

ANNEX JJOINT SERVICE MARS INTEROPERABILITY**J100. COORDINATION**

The contents of this annex have been coordinated among all three service MARS chiefs.

J110. HISTORY

Army and Air Force MARS began full interoperability on all circuits in April 1997. Army and Air Force MARS interoperability with Navy-Marine Corps MARS was limited only by Navy-Marine Corps MARS frequencies not being authorized on a nation-wide basis.

J200. JOINT OPERATIONS

All service MARS interoperability is authorized on a nation-wide basis subject to the following restrictions:

- a. All service MARS stations are authorized to use any VHF circuits for digital and voice communications within the host service's established guidelines.
- b. All service MARS stations are authorized to enter any other MARS HF traffic net.
- c. All service MARS stations are authorized to enter any service MARS emergency communications net during an actual emergency.
- d. This interoperability does not apply to HF phone patch nets to and from Navy and Coast Guard ships. Operations for these units are restricted to Navy-Marine Corps MARS circuits by fleet commander frequency authorizations.

J210. MESSAGE FORMAT AND REFILEING

All three services basically use the same 16 line message format; however, there are minor differences. The following guidance is provided for refiling messages between service networks:

- a. Message precedence will not be changed.

b. Any other changes to messages needed to comply with another service's policies or procedures will be made by the receiving station.

J300. NET OPERATIONS

By tri-service MARS Chiefs agreement, the host service will provide the net control station who is the governing authority on procedures. Host net procedures will be observed without comment or debate. If the guest is unwilling to follow the host procedures, a tactful withdrawal from the frequency is recommended.