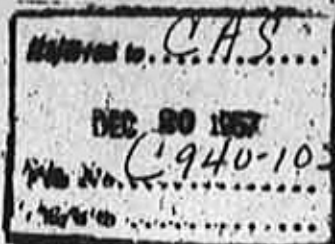


NORTH AMERICAN AIR DEFENSE COMMAND  
CENT AIR FORCE BASE  
COLORADO SPRINGS, COLORADO

OFFICE OF THE  
DEPUTY COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF

13 December, 1957.

Chief of the Air Staff,  
Air Force Headquarters,  
Ottawa, Ontario,  
Canada.



Standardized Canadian-United States Communications  
Instructions for Reporting Vital Intelligence  
Sightings (CIRVIS/MERINT)

1 On 4 Dec 56 the Canada-United States Joint Communications Electronics Committee (Can-US JCEC) approved a paper containing the Standardized Canadian-United States Communications Instructions for Reporting Vital Intelligence Sightings (CIRVIS/MERINT). Concurrence has now been obtained from all agencies concerned with the exception of the Department of External Affairs. External Affairs recently replied to a letter of inquiry from the Can-US JCEC stating that the document is under active consideration. It has been suggested by USAF Headquarters, and NORAD concurs, that a further inquiry from the Chairman Chiefs of Staff Committee might have the effect of expediting action on this important subject.

2 Attached is a draft letter to the Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs. It is requested that the necessary arrangements be made to have a letter, along the lines of this draft, forwarded to the Department of External Affairs through the Chairman Chiefs of Staff Committee.

② Cont.

W. J. ...  
Att.

*C. R. Slemmon*

C. R. SLEMON  
Air Marshal, RCAF  
Deputy Commander-in-Chief

③ Cops. W. J.

I believe this is  
yours for action. My  
apologies for the delay  
in passing to you. However it  
is due to my two talks over this ...  
15 Dec

RESUME

ON

CIRVIS/MERINT

COMMUNICATIONS INSTRUCTIONS FOR REPORTING

VITAL INTELLIGENCE SIGHTINGS

1 CIRVIS/MERINT instructions lay down procedures for reporting information on vital intelligence sightings, viz:

Hostile or unidentified aircraft

Missiles

Unidentified flying objects

Hostile or unidentified submarines, surface vessels, etc.

by

Aircraft

Naval, merchant and fishing vessels

Other "land based, airborne or waterborne" observers, etc.

Unless they are operating under separate reporting directives, ie, it is primarily for civilian use but can be used by the military on occasions when the use of their own procedures is impractical.

Appropriate military authorities.

BACKGROUND

2 Military Cooperation Committee - CIRVIS was originally prescribed in the US Joint Army Navy Air Force Publication, JANAP 146, and covered sightings from aircraft only. The US Joint Chiefs of Staff directed the US Section, Military Cooperation Committee to propose a combined Canadian/US procedure. This was done at the MCC meeting held 14-19 Feb, when it was proposed that:

- (a) <sup>1954</sup> A combined Canada United States procedure be developed, and
- (b) JANAP 146, issue B dated Sep 1951 be approved for use until a combined plan could be developed.

MERINT Procedures, (no translation given in the file) were incorporated Sep 56 and cover procedures for "Waterborne" observers.

3 REVIS - <sup>CIRVIS</sup> This proposal coincided with the Joint Intelligence Committee's decision to suspend action on a Canadian plan sponsored by RCAF DAI, which had similar objectives: "Reporting of Vital Intelligence Sightings" (REVIS).

(3) CAS/EA

- 1. A/CAS has cleared the attached letter to C.Os.
- 2. An interview copy and a note sent to AM station - see two folders hereunder.

32445  
 658A s.f.a.58  
 s.f.a.58  
 (2-4318)

(2)  
 V.C.A.S.  
 I find that this problem has in the past been dealt with largely by agencies of the C.O.S. I have therefore proposed a letter to him asking him to action normal letter  
 W.L.  
 3.2.58

4 Joint Telecommunications Committee - The Joint Telecommunications Committee was assigned the task of developing a combined CIRVIS plan in conjunction with the US Joint Communications and Electronics Committee "as a matter of priority". Ref CSC: 1124.2 (JPC) 15 Mar 54.

5 Department of External Affairs - JANAP 146B contained many references to US agencies and procedures and was considered unsuitable as a Canadian instruction. It was agreed therefore to draw up a new instruction. Later, this decision was changed and it was agreed to revise the latest issue of JANAP 146, issue C dated March 1954. In the meantime, the US sought permission for US aircraft in flight over Canadian territory, to report sightings direct to US ground stations. This was granted provided that it was impractical to pass the report to an RCAF Station or radar. Reference Department of External Affairs Note No. D 189 dated 20 July 1954.

6 Department of Transport - Despite repeated queries by MCC for progress reports and reiteration that the matter was important a considerable time elapsed during which details of the procedure were hammered out. The Department of Transport jibed at certain procedures such as use of PAN as a prefix to radio reports, and reluctantly approved in principle 28 May 56. A formal protest was submitted by DOT 19 Jun. The US disagreed and Secretary JTC observed that "the US position is not understood as, since these are international procedures, they do not fall wholly under the control of the US military." The USN, RCN and USCG (Coastguard) also objected to the use of PAN but accepted its use in the interests of continental defence. Can JCEC(W) 27 July 56. It is implied that the DOT objection was overruled.

7 Publication Problem - Arrangements for a supply of copies of the amended procedure, JANAP 146(D) commenced in July 56. Normally this series of publications is reserved for US National use only. Although not recorded the RCAF Member on the Telecom Procedures Sub Committee of the JTC advises that another publication series ACP 146 which does not suffer from this disadvantage will be used. The decision is of recent date, ie, late 1957.

8 Denmark and Iceland - US State Department has obtained permission from the Danish government for CIRVIS Procedures to be carried out by US aircraft flying over Greenland; a similar agreement was reached with the Icelandic government.

9 Government Departments and Agencies - The following Government Agencies have been involved:

(a) Canadian agreement for US reports over Canada (para 5)

DND, COSC and Minister

DOT Deputy Minister

Department of External Affairs

(b) Telecom Procedures - use of PAN, SECURITE etc

DND

DOT

10 DND Committees The following DND Committees have been involved:

Chiefs of Staff

Can Sec Military Cooperation Committee

Joint Intelligence Committee

Joint Telecom Committee - the Committee charged with the development of combined CIRVIS/MERINT Procedure.

Joint Planning Committee

11 Personnel Currently Involved - The following personnel are actively involved at the present time:

(a) Department of External Affairs: Mr EP Black 2:0552

(b) Joint Telecommunications Committee:  
L/Comdr GA Hoyte 2:5130

(c) Methods and Procedures Sub Committee, RCAF  
Member: CTel/DCom/Com2-3 F/L LJ Drake 2:3670

12 Present Status

The outstanding item and apparently the last obstacle to publication of CIRVIS/MERINT is the use of External Affairs communications facilities. External has asked for detailed information:

(a) A list of missions to whom the instructions to accept CIRVIS/MERINT reports and forward them are to be sent.

(b) A sample of the sort of instruction these missions should receive, and

(c) Clarification of the credentials of persons who make CIRVIS/MERINT reports.

Two External letters, one reply from JTC and one enquiry from JTC to CJTEC (W) as yet unanswered, have dealt with this matter. The first External Affairs letter was received in June 57.

13 Recommendations

It is recommended that the Chairman COSC, be asked to approve an interim reply to the Deputy Commander NORAD, draft attached, and an expedite to the Chairman JTC, draft attached.

*Handwritten notes:*  
Schwartz  
24/2/68 Nicos 312658

## CIRVIS-MERINT REPORTING PROCEDURE

### 1. MESSAGE IDENTIFICATION

- (a) Reports made from airborne and land-based sources will be identified by **CIRVIS** (pronounced SUR-VEES) as the first word of the text.
- (b) Reports made by waterborne sources will be identified by **MERINT** (pronounced MUR-ENT) as the first word of the text.

### 2. WHAT TO REPORT

Report immediately all airborne and waterborne objects which appear to be **HOSTILE**, are **UNIDENTIFIED** or are acting suspiciously.

Submarines,  
surfaced or partly  
submerged.



Surface warships positively  
identified as not Canadian  
or U.S. Other ships or  
boats acting sus-  
piciously.



Aircraft or vapour trails which  
appear to be directed against  
Canada, the United States,  
their territories or  
possessions.



Guided  
Missiles



Unidentified Flying  
Objects or uniden-  
tified objects in  
the water.

### 3. SEND TO ANY

Canadian Military Establishment,  
RCMP Post,  
Department of Transport or Fisheries Representative,  
Hudson's Bay Company Northern Radio-Equipped Store, or  
The nearest open Canadian Telegraph Office. (By telephone if necessary.)

*Use the quickest possible means to make your report.*

### 4. SEND THIS KIND OF MESSAGE

- (a) Begin your message with the word "CIRVIS" or "MERINT" as applicable.
- (b) Give the identification of the observer, aircraft or vessel making the report.
- (c) Describe briefly the objects sighted.
- (d) Indicate where and when the objects were sighted.
- (e) If objects are airborne, estimate altitude as "low", "medium", "high".
- (f) Give direction of travel of sighted objects.
- (g) Estimate and give speed of sighted objects.
- (h) Give other significant information.

### 5. SEND IMMEDIATELY

**DO NOT DELAY YOUR REPORT DUE TO INCOMPLETE INFORMATION.**

#### NOTE

*There are no charges to the originator in the handling of CIRVIS or MERINT messages.*