Peninsula Amateur Radio Club (PARC) will operate Special Events Station, W4MT, from Langley Air Force Base, Virginia (home of the Air Combat Command) on 6 September 1997 (1300 to 2100 UTC) in honor of the United States Air Force's (USAF) 50th Anniversary.

PARC will operate on portions of the "General Class" 10 meter (28000 to 28600 kHz), 15 meter (21050 to 21149 and 21300 to 21400 kHz) and 20 meter (14115 to 14150 and 14235 to 14340 kHz) bands in both SSB & CW modes. QSL requests go to: Rene' B. Valladares, KE4WVG, 178 Goodwin Neck Rd., Yorktown, VA 23692

■ **The 1997 Annual Meeting and Symposium of AMSAT-NA** will take place in Toronto, Ontario on October 17, 18, and 19 1997. This is the first time that AMSAT-NA has held their annual meeting outside of the United States. Twenty-five papers have already been prepared and speakers from around the world will be presenting their knowledge in satellite technology and operating skills.

■ **Canadian amateurs will be honoring the 500th anniversary** of the voyage of English explorer John Cabot to the new world. He arrived in Eastern Canada in 1497. The Marconi Amateur Wireless Society of Sydney, Nova Scotia has received authorization from 'Industry Canada' to sign the special prefix CJ1 until October 31, 1997. In addition, the Society of Newfoundland Radio Amateurs, will be operating under the call sign VO500JC from the club station VO1AA, in Cabot Tower in St. John's, until Dec 31, 1997.

■ **The International Telecommunications Union has transferred the VRA-VRZ prefix** to the Peoples Republic of China. That block, previously allocated to UK, will now be used by the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region. Hong Kong amateurs are being allowed to change the numeral in their call sign to "97" in 1997 and "98" in 1998.

■ **Codeless Tech's can operate HF, but they will have to go to Japan to do it.** - U.S. No-code Technician class amateurs operating in Japan on a reciprocal license may operate 10-watt HF phone on all bands (except 30, 20 and 17 meters). These are the same privileges available to the code-free Japanese 4th Class. Trivia: Half of all amateur radio stations in the world are located in Japan. There are more than 2 million licensed Japanese radioamateurs operating 1.4 million ham stations. And most are the no-code 4th class.

■ **70-cm Amateur band threat in South Africa!** - Amateurs in South Africa are disturbed after learning that a commercial company manufacturing motor car security systems, has applied for a license to operate a vehicle

tracking system in the 430 - 440 MHz, 70-cm Amateur band.

The application specifically requests 433.05 to 434.79 MHz and 436 to 438 MHz for spread spectrum within the 435 - 438 MHz Amateur Satellite band.

The SARL (South African Relay League) sees this as another onslaught on the Amateur Bands by commercial interests. In calling for increased 70 cm operating activity, SARL said "This is a case of use it or lose it!"

The SARL has already written to SATRA, the South African Telecommunications Regulatory Authority, expressing alarm at this latest move and demanding an immediate consultation. (*ZS6SRL shortwave bulletin.*)

■ **Handy internet site if you are looking for a new or changed station call sign.** The Lantz Call Book Server (CBS) lists all FCC licensing changes handled during the previous 24 hours and posts the information by 6:00 a.m. EST. Check: http://www.lantz.com/htbin/cbs_today Only new licenses, upgrades, and call sign changes are listed.

■ **Mike Foale, KB5UAC, continues to be active on amateur radio from the Mir space station.** Frequencies have been 145.985 MHz and the 145.200/800 MHz split. A new crew (Anatoli Solovov and 'Pasha' Vinogradov) have arrived and they are also expected to be active on ham radio.

Their first priority, however, will be to repair the damage to the Spektr module caused when the Progress supply vehicle collided with Mir on June 25. Foale says he tries to monitor ham radio every day but often cannot reply since he has so much to do.

Mike Foale was to have been replaced by Astronaut Wendy Lawrence (Cmdr, USN) but her backup, Dr. David Wolf, will now take her **place for the next** long duration stay on the Russian Mir space station.

The change will enable Wolf to act as a backup crew member for spacewalks planned over the next several months to repair the damaged Spektr module on the Russian outpost. The stated reason for the change is that Lawrence does not fit the Russian space suit used for spacewalks and she has not undergone EVA training.

To enable Wolf to complete spacewalk training at the Gagarin Cosmonaut Training Center outside Moscow, the launch of Atlantis on the next Shuttle-Mir docking mission, STS-86 in September, could be delayed approximately 10 days.

Because of her knowledge and experience with Mir systems and with crew transfer logistics for Mir, NASA will fly Lawrence on STS-86 which will deliver Wolf to the Russian station.

■ **SAREX Team Receives NASA Award** - On Tuesday August 12, the Shuttle Amateur Radio EXperiment (SAREX) team received a NASA Johnson Space Center Group Achievement Award. This award was given to the SAREX volunteers to recognize the superb efforts put

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forth on the STS-94 mission. The award was given during the STS-94 mission debriefing session.

SAREX Principal Investigator Matt Bordelon, KC5BTL, accepted the award for the SAREX team. The citation on the award reads, "For your outstanding support during STS-94 that allowed us to contact 17 schools around the world and make multiple contacts with Mike Foale aboard the Space Station Mir."

AMSAT Vice President for Manned Space Programs Frank Bauer, KA3HDO, said this to his team of AMSAT volunteers when he informed them of their prestigious achievement: "The STS-94 crew was duly impressed with the preparedness of the SAREX schools, the tremendous bridge contacts, the great contacts with Mike Foale and the smoothness of the STS-94 SAREX flight operations. I want to thank you all for your tremendous support on this and all the activities that you do for SAREX, Mir and ARISS. You consistently make me proud".

AMSAT extends its congratulations to the entire SAREX team for their efforts which led to the reception of this NASA award. (AMSAT News Service Bulletin)

MARS CW 'OFF' - THEN 'ON' - IS NOW 'OFF' AGAIN

On June 28, 1996, Emmett Paige in his capacity as Assistant Secretary of Defense at the Pentagon for Command, Control, and Communications (verbatim quote from his Order) "...directed that the CW mode of communications will no longer be used on any department of defense (DOD) MARS (MilitaryAffiliate Radio System) circuits, networks, or frequencies."

He went on to say that "MARS has been steadfastly evolving to newer technologies to improve service. Technology such as single sideband replaced amplitude modulation to provide greater frequency efficiency. It is recognized that CW can no longer compete with the rapid advancements in radio technology."

Emmett Paige, Jr., the highest ranking ham operator in the Clinton administration, is also a long-time General Class ham, W2IPG.

The following final MARS CW message was transmitted simultaneously on Army, Navy and Air Force MARS frequencies at 1300, 1530 and 1700 UTC on September 30. MARS members received a certificate for correct copy of the final message.

R 300001Z SEP 96
FM CHNAVMARCORMARS WASHINGTON DC
TO ALL MARS MEMBERS AND STATIONS WORLDWIDE
BT - UNCLAS
SUBJ: MARS SPECIAL CW BROADCAST (ENDING OF MARS C.W. OPERATIONS)

1. FROM THE VERY BEGINNING OF MARS OPERATIONS IN 1925 WHEN THE ARMY AMATEUR RADIO SYSTEM (AARS) WAS FOUNDED, C.W. HAS PLAYED AN INTEGRAL PART IN THE TOTAL MARS COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM. ALTHOUGH IT HAS A LONG PROUD AND DISTINGUISHED SERVICE ITS IMPORTANCE TO MILITARY COMMUNICATIONS HAS BEEN REPLACED OVER THE YEARS BY NEW-

ER DIGITAL MODE TECHNOLOGY.

2. WE BID OUR OLD AND FAITHFUL FRIEND FAREWELL WITH VERY DEEP AND STRONG EMOTIONS, BUT KNOWING WELL THAT THE TIME FOR PARTING HAS COME. WE SHALL MISS YOU, OLD FRIEND, BUT NEVER FORGET THE LEGACY YOU HAVE LEFT US AS WE PREPARE TO MOVE FORWARD INTO THE TWENTY FIRST CENTURY. LIKE AN OLD SOLDIER, AIRMAN, SAILOR, AND MARINE, THE TIME HAS COME FOR YOUR RETIREMENT FROM MARS SERVICE. WE SALUTE YOU AS YOU STEP OUT SMARTLY TO THE RHYTHMIC BEAT OF THE DRUMS INTO A WELL-DESERVED RETIREMENT FROM MARS SERVICE WITH THE HIGHEST OF HONORS. SGD CHIEF ARMY, AIR FORCE, NAVY MARINE CORPS MARS.

BT
NNNN

Many MARS members missed the CW mode and began pressuring the Acting Chief of Navy-Marine Corps MARS to again permit Morse code on MARS frequencies. The rumors were that Lt. Barbara Carter had been given permission to reinstate recreational use of CW on MARS circuits but that it couldn't be used for utilitarian purposes such as official messages or emergency traffic.

Supposedly, authorization was granted during a joint conference of all three (Army, Air Force and Navy Marine) MARS services held in Washington, DC in July.

But apparently there was a misunderstanding. The Chief Army MARS at Fort Huachuca, Arizona checked with the Pentagon and was told that the CW ban was indeed still in effect. Here is the MARS message that he sent out to Army MARS members last week. (Quote)

From: Sutton, Robert L.
<suttonr@huachuca-emh12.army.mil>
To: 'MARSLIST' <mars@marscom.org>
Cc: MARS-Bracken <aaa9hm@linbox.marscom.org>
Subject: CAM 45-97 (CW BAN WITHIN DOD MARS)
Date: Monday, August 18, 1997 12:45 PM

DE AAA9A NR 047
R 181740Z AUG 97
FM CHIEF ARMY MARS/AAA9A AZ
TO ALL ARMY MARS MEMBERS AND STATIONS
BT

SUBJECT. CAM 45-97 (CW BAN WITHIN DOD MARS)
REF ARRL LETTER VOL. 16, NO. 32, AUGUST 15, 1997
1. AN ARTICLE HAS APPEARED IN THE ABOVE REFERENCE CONCERNING CW OPERATION WITHIN MARS. THIS ARTICLE IS INACCURATE.
2. AS SPECIFIED IN THE 28 JUNE 1995 LETTER SIGNED BY THEN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE EMMETT PAIGE, AND EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 1996 "THE CW MODE OF COMMUNICATIONS WILL NO LONGER BE USED ON ANY DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE (DOD) MARS CIRCUITS, NETWORKS, OR FREQUENCIES. THEREFORE, CW IS TO BE RETIRED FROM USE WITHIN THE DOD MARS."

3. IT HAS BEEN VERIFIED THAT THIS POLICY IS STILL IN EFFECT AND WILL BE UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE. THERE HAS BEEN NO CHANGE TO THIS POLICY.

SGD CHIEF ARMY MARS
BT
NNNN

(Above information was provided to us by Army MARS member, Darrell Berg, NØKED/AAR5EY of Eden Prairie, MN.)

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■ **The NTIA is hosting a day long *Internet Telephony Forum*** on September 4 at the National Press Club in Washington, DC. "Voice on the Network" (VON) is one of the newer applications on the Information Superhighway.

Forum topics include: Internet Telephony at a Glance, Policy Perspectives, Evolving Applications and Technology Demonstrations and Future Directions. The Commerce Dept's *National Telecommunications and Information Administration* is the White House Advisor on telecommunications matters.

■ **Putting things in the proper perspective.** At a recent "Voice over the Network" (VON) Conference, Larry Irving -- Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information, NTIA -- gave an interesting address entitled: **The world we live in.** (...some excerpts.)

"Imagine that we could shrink the world's population to a village of precisely 100 people, with all existing human ratios remaining the same. If we did so, it would look like this:

There would be 57 Asians, 21 Europeans, 14 from the Western Hemisphere (North & South America) and 8 Africans. 51 would be female; 49 would be male. 70 would be nonwhite; 30 white. 80 would live in sub-standard housing. 70 would be unable to read. 50 would suffer from malnutrition. Only 1 would have a college degree. And no one would own a computer.

"This is today. Obviously, the world of tomorrow will be very different. What strikes me about the VON crowd is that you have a vision of how our world is changing, and are pioneering creative new ways of communication that will be a part of that vision.

"The percentage of American households that had a television grew from 0 to 10 percent during its first 20 years -- 1930 through 1950. During the next ten years, however, it grew from 10 percent penetration to over 80 percent of American households owning a television. Similar trends occurred in the adoption of the telephone, electricity, and the personal computer.

"Indeed, that is what we are already seeing with the Net and on-line services. According to the American Business Information Report, at the end of 1996, there were 2,298 Internet providers.

"Simmons Market Research Bureau's 1997 Study of Media and Markets found that the use of online interactive services has increased to 20 percent in the United States, up from 12.7 percent in 1995. Another 10 percent of the 20,000-plus adults polled plan to go online within the next 12 months.

Some 35 million computer users worldwide are currently estimated to exchange more than a billion e-mail messages each month. Electronic chatting is the rage, and new virtual communities are increasingly emerging.

"NTIA and the Clinton Administration believe that government should minimize regulations and let technology blossom and grow. Our approach to the Internet is that, in general, our first instinct should be to refrain from regulation. No form of electronic media has grown as

fast as the Internet, and the Net has grown precisely because it is not regulated.

"As you know, last year, on behalf of the President, I wrote to the Federal Communications Commission asking the Commission not to regulate the use of the Internet to provide telephone service. I feel as strong about regulation of Internet audio and video. If we are to encourage investment and innovation, we need to forebear from regulation.

"We are very concerned that a number of nations have taken steps or are contemplating action to censor information received by their citizens via the Internet. We believe that freedom of speech applies in cyberspace and that laws censoring the information that flows over the Internet are both misguided and impractical, especially given the global nature of the Internet."

"I cannot emphasize enough the need for industry to engage in voluntary and effective self-regulation. Let me be clear: self-regulation is not synonymous with no regulation. Industry self-regulation must have teeth. We need auditing and private dispute resolution mechanisms. And believe me, it is in industry's interest to do it this way. Without effective self regulation, government regulation is virtually certain."

■ The NTIA is also conducting long term planning needs in the 3-30 MHz high frequency portion of the spectrum. **The NTIA Requirements Study** identified five radio services (maritime mobile, aeronautical mobile, mobile, broadcasting and amateur) requiring access to additional HF spectrum.

"The amateur service requested expansion and upgrading of its allocations for a total of about 900 kHz.

■ In the 3500-4000 kHz band, which is allocated exclusively to the amateur service in the United States but is shared elsewhere, the requirement was for a common, worldwide exclusive 300 kHz allocation within the wider domestic allocation (3500-3800 kHz.)

■ On a shared basis, there was a requirement for about 50 kHz near 5000 kHz for communications during solar cycle minima when maximum usable frequencies are below 7000 kHz. (NTIA said 4945-4995 is 'possible.')

■ To reduce sharing with HF broadcasting in the 7100-7300 kHz band, a 300 kHz band aligned worldwide around or at the 6900-7200 kHz band was requested.

■ In the 10100-10350 kHz band, the amateur service requirement is for a new worldwide allocation where the amateur service is primary.

■ A new allocation of 50 kHz for primary, exclusive worldwide was needed to extend the 14000-14350 kHz band. (14350-14400 is being 'considered.')

■ An additional 150 kHz was requested to expand the present 18068-18168 kHz amateur band (18168 to 18318 kHz is being 'considered.')

■ An additional 150 kHz was also requested to expand the present 24890-24990 kHz amateur band. (24740-24890 is being 'considered.')

■ Finally, a new allocation for the band 29.7-30.0 MHz for amateur-satellite (space-to-Earth)."

CUTTING EDGE TECHNOLOGY

■ The DVD-RAM standard is being muddled! **Sony has announced a new competitor to DVD (Digital Versatile Disk) storage.** Sony's new disk is less than 5-inches in diameter and holds three gigabytes of information per side -- about 15 percent more than DVD storage. The two formats are not compatible. DVD products are supposed to replace much bulkier video tapes, CDs and CD-ROMs. New format is also supported by Philips Electronic NV and Hewlett-Packard..

■ **Computer hackers are getting organized** and are holding conventions and meetings everywhere. "HIP" (which stands for Hacking in Progress) attracted 2,000 hackers to a remote tent-city campsite near Amsterdam. The "Beyond HOPE" (Hackers on Planet Earth) Conference drew 1,000. The Black Hat and DEFCon IV conferences were held this past in July in Las Vegas.

Their bible is the Long Island NY based quarterly "2600 Magazine" named after 2600 kilohertz, the frequency on which the telephone dial tone is transmitted. Hackers pay \$21 a year, companies: \$50. 2600 hackers have monthly meetings - every one of which is on the first Friday of the month between 5 pm and 8 pm local time. Their website even lists the monthly meetings held in Scotland, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Argentina, England, Spain, Sweden, Russia, Germany, India, France and Japan. <http://www.2600.com>

The hero of all hackers is Kevin Mitnick, N6NHG - presently jailed at the Los Angeles Metropolitan Detention Center. 2600 Magazine even maintains an e-mail address for Kevin so hackers can correspond with him but it is doubtful that he ever sees the message. (That address is kmitnick@2600.com) Guards won't even let Mitnick have a normal Walkman radio since they believe he can modify it into a transmitter. The government is using Mitnick's case to send a message to computer hackers around the world.

■ **A new credit card sized computerized "Organizer" is causing quite a stir!** The 1.4-ounce **REX PC Companion** stores up to 2,500 names, addresses, phone numbers, memos, notes, appointments ...you name it. You load it from a variety of personal information managers through the PC card slot or card reader on a notebook or desktop computer. REX, which costs about \$130, runs on an 8-bit

chip that was designed for watches.

■ **Mobile telephony, faxing and e-mail on the way** - Intel, IBM, Toshiba, Compaq, Ericsson, Nokia, Pacific Bell, Bell South and others are **developing wireless notebook computers** that can hook up users to the Internet without the need for a phone line.

■ **Cable-TV subscribers are drifting more and more to Direct-Broadcast-Satellite reception.** According to the *Wall Street Journal*, TCI lost 89,000 subscribers in the second quarter. Tele-Communications, Inc., is the nation's largest U.S. cable operator with 14.2 million subscribers. To turn things around, TCI will more than double its marketing budget to \$100 million in the second half of the year.

■ Robotics researchers at the University of Michigan's College of Engineering have developed **GuideCane, a new computerized high-tech, sonar-equipped navigation aid for the blind.** An 8-pound small roll-about cart with a long-handle uses ultra-sonic sensors and a computer to detect obstacles and helps blind people steer around them.

■ Government assisted e-mail delivery is coming. **The U.S. Post Office is in the process of offering an e-mail certification process.** Users of the electronic postmark service will pay 22 cents for a 50 kilobyte message which would first be sent to the post office by electronic mail. The USPS would time/date stamp, encrypt the message, enclose it in an "electronic seal" ...and send it to the recipient. The message can only be opened by the recipient who would have a special encrypted key. The sender would then be guaranteed that the confidential "letter" was indeed received.

The question is, how many people need this service? (150 million e-mail messages are sent daily without USPS help?) The post office is also looking into offering free e-mail forwarding.

INTERNET NEWS

■ **Wildcat, maverick journalism abounds on the Internet!** Anyone with a PC and a webpage can publish worldwide. The most famous (or infamous as the case may be) for news, rumors and gossip is the Drudge Report. The Drudge Report (<http://www.drudgereport.com>) is also e-mailed to 85,000 recipients. Matt

Drudge had no journalism experience at all before finding the Internet. He pays the bills from royalty checks he receives (from outlets like AOL) who republish his stuff.

■ **Pay-per-Click surfing is now being tested.** Digital Equipment's "Millicent" cybercommerce system will allow users to buy and sell information down to fractions of a cent. The system supports transactions from one-tenth of a cent to \$5. Users benefit because they only pay for the information they access. (Check out: <http://www.millicent.digital.com>)

■ **North Vietnam is going on the Internet September 4th.** But access will be closely controlled. All information will be routed through the government in Hanoi which will examine information sent from Vietnam, as well as censor information coming into the country.

■ **A number of banks and retailers (including Wal-Mart) are testing SET (Secure Electronic Transactions).** Consumers sign up for SET with either MasterCard or VISA and receive a virtual credit card called a "digital certificate" which is stored on your PC. SET certified merchants, who never see a credit card number, are paid with encrypted cyber-money which is validated by a bank in much the same manner as credit cards.

■ **While Internet-based information is soaring, general interest magazines about the Internet are bombing.** "The Net" magazine (circulation 200,000) and "NetGuide" (350,000) have both recently ceased publication. They join a dozen other Internet-related magazines that have gone out of business. It seems that web-wired consumers prefer to get their knowledge from the Net itself.

■ **Microsoft is working on their own Internet search engine.** Code-named "Yukon," the new web directory searcher will be beta tested next month with final release at year end.

Microsoft's free *Internet Explorer* now has a one-third share of the browser business. Netscape, which still controls a 70% share, charges \$59 after a trial period.

Microsoft co-founder, Paul Allen has sold about \$800 million worth of Microsoft stock to finance his purchase of the NFL Seattle Seahawks football team and a new stadium. He still holds more than \$13.5 billion in Microsoft stock. Forbes lists Allen as the world's sixth wealthiest man. Allen also owns the NBA's Portland Trail Blazers.

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WASHINGTON WHISPERS

■ The Dept. of Justice has approved **Microsoft's acquisition of WebTV** whose technology allows television viewers to surf the Internet. They have 120,000 subscribers. Research company, Jupiter Communications, forecasts that there will be 14.7 million Internet-connected WebTV-like set-top boxes and phones with screens in use by the year 2002. A survey showed that WebTV subscribers have a 95% satisfaction rate.

■ **Internet connections offered by the so-called Baby Bells may have to be accomplished through a separate company.** The FCC is looking into the Internet activities of the Bell operating companies. They are examining whether they should be permitted to offer Internet service without setting up separate subsidiaries. A 1995 ruling requires established phone companies to offer interstate enhanced services through arms-length (unconnected) companies.

AMATEUR RADIO

■ **A professionally prepared "Petition for Issuance of Order to Show Cause" has been submitted to the FCC** by the Monmouth County Repeater Association (MCRA) of Asbury Park, NJ.

The issue is one of repeater coordination and the right to operate without interference from an uncoordinated repeater. Francis M. Gspann of Ocean, NJ is the trustee of coordinated WB2ABT/R. MCRA wants answers to the following:

1. Does Amateur Radio frequency coordination have any meaning?
2. Will the FCC act when called upon to enforce §97.205(c) of the rules? That rule says that "...a non-coordinated repeater has primary responsibility to resolve interference."
3. Should the two-meter band be subject to frequency coordination or shall it be allowed to become the CB band of the 90's? (Some already think it is.)
4. Should HAAT (Height Above Average Terrain) and ERP (Effective Radiated Power) become a national criteria for repeater coordination?
5. Should the SPARK/Bangor, PA WA3MDP repeater operators "...who have willingly and knowingly submitted falsified documents to the FCC" in Case PA97-010 be allowed to contin-

ue operating an amateur repeater or should their amateur radio operator privileges be revoked?

The Monmouth County Repeater Association operates their coordinated repeater WB2ABT/R (Asbury Park, NJ) on 146.045 MHz output, 147.645 MHz input. Another repeater group (SPARK) operates a repeater (WA3MDP) on the same pair at Bangor, PA.

MCRA says their repeater is not currently coordinated, SPARK says that it is, but offers ten year old out-of-date coordination evidence. Their antenna is apparently at 1,700 feet. MCRA's is 212 ft.

On Dec. 5, 1996, the FCC's Compliance and Information Bureau ordered the WA3MDP repeater to immediately cease operation. Their response was to request an investigation of the current coordinating body and MCRA "...as to a possible co-conspiracy to misrepresent the facts..."

MCRA has now retained a Washington DC communications attorney (John J. McVeigh KD4VS) who filed the *Petition for Issuance of Order to Show Cause* with the FCC. Coordinated MCRA demands that uncoordinated WA3MDP cease operation on 147.045/645.

■ **One-by-One Call Signs are now available!** On August 19, the FCC sent out the following Fact Sheet No. 206E.

AMATEUR STATION SPECIAL EVENT CALL SIGN SYSTEM

When transmitting in conjunction with an event of special significance, an amateur station ("special event station") may transmit the identification announcement using a special event call sign in accord with the procedures detailed below.

Substituting a special event call sign for its assigned call sign may help a special event station call attention "on-air" to its participation in the special event and to the unique opportunity for the amateur service community to exchange greetings with the station. Use of these provisions, however, must not detract from the station making the source of its transmissions known to those receiving them. The special event station must also transmit its assigned call sign at least once per hour during such operation.

Special event call signs. A block of 750 call signs is available for use in the special event call sign system. The format of each call sign ("one-by-one") consists of a single letter prefix "K", "N" or "W", followed by a single digit numeral "0" through "9", followed by a single letter "A" through "W" or "Y" or "Z" ("X" is not available to amateur stations). The station

license grantee must obtain coordination for the use of a special event call sign through one of the following special event call sign coordinators. These coordinators maintain and disseminate world-wide a common data base [located on the Web at <http://ncvec.spindle.net>] for the day-to-day usage of the one-by-one format call signs (for example "K1A"). Upon completing the coordination process, the special event station may substitute the one-by-one format call sign for its assigned call sign during the period of the special event. The following volunteer entities have been certified as special event call sign coordinators:

● **The American Radio Relay League, Inc. VEC Department**, 225 Main Street, Newington, CT 06111-1494; Telephone (860) 594-0300, Fax (860) 594-0339, e-mail: <vec@arrl.org>.

● **The W5YI Group, Inc.**, 2000 E. Randol Mill Road, Suite 608-A, Arlington, TX 76011, Telephone (817) 461-6443, Fax (817) 548-9594, e-mail: <fmaia@internetMCI.com>. [An online fill-in-the-blanks request form can be accessed from: <<http://www.W5YI.org>>]

● **Western Carolina Amateur Radio Society/VEC, Inc.**, 5833 Clinton Highway, Suite 203, Knoxville, TN 37912-2500; Telephone (423) 688-7771, e-mail: <WCARS@KORRnet.org>.

● **Laurel Amateur Radio Club, Inc.**, P.O. Box 3039, Laurel, MD 20709-3039, Telephone (301) 317-7819, e-mail: <rbusch@erols.com>.

Indicators. In addition to the special event call sign system, any amateur station, including a special event station, may include with its assigned call sign one or more indicators (example "W1AW/-national convention"). Each indicator must be separated from the assigned call sign by a slant ("/") or any suitable word that denotes the slant mark ("portable," "stroke," etc.). If the indicator is self-assigned, it must be included before, after, or both before and after, the assigned call sign (example "KP2/W1AW/contest"). No self-assigned indicator may conflict with any other indicator specified by the FCC Rules (such as "AA", "AG", "AE" or "KT") or with any prefix assigned to another country (such as "DL", "F", "G" or "VE").

Questions concerning one-by-one call signs and the common data base should be directed to the special event call sign coordinators. For information concerning this fact sheet, contact John B. Johnston at <jjohnsto@fcc.gov> or telephone (202) 418-0680. -FCC-

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APPLE COMPUTER CORP. REINVENTS ITSELF

Most of the rumors you have been hearing about Apple Computer are true. That is all except that co-founder Steve Jobs would emerge as the new CEO.

Apple was incorporated exactly 20 years ago. It began a year earlier on April Fools Day in 1976 when electronic hobbyists, Steve Jobs and Steve Wozniak created the "Apple I" circuit board in their garage. Their first computer sold for \$666.66. A year later, the "Apple II" made its appearance and sales soared to \$1 million.

The firm sold \$100 million in stock in 1980. In 1984 the easy-to-use Macintosh computer made its appearance. A year later, the two Steves departed Apple in a corporate "difference of opinion." Jobs started a new computer venture called NeXT.

Instead of being managed by digital entrepreneurs, Apple would now be run by high-priced professional CEO's with strong consumer management and marketing expertise. The first was John Sculley, followed by Michael Spindler and then Gilbert Amelio. All failed ...as did the new products they introduced.

In an effort to provide a larger market for Mac software, Apple began licensing its operating system. And in 1995 Macintosh "clones" arrived on the scene. Strangely, they sold well -- while Apple's own sales continued to plummet. August 1995 was also when Microsoft released their Windows 95, an upgrade that basically brought the Apple look-and-feel to IBM-PCs. Apple's share of the computer market nose-dived and with it came hundreds of millions of dollars in losses. A market share which was once 10% was now 3%.

It was CEO Gilbert Amelio who believed that Jobs' NeXT software might be the answer. He shelled out some \$420 million (some in Apple stock) to buy the company last December. And with it came Steve Jobs back to Apple Computer ...this time as an "adviser." The stop-gap plan was to upgrade the current MacOS which would buy time until the NeXT software could be integrated into the new Apple "Rhapsody" operating system upgrade. Actually the Mac OS 8 is selling very well on its own!

But the losses continued to pile up, \$708 million in the first quarter of 1997 alone - and nearly \$2 billion during the past 2 years. In June, Jobs had pretty much given up that the Apple board was going to do anything and dumped the Apple stock that he had gotten as partial payment for his NeXT Computer Company. That later would prove costly.

Amid rumors that various companies were interested in taking over Apple, the Board acted. In fact they cleaned house. On July 9th, CEO Gilbert Amelio was fired and new directors named. Among them, Larry Ellison, the billionaire founder and chief executive of Oracle which ranks second (to Microsoft) in software sales. Ellison is a long time friend Steve Jobs.

Besides Jobs, the other new directors are Jerome York (known for his financial handling of troubled IBM and Chrysler) and former Apple sales VP Bill Campbell

(now CEO of Intuit, maker of the popular Quicken financial software.) Jettisoned were three directors including A. C. Markkula, Apple's long time leader and investor. Totally new thinking now controls Apple. Wall Street liked the changes. Apple stock has nearly doubled since the Amelio ouster!

The boardroom coup also left Steve Jobs as de facto CEO and in a position to call the shots. He quickly fired Apple's advertising agency and went back to the one he worked with in the mid-1980s. And a return to the education and desktop publishing market (of which Apple has more than a 50% market share) was pledged.

Jobs let it be known that he was not interested in being CEO and an executive search firm was hired to find one. A problem will be to find someone to run Apple when Jobs and Ellison will apparently be calling the boardroom shots.

Then the biggest bombshell of all was dropped! A decision was made to include Microsoft in Apple's future! They had been bitter sales and courtroom enemies for two decades! Our understanding is that Bill Gates (Microsoft CEO) was approached even before Amelio was let go and the new board picked. The theory was that a working arrangement with arch-rival Microsoft would be preferable to their present adversarial relationship. Many die-hard Apple users don't like that thinking!

In any event, Microsoft agreed to invest \$150 million in the firm plus pay an undisclosed additional amount to resolve the patent infringement dispute. In exchange, Apple would ship its computers with Microsoft's *Internet Explorer* as the default browser and agree not to pursue long-running patent-infringement issues. The stock that Microsoft got was non-voting. While \$150 million is a lot of money -- it was only pocket-change for Microsoft -- about 2% of cash on hand. Microsoft, which can't sell the stock for three years, already has a huge paper profit.

An unanswered question is what will happen to Macintosh clones? Texas-based Power Computing Corp. has done very well selling Mac clones direct to the consumer. They made nearly \$8 million on revenues of \$247 million in the nine months ending March 31. Motorola -- a company that makes very few mistakes -- also makes Apple clones. Jobs thinks the clone makers are unfairly reaping profits at Apple's expense since they don't share in development costs.

Until the licensing matter is resolved, Power Computing, the first Apple operating system licensee, is now regrouping. They have stopped hiring and work on their \$28 million plant has been suspended. While Power Computing still plans to go public this fall, they will now make both Apple and Intel-based personal computers.

Following Apple's turnaround should be very interesting indeed. Larry Ellison is more or less the inventor of the low cost Network Computer -- appliances that obtain their computing power from the Internet. Ellison poured development money into the concept when others scoffed at the idea. And there is already talk that Apple will sell direct and that NCs are in their future.