

DE AGA5C NR 002  
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FM AGA5C IL  
TO ALL USAF MARS MEMBERS  
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USAF MARS OPERATIONAL DIRECTIVE 2010-1

SUBJ: ESTABLISHMENT OF USAF MARS MISSION SUPPORT NET

1. SINCE 1978 USAF MARS HAS CONDUCTED A TRANSCON SPACE SUPPORT NET (TSSN) TO PROVIDE A CONTINGENCY HF COMMUNICATIONS LINK BETWEEN THE USAF AND SATELLITE LAUNCH SITES AND REMOTE TRACKING STATIONS, AS WELL AS TO PROVIDE COMMUNICATIONS SUPPORT TO SPACE SHUTTLE LAUNCH AND RECOVERY OPERATIONS.
2. WITH THE IMPENDING CONCLUSION OF THE SPACE SHUTTLE PROGRAM, THE OPERATIONAL UTILITY OF THE SPACE SUPPORT NET WILL DECLINE.
3. IN ACCORDANCE WITH MY DESIRE TO MORE CLOSELY ALIGN USAF MARS CAPABILITIES WITH THE EXPANDED MARS MISSION REFLECTED IN DOD INSTRUCTION (DODI) 4650.02, I HEREBY ESTABLISH, EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY, A USAF MARS "MISSION SUPPORT NET" (MSN) IN LIEU OF THE EXISTING TRANSCON SPACE SUPPORT NET. THE MISSION SUPPORT NET SHALL OPERATE AS A SPECIAL PURPOSE NET ON THE SAME FREQUENCIES CURRENTLY USED BY THE SPACE SUPPORT NET. AN ADDITIONAL 4 MHZ FREQUENCY SHALL ALSO BE DESIGNATED FOR MSN USE.
4. THE MISSION SUPPORT NET SHALL CONTINUE TO SUPPORT U.S. GOVERNMENT SPACE ACTIVITIES BUT SHALL ALSO BE AVAILABLE TO PROVIDE COMMUNICATIONS SUPPORT TO OTHER U.S. GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS, INCLUDING CONTEMPORARY MILITARY OPERATIONS, CONSISTENT WITH THE MISSIONS AND GUIDANCE OUTLINED IN DODI 4650.02. SUCH OPERATIONS MAY INCLUDE, BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO, PROVIDING CONTINGENCY RADIO COMMUNICATIONS SUPPORT IN BOTH VOICE AND DIGITAL MODES TO AIR FORCE HOMELAND SECURITY AND HOMELAND DEFENSE ACTIVITIES AS WELL AS CONUS AND OCONUS DISASTER RELIEF MISSIONS.
5. FURTHER DETAILS ON THE NEW MISSION SUPPORT NET SHALL BE PROVIDED IN THE UPDATE TO THE MARS OPERATING INSTRUCTION (MOI) CURRENTLY IN REVISION.
6. I WISH TO EXPRESS MY SINCERE THANKS TO THE MEMBERS OF THE SPACE SUPPORT NET WHO FOR MANY YEARS HAVE PROVIDED A RELIABLE CONTINGENCY COMMUNICATIONS CAPABILITY IN SUPPORT OF U.S. NATIONAL OBJECTIVES IN SPACE. YOUR SUPERB EFFORTS ARE GREATLY APPRECIATED. I LOOK FORWARD TO YOUR CONTINUED PARTICIPATION IN THE ACTIVITIES OF THE MISSION SUPPORT NET.

SIGNED

RICHARD S. JENSON  
CHIEF, USAF MARS (AGA5C)

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