DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY
107 ARMY PENTAGON
WASHINGTON DC 20310-0107

Office, Chief Information Officer / G-6

03 MAY 2007

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MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Integration of Military Satellite Communications (MILSATCOM) Capability in Army Wideband Satellite Communication Terminals

1. References:

a. CJCSI 6250.01B, Satellite Communications, 28 May 04.

b. Army Regulation 25-1, Army Knowledge Management and Information Technology, 15 Jul 05.

c. Department of the Army Pamphlet 25-1-1, Information Technology Support and Services, 25 Oct 06.

2. Reference 1.a. prescribes policy on planning, management, employment, and use of satellite communications (SATCOM) systems in a Joint environment. References 1.b., para 6-5d, and 1.c, para 10-9, prescribe the Army approval policy and procedures for acquiring SATCOM services.

3. This guidance applies to the Active Army, the Army National Guard/Army National Guard of the United States, and the U.S. Army Reserve.

4. As of July 2007, the Army will procure and field only single and multi-band capable wideband satellite systems with at least one of those bands being a wideband MILSATCOM frequency band (i.e., X or K_a band). This includes both ground terminals and Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) communications terminals.

5. In addition, all fielded wideband satellite terminal systems will be required to upgrade to be capable of operating over MILSATCOM as soon as fiscally possible, but not later than 2012, when Wideband Global SATCOM (WGS) achieves worldwide coverage. This will ensure the Army can take advantage of the capability provided by the WGS and reduce commercial transponder leasing costs.

6. The transition to MILSATCOM corresponds to the first launch of the WGS in July 2007. The WGS will provide continuation of current X-band satellite capabilities and also a new 2-way K_a band capability to the Warfighter. The WGS is one of many

critical enablers for the Warfighter to ensure their ability to connect anywhere at anytime on the battlefield.

7. Although commercial SATCOM (COMSATCOM) will continue to play a critical role in the Army's satellite communications architecture, the benefits of using MILSATCOM operations as the primary means of communications are numerous and important to the Army. In order to take advantage of the WGS capablities, the Army must posture its tactical wideband ground satellite terminal capability now for WGS MILSATCOM operations.

8. Exceptions will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Justifications for exception to policy will be included in the Operational Needs Statement (ONS) and DD Form 1494 (Application for Equipment Frequency Allocation) submissions outlined in reference 1.c., para 10-9.e., above.

9. This guidance is limited to Army Super-High Frequency (SHF) wideband communications systems and does not impact Mobile Subscriber Services (MSS), Ultra-High Frequency (UHF) Narrowband communications, or Extremely High Frequency (EHF) Protected communications. This guidance does not extend to SATCOM systems supporting Combat Service Support (CSS) or Intelligence requirements.

10. My points of contact for this action are Ms. Laura Knight, comm: (703) 602-4249, DSN: 332-4249, e-mail: laura.knight@us.army.mil; and Mr. Robert Jones, comm: (703) 602-4348, DSN: 332-4348, e-mail: robert.jones4@us.army.mil.

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