DoD Iridium Policy Memorandum

ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
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COMMAND, CONTROL, COMMUNICATIONS, AND INTELLIGENCE

August 29, 2001

MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARIES OF THE MILITARY DEPARTMENTS
CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF
UNDER SECRETARIES OF DEFENSE
DIRECTOR, DEFENSE RESEARCH AND ENGINEERING
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DIRECTOR, ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT
DIRECTORS OF THE DEFENSE AGENCIES
DIRECTORS OF THE DOD FIELD ACTIVITIES

SUBJECT: Department of Defense (DoD) Policy on Procurement of Mobile Satellite Services (MSS)

This attached policy applies to all DoD CINC, Service and Agency (C/S/A) service and equipment procurements from commercial MSS providers.

The objective of this policy is to supersede previous policy on the same subject and (1) clearly define MSS, (2) definitively state security requirements regarding MSS procurements, (3) establish DISA as the responsible agency for DoD MSS procurements and operations, and (4) provide a process to continuously explore how DoD might leverage more capable and/or cheaper MSS.

Please direct any questions to my action officer, Col Brian Robinson, who can be reached at 703-607-0263 or email at brian.robinson@osd.mil.

John P Stenbit

John P. Stenbit

Attachment
As stated

DoD POLICY ON PROCUREMENT OF MSS

References:
(a) Department of Defense (DoD) Policy on Procurement of Mobile Satellite Services, May 26, 1999
(b) Interim Guidance on Department of Defense (DoD) Use of Mobile Satellite Services (MSS), May 30, 2000.
(c) DoD Directive 3100.10, "Space Policy," July 9, 1999.
(d) DoD Instruction S-3100.15, "Space Control," January 19, 2001
(e) NSTISSP No. 12, National Information Assurance Policy for U.S. Space Systems, January 2001.
(f) DoD CIO Guidance and Policy Memorandum No. 6-8510 "Department of Defense Global Information Grid Information Assurance", June 16, 2000.
(g) ASD(C3I) Memorandum, Policy for the use of Commercial Satellite Communications (SATCOM), November 8, 1993.
(e) CJCS Instruction 6250.01, "Satellite Communications," October 20, 1998.

1. PURPOSE: To promulgate policy regarding procurement of MSS. The objectives of this policy are to supersede references (a) and (b) and (1) clearly define MSS, (2) definitively state security requirements regarding MSS procurements, (3) establish DISA as the responsible agency for DoD MSS procurements and operations, and (4) provide a process to continuously explore how DoD might leverage more capable and/or cheaper MSS.

2. DEFINITION: MSS refers to satellite-based services (e.g. digital voice, data, paging, fax, etc.) provided by existing and emerging commercial communications providers through mobile terminals which are increasingly smaller and lighter in weight. Examples of such MSS providers are International Maritime Satellite (INMARSAT), Iridium, and Globalstar.

3. POLICY:

a. Preferred Handheld Terminal Service: In 1996 the DoD took advantage of a "window-of-opportunity" to invest in an emerging MSS system in order to satisfy a portion of an increasing body of narrowband mobile requirements. Iridium was chosen due to security advantages afforded by its system architecture. DoD subsequently invested in a gateway and security development to take maximum advantage of system capabilities and meet privacy and operational security requirements necessary for support of military missions. Additionally, in December 2000, DoD contracted with Iridium Satellite LLC for two years of satellite airtime. In order to maximize the return on these investments and take full advantage of the capability they provide, DoD users with a requirement for MSS to a handheld terminal shall use only Iridium Satellite LLC as their service provider, unless Iridium service can not meet the requirement. Requests for exception with accompanying documented evidence that Iridium service will not meet a requirement shall be submitted to Joint Staff (J6) (delegated approval/disapproval authority for these requests).

b. Alternative Handheld Terminal Service: If a DoD user's handheld terminal MSS requirement can not be satisfied by Iridium service and the user has obtained a Joint Staff (J6) waiver, then other MSS services may be procured. Equipment and services shall still meet the Securability requirements as stated herein. "Alternative handheld terminal service" contractual arrangements shall be coordinated by the user with the MSS SATCOM System Expert (SSE) so that the "alternative" service provider can be considered for possible further testing by the Joint MSS Working Group.

c. Non-handheld Terminal Service: INMARSAT services are authorized to be used for non-handheld requirements.

d. Securability: DoD users with a requirement for MSS are directed to procure equipment and services from MSS providers that can be secured by cryptography designed in accordance with NSA high robustness standards for classified information and evaluated and approved by NSA. Requirements for high robustness security solutions are specified in reference (f).

(1) The procurement of the NSA approved Iridium Security Module (ISM) is required when procuring Iridium handheld terminals. Requests for exceptions to this policy requirement may be submitted to this office for consideration. Since NSA approved cryptography is only available for Iridium handheld terminals, the local commanders are delegated the authority to approve/disapprove procurement of non-securable Iridium equipment (e.g. airborne, maritime and command post terminals) and services (e.g. data services) for unclassified communications.

(2) When procuring INMARSAT equipment and services, NSA-approved cryptographical devices (e.g. STU-III, STE) must be procured and used when needed.

e. Procurement Procedures: When procuring MSS equipment and services, DoD users will utilize the contract vehicles prescribed by Director, DISA. Requests for exceptions to this policy requirement may be submitted to this office for consideration. Contracts in place prior to the publication of this policy are grandfathered. DISA will track and report MSS usage and costs annually to this office. Users authorized, by an approved exception, to contract for MSS other than through DISA must track and report usage and cost information to DISA for compilation.

f. Operational Use: The Military Departments must develop and promulgate policies on the use of MSS during the employment and deployment of forces in accordance with references (c) through (f) and the Services' operational doctrine. These policies shall address the use of both DoD and personal communications equipment, the control and protection of communications and security equipment, and the appropriate procedures for protecting classified and Sensitive But Unclassified (SBU) communications.

g. Point of Contact (POC): DISA is the MSS SSE for US Space Command (USSPACECOM), the DoD SATCOM Operational Manager (SOM), and as such will serve as the DoD single POC for MSS issues. The existence of multiple MSS providers allows for competition and possible operational advantages to DoD. Director, DISA will annually report to ASD(C3I) on the ability of other MSS providers to offer improved capability and/or cheaper service, and will assess the desirability of procuring DoD MSS from other providers. In order to perform this function, DISA will fund for the necessary testing and evaluation of other MSS systems and services. A Joint MSS Working Group chaired by USSPACECOM and composed of representatives from the Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD), Joint Staff, NSA and DISA will identify the MSS systems and services to be tested.

h. Requests for Exception: Sections 3a, 3d(1) and 3e contain policy requirements for which a request for exception may be submitted. Exception requests are to be submitted to the approving authority (information copies to the DISA MSS SSE) with the following minimum set of information: 1) Scope of the proposed procurement (number of units, duration of use, etc); 2) Requirement (brief description of the intended use of the equipment/services); 3) Justification for exception request; 4) Impact if not granted.