

VARIABLE MESSAGE FORMAT (VMF) DOCUMENTATION

Datasheet

Interoperability (IO) is a hugely significant problem when operating any Tactical Data Link (TDL), especially one as diverse and flexible as Variable Message Format (VMF). One of the ways in which IO is being addressed is in the documentation standards and reference guides that are in existence.

United States (US) Department of Defence (DoD) VMF System Documentation

- **MIL-STD-6017 (VMF)** describes in detail the K-Series VMF messages, syntax, Min Imp etc. It was raised to Revision B in October 2009.
- **VMF IOP** is part of the US DoD Joint Multi-TDL Operating Procedures (JMTOP) and describes how VMF systems can be used.
- **MIL-STD-2045-47001** describes the header that is required to precede every VMF message when it is transmitted. It was raised to Revision D Change 1 in July 2008.
- **MIL-STD-188-220** describes the CNR protocols that are used with many fielded VMF systems. It was raised to Revision D Change 1 in July 2008.

United Kingdom (UK) VMF System Documentation

- **Defence Tactical Data Links Interoperability Requirement Specification (DTD-L-IORS)**
This top-level UK document sets out the IO requirements for all UK Defence TDLs.
- **Defence Tactical Data Links Interface Requirement Specification (DTLD-IRS)**
The DTD-L-IRS defines the set of transactions for transmitting and receiving TDL data. The DTD-L-IRS is in two parts – Part I deals with the multi-link environment and Part II deals with specific single link requirements. The DTD-L-IRS Part II – VMF (also known as the VMF Single Link IRS (SLIRS)) provides the VMF message processing requirements for UK platforms. The DTD-L-IRS Part II – Application Layer Header (also known as the Header IRS (HIRS)) provides the header processing requirements for UK platforms intending to implement VMF. The DTD-L-IRS Part II – Combat Net Radio (also known as the CNR Bearer Definition Document (BDD)) provides the bearer processing requirements for UK platforms intending to implement VMF on a CNR bearer. The VMF SLIRS, HIRS and BDD increase IO by reducing the ambiguities and potential for misunderstanding in the relevant MIL-STDs.
- **Platform Documents**
A platform's operational use may not require implementing all the specifications and transactions in the SLIRS HIRS and/or BDD. Such deviations, when agreed by the relevant authority, are captured in the Platform Requirements Specification/Platform Requirements Difference Document (PRS/PRDD) and maintained in the Actual Platform Implementation Specification/Platform Implementation Difference Document (APIS/PIDD).

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