

Communications and Information

**AMATEUR OPERATIONS NEAR RADAR FACILITIES  
(COMPLIANCE WITH THIS PUBLICATION IS MANDATORY)**

This instruction implements AFI33-118, Radio Frequency Spectrum Management and tells how to process, grant, and revoke waivers to Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Rule 97.61(b)(7). It applies to organizations that coordinate on waiver requests and units whose areas of responsibility are affected by granting such waivers. This publication is affected by the Privacy Act of 1974. Title 10, U.S.C. 8012 is the authority to maintain a system of records prescribed by this instruction. Privacy Act Systems Notice F100 AFCC A, Military Affiliate Radio System (MARS) Member Records, applies. This instruction does not apply to Air Force Reserve or National Guard units.

**SUMMARY OF REVISIONS**

Updates publication to incorporate new series number according to AFI37-160V6. The Air Force Publications and Forms Management programs--Numbering Publications (under revision for assignment of a new series number); updates references; changes command designations and office symbols throughout. Revised material is annotated by an asterisk (\*).

**\*1. General.** FCC Rule 97.61 authorizes amateur operations in the frequency band 420-450 MHz. The rule specifies that amateur stations will not cause interference to government radiolocation services. The rule further specifies that peak envelope power output of transmitter in the Amateur Radio Service will not exceed 50 watts in the following areas except when authorized by the FCC engineer-in-charge and the military area frequency coordinator (in this case, Headquarters, Air Force Space Command (AFSPC), Chief, Mission Systems Division (SCM)).

- 1.1. In Massachusetts within a 160-kilometer (km) (100-mile) radius of 4145N 07032W.
- 1.2. In California within a 240-km (150-mile) radius of 3908N 12126W.
- 1.3. In North Dakota within a 160-km (100-mile) radius of 4843N 09754W.
- 1.4. In Texas within a 200-km (124-mile) radius of 3058N 10033W. **NOTE:** Radar sites at Eglin AFB and Robins AFB are protected by the DoD Area Frequency Coordinator at Eglin AFB FL. Clear AFB is similarly protected by the DoD Area Frequency Coordinator Alaska at Elmendorf AFB AK.

**\*2. Waiver Requests.** Send requests for waiver to HQ AFSPC/SCM and include as a minimum:

- 2.1. Requester's name, FCC call sign, and address.

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USAF Frequency Management Agency, Arlington VA 22203-1613.....1)

- 2.1. Phone number for contact during requester's operations.
- 2.2. Antenna coordinates (to the nearest minute).
- 2.3. Intended power in watts for operation.
- 2.4. Type of service class.
- 2.5. Other information that could have an impact on AFSPC operations in the area.

### **3. Responsibilities:**

#### **\*3.1. HQ AFSPC, Mission Systems Division(SCM):**

- 3.1.1. Acts as point of contact for all FCC waivers to Rule 97.61(b)(7).
- 3.1.2. Maintains a copy of FCC Rule 97.61(b)(7).
- 3.1.3. Maintains and keeps current a log of all waivers granted. This log is updated periodically (at least annually). Sends copies to coordinating offices. Verifies requester data at least biannually.
- 3.1.4. Reviews waiver requests for required information. No request can be approved without the above minimum information (Paragraph 2) provided by the requester.
- 3.1.5. Plots the requester's antenna location and determines effects of intended operations on AFSPC operations.
- 3.1.6. Sends a letter (to include the requester's data and limitations and or restrictions to be imposed for waiver requests being recommended for approval or disapproval) for coordination to:
  - \*3.1.6.1. HQ AFSPC/DOC/DOMW.
  - \*3.1.6.2. 21 OG/CC.
  - 3.1.6.3. USSPACECOM/J60.
- 3.1.7. Acts on recommendations provided by coordinating offices. If additional information (such as antenna type or gain, beamwidth, orientation, and so forth) is needed to complete waiver action, contacts the FCC and requester. Waivers are only granted with the concurrences of all offices listed above.
- 3.1.8. If waiver is approved:
  - 3.1.8.1. Sends a copy of waiver approval, including limitations and or restriction, if any, to the FCC engineer-in-charge to the affected district.
  - 3.1.8.2. Sends copies of the approval and requester information to the concurring offices, the appropriate AFSPC sensor site, and communications unit in the area of responsibility where the waiver has been granted. Attaches AF Form 74, Communications Status Notice/Request, to verify receipt of information.
- 3.1.9. Helps resolve conflicts in operations between AFSPC users and holders of waivers. Direct contact with the holder of waiver is authorized.

3.1.9.1. Requests amateur operational logs if needed.

3.1.9.2. Helps coordinate tests and studies, as appropriate, to resolve conflicts of operation. HQ AFSPC, Director, Communications and Information, directs these activities.

3.1.9.3. Revokes waivers if conflicts in operation cannot be resolved. This is done if:

3.1.9.3.1. Conflicts in operation between AFSPC users and amateurs cannot be resolved by other feasible means.

3.1.9.3.2. A waiver holder does not maintain current operational data as listed in paragraph 2.

3.1.9.3.3. Determined necessary by HQ AFSPC, Communications and Information.

**\*3.2. HQ AFSPC Command and Control Systems (DOC), Force Enhancement Division (DOR), and 21st Space Wing Deputy Commander for Operations (21 SW/DO):**

3.2.1. Review requests for waivers and determine impact to AFSPC operations.

\*3.2.2. Send comments to HQ AFSPC/SCM, 150 Vandenberg Street, Suite 1105, Peterson AFB CO 80914-4400. These may be requests for more information, concurrence or nonconcurrence of waiver, or limitations and or restrictions required for approval.

3.2.3. If disapproval is recommended, include specific reasons why the requester cannot operate. If restrictions or limitations imposed on the amateur user will allow operation, include specific limitations and restrictions to be imposed.

3.2.4. Return AF Form 74 within 7 days of receipt of waiver approval notice to verify that information was received.

\*3.2.5. Contact HQ AFSPC, Mission Systems Division (SCM), if a conflict in operations exists between an amateur and AFSPC users.

**3.3. Operating Unit:**

3.3.1 Maintain a list of waiver holders in their area of responsibility.

\*3.3.2. Document and attempt to resolve any conflicts in operation at the user level. Advise HQ AFSPC, Command and Control Division (DOC), Force Enhancement Division (DOR), and Mission Systems Division (SCM); 21st Space Wing Deputy Commander for Operations (21 SW/DO); and USSPACECOM Deputy Director for Command and Control Systems Operational Support (J60) of actions taken to resolve conflicts in operation.

\*3.3.3. Notify HQ AFSPC, Mission Systems Division (SCM), if contact with an amateur operator cannot be made.

3.3.4. File spectrum interference reports according to AFI10-707, Spectrum Interference Resolution Program.

3.3.5. Return AF Form 74 within 7 days of receipt of waiver approval notice to verify that information was received.

**4. Amateur Operations.** In specific geographical areas, AFSPC operations have priority in selected portions of the radio frequency spectrum. However, every opportunity should be made to allow amateur operations in these areas if there will be no detrimental effects to AFSPC operations.

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