

CHAPTER I

GENERAL DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE OF COMMUNICATION  
INSTRUCTIONS FOR REPORTING  
VITAL INTELLIGENCE SIGHTINGS

101. PURPOSE

The purpose of this publication is to provide uniform instructions for reporting of vital intelligence sightings and to provide communication instructions for the passing of these intelligence reports to appropriate military authorities.

102. SCOPE

a. This publication is limited to the reporting of information of vital importance to the security of the United States of America and Canada and their forces, which in the opinion of the observer, requires prompt defensive and/or investigative action by the US and/or Canadian Armed Forces.

b. The procedures contained in this publication are provided for:

- (1) US and Canadian civil and commercial aircraft.
- (2) US and Canadian government and military aircraft other than those operating under separate reporting directives.
- (3) US and Canadian merchant vessels operating under US and Canadian registry.
- (4) US and Canadian government and military vessels other than those operating under separate reporting directives.
- (5) All other US and Canadian vessels including fishing vessels.
- (6) Military installations receiving reports from civilian or military land based or waterborne observers unless operating under separate reporting directives.

102 b. (Continued)

(7) Government and civilian agencies in outlying districts which may initiate reports on receipt of information from land-based observers.

103 MESSAGE IDENTIFICATION

a. Reports made from airborne and landbased sources will be identified by CIRVIS as the first word of the text. (Refer Chapter II)

b. Reports made by waterborne sources will be identified by MERINT as the first word of the text. (Refer Chapters III and IV)

1-2

UNCLASSIFIED

-2-

Enclosure "A"

CHAPTER 11

CIRVIS REPORTS

SECTION I - GENERAL

201 INFORMATION TO BE REPORTED AND WHEN TO REPORT

a. Sightings within the scope of this chapter, as outlined in Article 102b(1), (2), (6) and (7), are to be reported as follows:

(1) While airborne (except over foreign territory - see paragraph 210) and from land based observers.

NOTE: Canada and the United States are not considered foreign territory for either country for the purposes of this publication.

(a) Single aircraft or formations of aircraft which appear to be directed against the United States or Canada or their forces.

(b) Missiles.

(c) Unidentified flying objects.

(d) Hostile or unidentified submarines.

(e) Hostile or unidentified group or groups of military surface vessels.

(f) Individual surface vessels, submarines, or aircraft of unconventional design, or engaged in suspicious activity or observed in an unusual location or following an unusual course.

(g) Unlisted airfields or facilities, weather stations, or air navigation aids.

(h) Any unexplained or unusual activity which may indicate a possible attack against or through Canada or the United States, including the presence of any unidentified or other suspicious ground parties in the Polar region or other remote or sparsely populated areas.

2-1

UNCLASSIFIED

-3-

Enclosure "A"

UNCLASSIFIED

201. a. (2) Upon landing

- (a) Reports which for any reason could not be transmitted while airborne.
- (b) Post-landing reports.

SECTION II - PROCEDURES

202 GENERAL

Communications procedures to be employed will be basically those prescribed for the communications system or service used. Continuing efforts will be made by an aircraft originating a CIRVIS report to insure that each CIRVIS message is received by an appropriate station.

203 PRECEDENCE (PRIORITY OF TRANSMISSION)

Transmission of CIRVIS reports will be preceded by or include the international "Urgency" signal, military precedence of "Emergency", "Rapid US Government", or Canadian "Rush", as appropriate for the communications facilities employed.

EXAMPLE

International Urgency Signal      XXX XXX XXX or PAN PAN PAN

Military Precedence                Y or Emergency

Commercial class of Service Indicator    RAPID US GOVT or RUSH

204 CONTENTS OF CIRVIS REPORTS

a. CIRVIS reports will be similar to a routine aircraft position reports transmitted by either radiotelephone or radiotelegraph. The appropriate procedures to be employed will be those applicable to communications facilities utilized. For the purpose of these examples, military procedures are shown. The reports should contain the following information in the order listed:

- (1) CIRVIS REPORT
- (2) Identification of reporting aircraft or observer as appropriate.

204 a. (Continued)

- (3) Object sighted. Give brief description of the sighting which should contain the following items as appropriate:
  - (a) Number of aircraft, vessels, missiles, submarines, etc.
  - (b) Category of object, general description, e.g., size, shape, type of propulsion, etc.
- (4) The position of the object. This can be indicated by any of the following methods:
  - (a) Latitude and longitude.
  - (b) Over a radio fix.
  - (c) True bearing and distance from a radio fix.
  - (d) Over a well-known or well-defined geographic point.
  - (e) True bearing and distance from a geographic point.
- (5) Date and time of sighting (GMT).
- (6) Altitude of object.
- (7) Direction of travel of object.
- (8) Speed of object.
- (9) Any observed identification, insignia, or other significant information. Every reasonable effort should be made to positively identify the object sighted.

Example of a radiotelephone transmission:

(Aircraft) PAN PAN PAN - KINDLEY THIS IS AIR FORCE TWO FIVE NINE  
THREE - CIRVIS REPORT - OVER

(Aeronautical  
Station) AIR FORCE TWO FIVE NINE THREE THIS IS KINDLEY - GO  
AHEAD

2-3

UNCLASSIFIED

-5-

Enclosure "A"

UNCLASSIFIED

(Aircraft) EMERGENCY - CIRVIS REPORT - AIR FORCE TWO FIVE NINE  
THREE SIGHTED FORMATION OF SIX JET BOMBERS - CONFIG-  
URATION IS SWEEP WING WITH EIGHT JET ENGINES - TWO  
HUNDRED MILES EAST OF BERMUDA ON THIRTEEN MAY AT ONE  
THREE FIVE ZERO ZEBRA - ALTITUDE THREE FIVE THOUSAND -  
HEADING TWO SEVEN ZERO DEGREES - NO MARKINGS OBSERVED -  
OVER

(Aeronautical  
Station) KINDLEY - ROGER - OUT

Example of a radiotelegraph transmission:

(Aircraft) XXX XXX XXX AFA3 DE A4820

(Aeronautical  
Station) A4820 DE AFA3 K

(Aircraft) Y - CIRVIS REPORT. A4820 SIGHTED.....ETC.

(Aeronautical  
Station) A4820 DE AFA3 R AR

205 ADDITIONAL CIRVIS REPORTS

a. Additional reports should be made if more information be-  
comes available concerning a previously sighted object. These  
reports should contain a reference to the original report suffi-  
cient to identify them with the original sighting.

Example of a radiotelephone transmission:

(Aircraft) PAN PAN PAN - KINDLEY THIS IS AIR FORCE TWO FIVE NINE  
THREE - CIRVIS REPORT - OVER

(Aeronautical  
Station) AIR FORCE TWO FIVE NINE THREE - THIS IS KINDLEY GO  
AHEAD

(Aircraft) EMERGENCY - THE SIX JET BOMBERS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED  
AT ONE THREE FIVE ZERO ZEBRA BY AIR FORCE TWO FIVE  
NINE THREE ARE NOW ONE THREE ZERO MILES WEST OF  
BERMUDA AT ONE FOUR THREE FIVE ZEBRA - HEADING TWO  
SEVEN ZERO DEGREES - OVER

UNCLASSIFIED

(Aeronautical  
Station) KINDLEY - ROGER - OUT

Note: In radiotelegraph transmission, the same procedures would apply as prescribed in paragraph 204.

b. Cancellation reports should be made in the event a previously reported sighting is positively identified as friendly. Such reports should be transmitted as a brief message cancelling the previous report(s).

Example of a radiotelephone transmission:

(Aircraft) PAN PAN PAN - KINDLEY THIS IS AIR FORCE TWO FIVE NINE THREE - CIRVIS REPORT - OVER

(Aeronautical  
Station) AIR FORCE TWO FIVE NINE THREE THIS IS KINDLEY - GO AHEAD

(Aircraft) EMERGENCY - CANCEL CIRVIS REPORT OF ONE THREE FIVE ZERO ZEBRA BY AIR FORCE TWO FIVE NINE THREE - SIX JET BOMBERS POSITIVELY IDENTIFIED AS AIR FORCE BAKER FORTY SEVENS AT ONE FOUR FOUR SIX ZEBRA - OVER

(Aeronautical  
Station) KINDLEY - ROGER - OUT

Note: In radiotelegraph transmission, the same procedures would apply as prescribed in paragraph 204.

c. A post-landing report is desired immediately after landing to insure receipt of the original report(s) by CINCONAD or RCAF-ADC and to amplify the airborne report(s). This may be filed with either the military or civil communications facility located at the place of landing. If the landing is not made in Canadian or United States territory the report should be made to the nearest Canadian or United States military or diplomatic representative in that area. The post-landing report will refer to the airborne report(s) and, in addition, contain a brief resume of weather conditions at the time of sighting(s), verification of the sighting(s) by other personnel and any other information deemed appropriate.

(1) If no airborne report was made as a result of in-

UNCLASSIFIED

foreign territory (see paragraph 210), the post-landing report will contain all the information available concerning the sighting.

Example:

EMERGENCY US GOVT

TO: CINCONAD, ENT AFB, COLORADO SPRINGS, COLORADO.

CIRVIS. REFER 281350Z, 281435Z and 281446Z SEPTEMBER

1955 CONCERNING 6 JET BOMBERS TRAVELING DUE WEST OF

BERMUDA TOWARD EASTERN COAST OF THE UNITED STATES.

AIRCRAFT POSITIVELY IDENTIFIED AS USAF B-47 BY CREW AND

PASSENGERS. VISIBILITY UNLIMITED. IDENTIFICATION

VERIFIED AT 281457Z. SIGNED MOORE PAA CLIPPER 45V.

206 ADDRESSING

a. Aircraft. It is paramount that all CIRVIS reports reach the appropriate military commands as quickly as possible. The reports, therefore, shall be transmitted as soon as possible after the sighting. Ground procedures have been established to handle CIRVIS reports by either military or civil facilities, so the same procedures as those now established and in use by pilots for air traffic control shall be followed. When contact by civil or military pilots cannot be established with any ground communications station, efforts shall be made to relay the CIRVIS reports via other aircraft with which communication is possible.

(1) Post-landing reports should be addressed to CINCONAD, Ent AFB, Colorado Springs, Colorado, or RCAF Air Defense Command Headquarters, St. Hubert, Quebec, if the sighting occurred within or adjacent to the North American continent. Whichever of these headquarters receives the report will immediately notify the other and also all other addressees of the original report(s). If the sighting(s) occurred in other areas, the post-landing report should be made to the nearest US or Canadian military or diplomatic representative in that area who will forward the report as prescribed in subparagraph 206b(1)(a).



UNCLASSIFIED

206 (Continued)

b. Communications Stations. Communications stations (to include any civil or military facility such as control tower, naval shore radio station, approach control, ARTC centers, or any other communications facility) receiving CIRVIS reports will immediately after receipt process the report as follows:

(1) US military communications stations will multiple-address the CIRVIS report to the following address designations:

(a) For sightings in overseas areas - reports will be forwarded to:

1. Addresses as prescribed by Area Commanders.  
(Normally, these addressees are the operating service commands concerned.)
2. Commander-in-Chief, Continental Air Defense Command (CINCONAD), Ent AFB, Colorado Springs, Colorado.
3. Chief of Staff, United States Air Force (C of S, USAF) Washington, D. C.

(b) For sightings within or adjacent to the North American continent, reports will be forwarded to:

1. Commander of the nearest joint air defense division.
2. CINCONAD, Ent AFB, Colorado Springs, Colorado.
3. Appropriate Sea Frontier Command:
  - a. Commander, Western Sea Frontier (COMWESTSEA-FRON), San Francisco, California.
  - b. Commander, Eastern Sea Frontier (COMEASTSEA-FRON), New York, N. Y.
4. Chief of Staff, United States Air Force, Washington, D. C.

UNCLASSIFIED

(2) Canadian military and United States military communications stations in Canada, Alaska and Greenland will multiple-address the CIRVIS report to the following address designations:

(a) For sightings within or adjacent to the North American continent, reports will be forwarded to:

1. RCAF Air Defense Command (CANAIRDEF), St. Hubert, Montreal.
2. Appropriate Flag Officer in Command:
  - a. Canadian Flag Officer, Atlantic Coast (CANFLAGLANT), Halifax, Nova Scotia.
  - b. Canadian Flag Officer, Pacific Coast (CONFLAGPAC), Esquimalt, British Columbia.

(3) Civil communications stations will handle CIRVIS reports received from either aircraft or other communications stations as follows:

- (a) Air carrier company stations will pass the CIRVIS report, exactly as received, to the nearest CAA or DOT ARTC center in the same manner as air traffic control information.
- (b) CAA or DOT communications stations, upon receipt of a CIRVIS report will immediately pass the report to the appropriate ARTC center.
- \*(c) CAA or DOT ARTC Centers. Upon receipt of CIRVIS reports, ARTC centers will forward them immediately to the appropriate military facility as prescribed by agreement with the appropriate military commander.

\*Canadians are to secure agreement regarding this.

207 ACCEPTANCE OF AND RESPONSIBILITY FOR CIRVIS REPORTS.

a. The following activities have responsibilities as follows:

- (1) CINCONAD or RCAF-ADC will insure that all CIRVIS reports have been addressed in accordance with

UNCLASSIFIED

paragraph 206. These headquarters are the normal points of contact between the two countries and are responsible for passing CIRVIS reports of interest, including post-landing reports, to each other.

- (2) United States or Canadian military or diplomatic authorities in receipt of CIRVIS reports that have not been previously forwarded will take the action indicated in paragraph 206 without delay by the most rapid means available, giving due consideration to security.
- (3) Chief of Staff, USAF, will disseminate CIRVIS reports to appropriate agencies in the Washington, D.C. area.
- (4) RCAF-ADC and the Canadian Flag Officers will be responsible for notifying Canadian military headquarters in Ottawa concerning CIRVIS reports.

b. Fixed and mobile military communications facilities and military personnel having occasion to handle CIRVIS reports must lend assistance in all cases required in expediting CIRVIS reports. All civilian facilities and personnel are also urged to do so. Maximum effort must be made by all persons handling CIRVIS reports to insure positive immediate delivery.

c. WHEN A STATION RECEIVES A PARTIAL CIRVIS REPORT AND THE REMAINDER IS NOT IMMEDIATELY FORTHCOMING, IT WILL BE RELAYED OR DELIVERED IN THE SAME MANNER AS A COMPLETE REPORT.

SECTION III - SECURITY

208 MILITARY AND CIVILIAN

Transmission of CIRVIS reports are subject to the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, and the Canadian Radio Act of 1938, as amended. Any person who violates the provisions of these acts may be liable to prosecution thereunder. These reports contain information affecting the National Defense of the United States and Canada. Any person who makes an unauthorized transmission or disclosure of such a report may be liable to

UNCLASSIFIED

prosecution under Title 18 of the US Code, Chapter 37, or the Canadian Official Secrets Act of 1939, as amended.

SECTION IV - EVALUATION REPORTS

209 ACTION BY ACTIVITIES

a. All investigative measures and evaluation processes instituted by addressees and by originating authorities, where applicable, will be handled in accordance with existing procedures and reported in accordance with these instructions, insuring that appropriate commands as listed in paragraph 206 are kept fully informed of investigative results and evaluations. These evaluations shall be expressed in terms indicating the reported sighting as being Positive, Probable, Possible, Improbable or No Threat insofar as being a threat to the security of the United States of America or Canada or their forces, or an explanation of the subject reported when known.

b. The first two words of the text of an evaluation report shall be "CIRVIS EVALUATION" followed by the date-time group and/or other identification of the CIRVIS report(s) being evaluated.

SECTION V - SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS

210 RADIO TRANSMISSION RESTRICTIONS

CIRVIS reports will not be transmitted by radio while over foreign territory, other than Greenland or Iceland, but will be transmitted as soon as practicable upon leaving foreign territorial boundaries. Foreign territory includes all territory except international water areas and territory under the jurisdiction of the United States of America and Canada.

SECTION VI - COMMERCIAL CHARGES

211 CHARGES.

a. All charges incurred in handling CIRVIS reports through U.S. facilities will be charged to the Department of the Air

UNCLASSIFIED

Force (accounting symbol "AF"). Insofar as practicable, CIRVIS reports so handled will be forwarded RAPID US GOVT COLLECT.

b. All charges incurred in handling CIRVIS reports through Canadian facilities will be charged to the Royal Canadian Air Force. Insofar as practicable, CIRVIS reports so handled will be forwarded "RUSH COLLECT".

c. Any or all questions of charges will be resolved after traffic has been handled. In no case will CIRVIS reports be delayed because of communication handling charges.

2-11

UNCLASSIFIED

-13-

Enclosure "A"