SECNAV INSTRUCTION 5710.33

From: Secretary of the Navy

Subj: COMPLIANCE WITH INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION RADIO REGULATIONS

Ref: (a) International Telecommunication Union Radio Regulations, as amended
     (b) Constitution and Convention of the International Telecommunication Union, as amended
     (c) 47 CFR 300
     (d) SECNAVINST 2400.1B
     (e) SECNAVINST 2400.3

Encl: (1) Responsibilities
     (2) Definitions

1. **Purpose.**

   a. To establish guidance regarding Department of the Navy (DON) compliance with the International Telecommunication Union Radio Regulations (ITU RR), an international treaty governing the global use of the radio-frequency spectrum, per references (a) through (e). Repetition of selected sections of references (a) through (e) clarify the need for compliance with ITU RR while operating outside of CONUS.

   b. To define DON roles and responsibilities (see enclosure (1)) regarding compliance with ITU RR and participation in ITU activities.

2. **Definitions.** Terms used in this instruction are defined in enclosure (2) and in references (a) through (c).

3. **Applicability.** This instruction applies to the Offices of the Secretary of the Navy (SECNAV), the Chief of Naval Operations (CNO), the Commandant of the Marine Corps (CMC), and all U.S. Navy and U.S. Marine Corps installations, commands, activities, field offices, and all other organizational entities within the DON.
4. **Background.**

   a. The ITU RR (reference (a)) defines the allocation of different frequency bands to different radio services and the mandatory technical parameters to be observed by radio stations. It also delineates procedures for the coordination (ensuring technical compatibility) and notification of frequency assignments made to radio stations by national governments, as well as other procedures and operational provisions. The drafting, revision, and adoption of the ITU RR is the responsibility of the ITU World Radiocommunication Conferences (WRCs), which typically meet every three or four years. The United States is one of 193 Member States of the ITU.

   b. The DON is globally engaged with various multinational organizations to accommodate the international presence of our naval forces and to ensure the availability of spectrum resources. Internationally, several organizations impact spectrum availability, including the ITU Radiocommunication (ITU-R) Sector. Effective engagement in the international spectrum regulatory environment such as ITU RR is critical to the DON’s ability to meet mission requirements around the world.

5. **Policy.** It is DON policy that:

   a. So far as possible, the DON shall comply with all provisions of the ITU RR while also complying with Federal and Department of Defense (DoD) policy and guidance regarding international allocation of the Electromagnetic Spectrum (EMS).

   b. The DON shall proactively inform and shape ITU RR to protect existing DON global EMS capabilities and operations while accommodating and promoting the introduction of new, agile, and more flexible Spectrum-Dependent Systems (SDS) within a dynamic EMS operating environment.

   c. International allocation for use of the EMS is obtained through the proceedings of the ITU-R and other international bodies responsible for frequency allocations, EMS management, and international telecommunications standards.

6. **Responsibilities.** See enclosure (1).
7. Records Management.

   a. Records created as a result of this instruction, regardless of format or media, must be maintained and dispositioned according to the records disposition schedules found on the Directives and Records Management Division (DRMD) portal page: https://portal.secnav.navy.mil/orgs/DUSNM/DONAA/DRM/SitePages/Home.aspx.

   b. For questions concerning the management of records related to this instruction or the records disposition schedules, please contact your local Records Manager or the DRMD program office.

THOMAS B. MODLY  
Under Secretary of the Navy

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RESPONSIBILITIES

1. The Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Research, Development and Acquisition) (ASN (RD&A)), as the advocate for EMS on behalf of DON Research, Development, and Acquisition and as the Service Acquisition Executive, shall:

   a. Ensure that acquisition programs for SDS and equipment adhere to ITU RR.

   b. In coordination with the DON OCIO, CNO, and CMC, pursue acceptable resolution/mitigation if potential ITU RR conflicts are identified for new SDS, e.g., in Spectrum Supportability Risk Assessments (SSRAs), to ensure sufficient spectrum access throughout the system’s lifecycle.

2. The DON Chief Information Officer (CIO), as the principal advisor to SECNAV for management and use of the EMS, is responsible for ITU RR compliance within the DON, and shall:

   a. Provide direction and guidance relative to specific EMS mandates required by ITU RR.

   b. In coordination with DoD CIO, support WRC preparatory processes to represent SECNAV interests regarding WRC activities, including ITU RR.

   c. Represent the DON in and/or designate representatives to ITU RR related bodies, committees, and forums to represent the DON’s interests, advocate for and protect existing DON EMS capabilities and operations, and present the DON’s positions in such gatherings and associated negotiations.

   d. Proactively inform and shape ITU RR to protect existing DON global EMS capabilities and operations while accommodating expansion within a dynamic operating environment.

   (1) With input from ASN (RD&A), CNO, and CMC, address potential conflicts between ITU RR and existing SDS operational characteristics and capabilities.

   (2) In coordination with ASN (RD&A), CNO, and CMC, address potential ITU RR conflicts with new conceptual,
experimental, and developmental SDS, e.g., as identified in SSRAs.

e. Advise the Secretary of State on ITU RR, via the United States International Telecommunication Advisory Committee, to protect and enhance the DON’s capabilities.

f. Leverage U.S. Navy and U.S. Marine Corps Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) to support the DON’s efforts in international forums, working groups, and other ITU RR related activities.

3. The CNO and the CMC, as the primary advocates for EMS management and use on behalf of Service operational issues, shall provide SMEs to:

a. Support the DON in ITU RR related forums that address global EMS issues impacting mission support.

b. Provide expertise to inform and shape ITU RR to protect existing DON global EMS capabilities and operations while accommodating expansion within a dynamic operating environment.

c. In coordination with ASN (RD&A) and DON CIO, support resolution of potential operational conflicts between ITU RR and existing and/or new SDS.

4. The Navy and Marine Corps Spectrum Center, as the DON’s Spectrum Management Office supporting Navy and Marine Corps use of the EMS, shall support the DON’s ITU RR efforts as requested, including those associated with the Interdepartment Radio Advisory Committee (IRAC) and its subcommittees.
DEFINITIONS

1. **IRAC.** The IRAC assists in assigning frequencies to U.S. Government radio stations and in developing and executing policies, programs, procedures, and technical criteria pertaining to the allocation, management, and use of the EMS. The basic role of the representatives appointed to serve on the IRAC is to function, when in Committee, in the interest of the United States as a whole.

2. **ITU.** The ITU is the United Nations’ specialized agency for Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs). The ITU allocates global radio spectrum and satellite orbits, develops the technical standards that ensure networks and technologies seamlessly interconnect, and strives to improve access to ICTs to underserved communities worldwide. The ITU has three main areas of activity organized in ‘Sectors’ that work through conferences and meetings: ITU-R, Standardization, and Development. The Constitution and Convention of ITU is the basic treaty that establishes the legal basis for the ITU and defines its purpose and structure.

3. **ITU-R.** The mission of the ITU-R Sector is, among other duties, to ensure rational, equitable, efficient, and economical use of the radio-frequency spectrum by all radiocommunication services, including those using satellite orbits, and to carry out studies and adopt recommendations on radiocommunication matters.

4. **RR.** The RR treaty is the international treaty governing the use of the radio-frequency spectrum and the geostationary-satellite and non-geostationary-satellite orbits. It incorporates the decisions of the WRCs, including all Appendices, Resolutions, Recommendations, and ITU-R Recommendations incorporated by reference.

5. **WRC.** World Radiocommunication Conferences are held every three to four years. Under the terms of the ITU Constitution, a WRC can, among other duties, review and if necessary revise the RR and any associated Frequency assignment and allotment plans, and address any radiocommunication matter of worldwide character.