

**BY ORDER OF THE  
SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE**

**AIR FORCE INSTRUCTION 33-217**

**8 OCTOBER 2002**



**Communications and Information**

**VOICE CALL SIGN PROGRAM**

**COMPLIANCE WITH THIS PUBLICATION IS MANDATORY**

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(Mr. Cipriano Ordones)  
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This instruction implements Air Force Policy Directive (AFPD) 33-2, *Information Protection* (will become *Information Assurance*), and establishes call sign procedures to identify military aircraft, organizations, activities, bases, units, operational facilities (except global high frequency [HF] stations and navigational aids), staff personnel, and geographic locations. Voice call signs (VCS) are used to establish and maintain voice communications within the Air Force. Specific personnel and activities of the Executive Branch, Department of Defense (DoD), Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS), United States Army (USA), United States Navy (USN), United States Marine Corps (USMC), unified commands, and other government agencies are also included at the request of the JCS. Air Force Cryptological Aids Operations (AFKAO)-1(H), *USAF Voice Call Sign Instructions*; and Voice Call Sign List Instructions (VCSLI), *USAF Voice Call Sign Instructions*, contain detailed instructions on acquiring, classifying, releasing, and using call signs. Additional security instructions and manuals are listed on the official source site for Air Force administrative publications and forms at URL: <http://www.e-publishing.af.mil> under Electronic Publications. Air Force Directory (AFDIR) 33-303, *Compendium of Communications and Information Terminology*, explains other terms. Major commands (MAJCOM), field operating agencies and direct reporting units direct questions or comments on the contents of this instruction through appropriate command channels to the Voice Call Sign Program Management Office (VCSPMO), Cryptologic Systems Group (HQ CPSG/DIWKM), 230 Hall Blvd, Suite 218, San Antonio TX 78243-7056. Refer recommended changes and conflicts between this and other publications to Headquarters Air Force Communications Agency (HQ AFCA/ITXD), 203 W. Losey Street, Room 1100, Scott AFB IL 62225-5222, using Air Force (AF) Form 847, **Recommendation for Change of Publication**. See **Attachment 1** for a glossary of references and supporting information. Retain and dispose of these records according to Air Force Manual (AFMAN) 37-139, *Records Disposition Schedule* (will become AFMAN 33-322, Volume 4). The *Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995* and Air Force Instruction (AFI) 33-360, Volume 2, *Forms Management Program*, affect this publication.

## ***SUMMARY OF REVISIONS***

This revision reflects organizational, office symbol and address changes, the addition of domain name server addresses for the Voice Call Sign List (VCSL) Non-Secure Internet Protocol Router Network (NIPRNET) and Secret Internet Protocol Router Network (SIPRNET) web sites, and the deletion of Attachment 2 which contained the format for the unit checklist for Air Force call sign applications. Administrative and format changes were also made. A “|” indicates revised material since the last edition.

### **1. Procedures .** Air Force activities will:

- 1.1. Use a spoken English language dictionary word as the basic call sign with a single- or two-digit suffix. Aircraft call signs are restricted to four- to six-letter words; other call signs use one or two words with a maximum of 15 characters. AFKAO-1(H) and VCSLI, Annex A, permit certain minor deviations.
- 1.2. Use VCSs to identify military aircraft, organizations, activities, bases, units, operational facilities, staff personnel, and geographical locations when establishing and maintaining voice communications.
- 1.3. Use changing call signs to the maximum extent practicable to enhance the security of Air Force operations.
- 1.4. Direct the mandatory use of changing call signs for classified operations and missions; during exercises and contingency operations; and while conducting research, and development testing and evaluation programs.
- 1.5. Not use the term "Air Force" (e.g., "Air Force One," "Air Force Rescue," etc.) or the acronym of a MAJCOM's name, or any other acronym, abbreviation, or phonetic alphabet as a call sign prefix except as specifically authorized in AFKAO-1(H) and VCSLI. **NOTE:** Commanders must ensure operations security is considered before requesting static call sign assignments or other unchanging variations outlined in AFKAO-1(H) and VCSLI, Annex A, instead of changing call signs (see AFI 10-1101, *Operations Security (OPSEC)*).
- 1.6. Submit call sign requests only to meet mission requirements.
- 1.7. Not use or request personalized call signs.
- 1.8. Coordinate with the Air Force VCSPMO if an unusual circumstance dictates obtaining a call sign from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA).

### **2. Exceptions to Standard Procedures .**

- 2.1. Identify global HF systems by the geographical name of the station or location (e.g., "Andrews Global").
- 2.2. Identify aircraft control facilities by using the base or location and service required (e.g., "Kelly Homer Beacon," "Andrews GCA," "Nellis Tower," etc.) (see Allied Communications Publication [ACP] 121/US Supplement 2, *Communications Instructions General Air-Ground*).
- 2.3. Military Affiliate Radio System call signs are managed and assigned by HQ AFCA/GCWM, 203 W. Losey Street, Room 3100, Scott AFB IL 62225-5222.

2.4. Base Land Mobile Radio (LMR) net call signs are managed by the Personal Wireless Communications System (PWCS) Manager unless otherwise designated by the base commander.

### 3. General Information .

3.1. The VCSPMO manages the USAF VCS Program. Units should send requests for call sign assignments or proposed changes to existing assignments, through channels, to their appropriate MAJCOM call sign representative and to the Voice Call Sign Program Management Office (VCSPMO), HQ CPSG/DIWKM, 230 Hall Blvd, Suite 218, San Antonio TX 78243-7056.

3.2. The JCS, USA, USN, USMC, unified commands, and certain Executive Branches, State Departments, and other DoD activities may submit requests direct to the VCSPMO.

3.3. The Voice Call Sign List (VCSL)-1, *USAF Voice Call Sign Lists*; and VCSL-2, *The Air Combat Command (ACC) Standard VCSL-1 Extract*, which have the identical information as their corresponding Air Force Cryptological Aids Instruction (AFKAI)-1, *US Voice Call Sign Lists*; and AFKAI-2, *The Air Combat Command AFKAI-1 Extract*, editions are available through Web sites. The unclassified sections of the VCSL-1 are available through the Non-Secure Internet Protocol Router Network (NIPRNET) and the complete classified editions of the VCSL-1 and VCSL-2 through the Non-Secure Internet Protocol Router Network (SIPRNET). The Domain Name Server address for the VCSL NIPRNET Web site is <https://vcspmo.satx.disa.mil> and for the VCSL SIPRNET Web site [vcspmo.satx.dla.mil](https://vcspmo.satx.dla.mil). For assistance on accessing the VCSL Web sites contact the VCSPMO at DSN/STU-III 969-3127.

4. **Application of the United States Air Force Voice Call Sign Program .** The following publications administer the USAF VCS Program:

4.1. Procedures. AFKAO-1(H) and VCSLI contain detailed procedures for requesting, assigning, and using USAF VCSs. Users of the AFKAI-1 should order the AFKAO-1(H) specialized communications security (COMSEC) publication through the host base COMSEC account. The VCSLI is available on the NIPRNET and SIPRNET VCSL Web sites.

4.2. Call Sign Assignments.

4.2.1. AFKAI-1 and VCSL-1 contain worldwide VCS listings. AFKAI-1 and VCSL-1 also list specific assignments for JCS, USA, USN, unified commands, other DoD activities, the State Department and certain Federal agencies.

4.2.2. AFKAI-2 is a special operational AFKAI-1 extract and the VCSL-2 is a special operational VCSL-1 extract. The AFKAI-2 and VCSL-2 extracts may be used aboard certain aircraft when authorized by the controlling authority.

### 5. Information Collections, Records, and Forms .

5.1. Information Collections. All information collections identified by this publication are prescribed in other publications.

5.2. Records. Maintain and dispose of records created by this publication according to AFMAN 37-139, Table 33-6, Rules 1-20 (as applicable) and Table 37-11, Rule 10 (will become AFMAN 33-322, Volume 4).

5.3. Forms. (Adopted and Prescribed).

5.3.1. Adopted Forms: AF Form 847, **Recommendation for Change of Publication.**

5.3.2. Prescribed Forms: No forms are prescribed by this publication.

LESLIE F. KENNE, Lt Gen, USAF  
DCS, Warfighting Integration

**Attachment 1****GLOSSARY OF REFERENCES AND SUPPORTING INFORMATION*****References***

The *Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995*

AFPD 33-2, *Information Protection* (will become *Information Assurance*)

AFI 10-1101, *Operations Security (OPSEC)*

AFI 33-360, Volume 2, *Forms Management Program*

AFMAN 37-139, *Records Disposition Schedule* (will become AFMAN 33-322, Volume 4)

AFDIR 33-303, *Compendium of Communications and Information Terminology*

AFKAI-1, *US Voice Call sign Lists*

AFKAI-2, *The Air Combat Command AFKAI-1 Extract*

AFKAO-1(H), *USAF Voice Call Sign Instructions*

ACP 121/US Supplement 2, *Communications Instructions General Air-Ground*

VCSL-1, *USAF Voice Call Sign Lists*

VCSL-2, *The Air Combat Command (ACC) Standard VCSL-1 Extract*

VCSLI, *USAF Voice Call Sign Instructions*

***Abbreviations and Acronyms***

**ACP**—Allied Communications Publication

**AF**—Air Force (used on forms only)

**AFCA**—Air Force Communications Agency

**AFDIR**—Air Force Directory

**AFI**—Air Force Instruction

**AFKAI**—Air Force Cryptological Aids Instruction

**AFKAO**—Air Force Cryptological Aids Operations

**AFMAN**—Air Force Manual

**AFPD**—Air Force Policy Directive

**COMSEC**—Communications Security

**CPSG**—Cryptologic Systems Group

**DoD**—Department of Defense

**FAA**—Federal Aviation Administration

**HF**—High Frequency

**JCS**—Joint Chiefs of Staff

**LMR**—Land Mobile Radio

**MAJCOM**—Major Command

**NIPRNET**—Non-secure Internet Protocol Router Network

**PWCS**—Personal Wireless Communications System

**SIPRNET**—Secret Internet Protocol Router Network

**USA**—United States Army

**USAF**—United States Air Force

**USMC**—United States Marine Corps

**USN**—United States Navy

**VCS**—Voice Call Sign

**VCSL**—Voice Call Sign List

**VCSLI**—Voice Call Sign List Instructions

**VCSPMO**—Voice Call Sign Program Management Office

### *Terms*

**Voice Call Sign (VCS)**—An identifying word provided primarily for voice communications. Use English language pronounceable dictionary words usually suffixed with two digits (01 through 99) to establish identity and to maintain voice communications.

**Static Call Sign**—An unchanging identifying word permanently assigned to a specific purpose, unit, activity, or staff position.

**Changing Voice Call Sign**—An identifying word randomly generated, selected, and assigned to a specific purpose, unit, activity, or staff position, and changed at periodic intervals.