



# UNCLASSIFIED CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF MANUAL

J-6

DISTRIBUTION: A, B, C

CJCSM 6235.01

21 April 2025

## LINK 16 SPECTRUM OPERATIONS FOR TEST AND EVALUATION

### References:

See Enclosure C

1. Purpose. In accordance with (IAW) section 228 of reference (a), this manual establishes a standardized process—referred to as the “Quick Turn Test Request” (QTTR)—to allow Link 16 waveform use within pre-coordinated and approved Special Activity Airspace (SAA) for the purpose of testing Link 16 radio systems and associated software that have not completed Electromagnetic Compatibility Features (EMCF) certification.
2. Superseded/Cancellation. None. This is a new manual.
3. Applicability. All Department of Defense (DoD) and Federally Funded Research and Development Center (FFRDC) contractors and industry Link 16 users in the National Airspace System (NAS) executing on behalf of a DoD customer or event.
4. Procedures. See Enclosure B
5. Summary of Changes. None. This is a new issuance.
6. Releasability. UNRESTRICTED. This directive is approved for public release; distribution is unlimited on the Non-classified Internet Protocol Router Network. DoD Components (to include the Combatant Commands), other Federal agencies, and the public may obtain copies of this directive through the Internet from the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff (CJCS) Directives Electronic Library at <<http://www.jcs.mil/library>>. Joint Staff activities may also obtain access via the SECRET Internet Protocol Router Network Directives Electronic Library web sites.

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7. Effective Date. This MANUAL is effective upon signature.

For the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephen E. Liszewski".

STEPHEN E. LISZEWSKI, MajGen, USMC  
Vice Director, Joint Staff

## Enclosures

- A – General Information
- B – Procedures
- C – References

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## ENCLOSURE A

### GENERAL INFORMATION

1. The Secretary of Defense, by authority granted in section 228 of reference (a), tasked the Joint Staff to produce this manual to establish procedures for Link 16 users executing operations for test and evaluation. This manual applies to all DoD and FFRDC contractors, as well as industry Link 16 users conducting development, testing, and evaluation on behalf of DoD clients. These procedures authorize use of the Link 16 waveform provided that:

a. The use of this authority and process is intended for small-scale developmental and operational test events for Link 16 systems and associated software that have not completed EMCF certification. Link 16 operations that do not fall within the above intended use are prohibited.

b. The Navy & Marine Corps Spectrum Center (NMSC) will submit the QTTR to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) on behalf of the requesting party and will ensure that deconfliction with Global Positioning System (GPS) electromagnetic attack (EA) events is complete prior to submittal. Pre-approved U.S. Strategic Command GPS EA events coordinated via reference (f) will have scheduling priority over Link 16 test events utilizing this authority and will be deconflicted via time or geography.

c. All requests must be IAW reference (c), to include, but not limited to, adherence to Link Pulse Deconfliction Server (LPDS) entry requirements, Time Slot Duty Factor (TSDF), and Full Protect Mode limitations.

d. All requests will be limited to U.S. manufactured terminals only. Foreign terminal integration (e.g., EuroMIDS MIDS-LVT) requirements must submit request via traditional Temporary Frequency Authorization (TFA) procedures.

2. The authority granted by reference (a) and the procedures outlined in this manual are limited to Link 16 test use only and will not be construed as authorizing routine operational use of Link 16 systems that have not completed EMCF certification and obtained a National Telecommunications and Information Administration Stage 4 spectrum certification approval.

3. Link 16 operations IAW paragraph 1.a. conducted under the authority of this manual will be terminated immediately upon receipt of notice that harmful interference is being caused to the NAS via cease buzzer notifications from the

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applicable Military Range Control (MRC)/Military Range Unit (MRU) and/or DoD Air Traffic Control (ATC) facilities.

4. Locations. The testing of Link 16 systems may only occur in sites specified in reference (d) and follow-on memos coordinated between the Joint Staff, DoD Chief Information Officer, and FAA to meet mission-specific needs of the DoD.

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## ENCLOSURE B

### PROCEDURES

1. Link 16 operations IAW paragraph 1.a. of Enclosure A will only occur within pre-coordinated locations as delineated in reference (d) and any subsequent memos coordinated between the Joint Staff and FAA.

2. The following template will be sent to NMSC <nmsc-link\_16@us.navy.mil> with a courtesy copy to the appropriate service spectrum management office.

a. Test Period Requested: Up to 30 days.

b. Operating Location: From the approved locations list.

(1) City/State:

(2) DoD Range/Airspace: Joint Tactical Information Distribution System Operating Area(s)/Single Point Location(s).

(3) FAA Special Activity Airspace:

Note: Latitude/longitude for ground locations must match the current format in LPDS.

c. Equipment:

(1) Configuration: Platform name(s) and associated Link 16 hardware/software.

(2) EMCF Validation status:

(3) Number of Platforms: If the number of platforms cannot be identified for operational security (OPSEC) reasons, provide the total TSDF contribution for those platforms.

d. Maximum TSDF per platform/overall event TSDF:

e. Maximum output power per terminal:

f. Aircraft co-site: For new or modified aircraft or aircraft carrying net-enabled weapons.

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g. LPDS Name/Serial Number(s):

(1) LPDS Event Name or Serial ID. Note: The nomenclature that starts with “NMSCXXX” is not required.

(2) Required only if forecast event times are known at time of submission.

h. Contact Information:

(1) DoD Cease Buzzer/MRC/MRU/DoD ATC Facility: Name and phone number.

(2) Primary Test POC: Name and phone number.

(3) Alternate Test POC: Name and phone number.

i. Operational Summary: Description of planned testing, excluding information that would compromise OPSEC.

3. To allow for review and coordination, requests must be submitted to NMSC 15 workdays prior to the need date. Upon submission, NMSC will have 10 workdays to process and submit to the FAA for concurrence. The FAA, for requests meeting the requirements set forth in this document, will process the request in 5 workdays or less. Submissions with missing or incorrect data will not be processed in these timeframes.

a. If a renewal is required for test operations exceeding the original 30-day request, submission to NMSC may be limited to the new test period requested and LPDS name/serial number(s) as required. Requester will deliver to NMSC not later than (NLT) 10 working days prior to expiration. Deconfliction with GPS EA events is required, as well as a new QTTR reference number.

b. If a renewal is requested with modifications to the parameters (e.g. airspace and/or Link 16 equipment), a new QTTR request will be submitted IAW new submission timelines.

4. Link Pulse Deconfliction Server

a. Entries are encouraged to be entered as early as possible to ensure TSDF deconfliction and, when necessary, time for deconfliction efforts between entries.

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b. LPDS entries are not required for the entirety of the test period upon QTTR submission due to extenuating circumstances that impact the ability to forecast test dates.

c. LPDS entries will be made NLT 24 hours prior to the start of a test event.

d. Events must comply with limits and restrictions stipulated in reference (c).

## 5. Notification Requirements Before Testing

a. Daily or weekly schedule notifications will be sent via the MRC, MRU, or DoD ATC Facility to the Air Route Traffic Control Center (ARTCC) to ensure proper ATC notification of uncertified Link 16 activity. If testing events are not expected the following week, the notification will include such in the subject line or body of the message.

b. Daily (24 hours prior) or weekly notifications (Friday prior) will be sent to FAA and NMSC to <9-FAA-DOD-L16@faa.gov> and <NMSC-LINK\_16@us.navy.mil> with the following information:

(1) QTTR reference number.

(2) LPDS event name/LPDS serial number(s).

(3) Dates and times.

Note: Weekly notifications sent the week prior are preferred and more expedient.

## 6. Notification Requirements After Testing

a. Upon completion of each day's test event(s), provide a post-test e-mail within 24 hours to the FAA by replying all on the prior Spectrum notification e-mail and changing the subject line to "Testing complete for QTTR YY-MM-####." Notifications will include:

(1) Actual Link 16 on/off times and number/type of platforms operated.

(2) Actual TSDF used (if TSDF monitors utilized).

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7. For larger events involving terminals lacking EMCF certification (e.g., large force exercises), submit a TFA IAW reference (c). The TFA being submitted must comply with QTTR restrictions (e.g., airspace and GPS EA event deconfliction) IAW reference (d).
8. NMSC will process QTTRs IAW Joint Staff Directorate for Command, Control, Communications, and Computers/Cyber, J-6 TFA submission priorities (reference (e)). NOTE: Significant research, development, or evaluation events are priority six.
9. In the event the local ARTCC receives reports of navigational anomalies, the specified MRC/MRU and/or DoD ATC facility will be contacted at the phone number provided to transmit "Cease Link 16 Activities" to the DoD entity conducting testing. At this point, Link 16 operations will terminate.

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## ENCLOSURE C

### REFERENCES

- a. *National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024*
- b. FAA Pilot/Controller Glossary, March 2024
- c. CJCSI 6232.01F, 12 January 2023, "Link-16 Spectrum Operations and Deconfliction"
- d. FAA memo SPS-27209/1, 19 December 2024, "Link 16 Quick Turn Test Request (QTTR) Process for Developmental Testing"
- e. Joint Staff J-6 memo, undated, "Link 16 Temporary Frequency Assignment (TFA) Submission Priorities"
- f. CJCSM 3212.03B, 7 February 2024, "Performing Tests, Training, and Exercises Impacting the Global Positioning System"

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## GLOSSARY

### PART I – ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

*Items marked with an asterisk (\*) have definitions in PART II*

|        |   |
|--------|---|
| ARTCC* | Air Route Traffic Control Center                  |
| CJCS   | Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff             |
| CJCSI  | Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Instruction |
| CJCSM  | Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Manual      |
| DoD    | Department of Defense                             |
| EA     | electromagnetic attack                            |
| EMCF   | Electromagnetic Compatibility Features            |
| FAA    | Federal Aviation Administration                   |
| FFRDC  | Federally Funded Research and Development Center  |
| GPS    | Global Positioning System                         |
| IAW    | in accordance with                                |
| LPDS   | Link Pulse Deconfliction Server                   |
| LVT    | Low Volume Terminal                               |
| MIDS   | Multifunctional Information Distribution System   |
| MRC    | Military Range Control                            |
| MRU    | Military Range Unit                               |
| NAS    | National Airspace System                          |
| NEW    | Net Enabled Weapon                                |
| NMSC   | Navy & Marine Corps Spectrum Center               |
| QTTR   | Quick Turn Test Request                           |
| SAA*   | Special Activity Airspace                         |
| SPS    | Spectrum Planning Subcommittee                    |
| TFA    | Temporary Frequency Authorization                 |
| TSDF   | Time Slot Duty Factor                             |

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## PART II – DEFINITIONS

Air Route Traffic Control Center. Centers established primarily to provide air traffic service to aircraft operating on Instrument Flight Rules flight plans within controlled airspace, and principally during the enroute phase of flight.

Special Activity Airspace. Airspace with defined dimensions within the National Airspace System wherein limitations may be imposed upon operations for national defense, homeland security, public interest, or public safety. Special Activity Airspace includes, but is not limited to: Air Traffic Control Assigned Airspace, Altitude Reservations, Military Training Routes, Air Refueling Tracks and Anchors, Temporary Flight Restrictions, Special Security Instructions. Special Use Airspace is a subset of Special Activity Airspace.

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