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TO ALL USAF MARS MEMBERS

BT

SUBJ: AIR FORCE MARS USE OF AMATEUR RADIO DIGITAL MODES

1. WITH THE DECISION BY HQ, ARMY MARS TO CEASE USE OF WINLINK (WL2K) EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY, I HAVE BEEN ASKED ABOUT AIR FORCE MARS POLICY IN THIS REGARD.

2. USAF MARS HQ RECOGNIZES THAT MANY MILITARY STATIONS AND FEDERAL AGENCIES ARE UNFAMILIAR WITH AND DO NOT USE AMATEUR RADIO DIGITAL MODES, INCLUDING WL2K, FOR COMMUNICATIONS. DODI 4560.02 ALSO REQUIRES MARS TO BE CAPABLE OF OPERATING IN "RADIO ONLY" MODES, WITHOUT LINKAGES TO LANDLINES OR THE INTERNET.

3. IT IS AIR FORCE MARS POLICY THAT MILITARY STANDARD (MIL-STD) PROTOCOLS BE USED BY MARS STATIONS COMMUNICATING WITH MILITARY OR FEDERAL AGENCY STATIONS THAT MUST MEET INFORMATION ASSURANCE STANDARDS AND DO NOT ALLOW FOR AMATEUR RADIO DIGITAL MODES. USAF MARS STATIONS MAY CONTINUE TO USE AMATEUR RADIO DIGITAL MODES AS NECESSARY FOR INTRA-MARS COMMUNICATIONS.

4. THIS POLICY WILL EVOLVE AS REQUIREMENTS DICTATE. GIVEN THE DYNAMIC NATURE OF DIGITAL COMMUNICATIONS AND THE CURRENT LACK OF WIDESPREAD USAF MARS MIL-STD CAPABILITY AMONG INDIVIDUAL AUXILIARY STATIONS, ANY FUTURE TRANSITION AWAY FROM AMATEUR RADIO DIGITAL MODES TO MIL-STD MODES WILL BE IMPLEMENTED IN A DELIBERATE AND ORDERLY MANNER.

SIGNED

RICHARD S. JENSON
CHIEF, USAF MARS (AGA5C)

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