

**Before the
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Washington, DC 20554**

In the Matter of) RM-
)
AMENDMENT OF PART 97 OF THE)
COMMISSION’S RULES GOVERNING THE)
AMATEUR RADIO SERVICE TO)
PROVIDE FOR RECOGNITION OF)
AMATEUR OPERATORS WHO HAVE)
SERVED IN THE UNITED STATES)
MILITARY)

To: The Commission

PETITION FOR RULE MAKING

INTRODUCTION

1. This petition respectfully requests the Commission to authorize a procedure whereby an amateur operator who is now serving, or who in the past has served (“Veteran”), with our United States military is afforded the option to make an advisory notice of such service during the amateur station identification procedure. This petition is from our Quarter Century Wireless Association (“QCWA”). QCWA was founded in 1947 by a group of the original amateur operators – those first licensed 1912-1922 – for the purpose of promoting friendship and cooperation among amateur operators who were first licensed 25-years ago. Today, QCWA is comprised of some 218 Chapters and, as such, has great interest in the future well being of our Country, our military service personnel and our amateur service.

LINKAGE BETWEEN AMATEUR RADIO AND THE MILITARY

2. Many of the Commission-authorized amateur radio operators are serving and have served with our United States military. Many have made valuable contributions to military electronics and communications as a result of their pre-service experience as amateur operators. Others became amateur operators during or following their military training in communications and electronics. The Commission’s rules for our amateur service, moreover, already recognize this unique and mutually beneficial linkage: We are especially appreciative that the Commission’s rules authorize the grant of a military recreation amateur station license.¹ These stations enable our amateur operators to continue the pursuit of their hobby even while serving duty at a military facility. Additionally, we are appreciative that the Commission’s rules provide for the installation and operation of an amateur station onboard a ship or aircraft.² We are, moreover, appreciative that the Commission’s rules authorize our amateur stations, transmitting on

¹ 47 C.F.R. §97.5(b)(3).

² 47 C.F.R. §97.11.

amateur service frequency channels, to exchange messages cross-band with United States military stations transmitting on Government frequency channels during an Armed Forces Day Communications Test.³

3. On appropriate occasions, such as Veterans' Day, Memorial Day, Armed Forces Day and Independence Day, it is desirable for our military service personnel and veterans to make known, during their inter-communication activities as amateur operators, that they are serving or have served our Country and the branch of the military in which they serve or have served. A codified system of indicators reserved for this purpose would facilitate the rapid recognition of their contributions by those having interest in such. It would be one small, but meaningful way, to honor those who have served us faithfully.

THE PROPOSAL

4. The Commission's rules currently provide the option for one or more indicators to be included with the station call sign in the identification announcement.⁴ Thus, the proposal described herein is for a system for the use of said indicators to help better fulfill the above-stated need. The QCWA requests that it be specifically codified that when the control operator of the station is a current member, or honorably discharged veteran, of our United States military, a specific indicator may be included with the call sign identification announcement. The indicator would be according to a schedule consistent with the branch of service and radio call sign prefixes allocated to the United States: AAA-ALZ, KAA-KZZ, NAA-NZZ and WAA-WZZ.

DISCUSSION

5. Our current military service personnel and veterans share a very unique common bond in the pride of having put aside a period from their personal lives in order to serve our Country in a difficult and demanding endeavor. Those who are also amateur operators can often share this bond to an even greater extent. Favorable action on the proposal by the Commission will bring more meaning to those patriotic events honoring our military service personnel and veterans.

AMENDMENT DETAIL

6. Implementation of the proposal can be carried out with a clarification, consistent with the call sign prefixes available for this purpose, amending the operative rules section to read as follows:

Sec. 97.119 Station identification.

³ 47 C.F.R. §97.111(a)(4).

⁴ 47 C.F.R. §97.119(c). Each indicator must be separated from the call sign by the slant mark (/) or by any suitable word that denotes the slant mark. If an indicator is self-assigned, it must be included before, after, or both before and after, the call sign. No self-assigned indicator may conflict with any other indicator specified by the FCC Rules or with any prefix assigned to another country.

(c) One or more indicators may be included with the call sign. Each indicator must be separated from the call sign by the slant mark (/) or by any suitable word that denotes the slant mark. If an indicator is self-assigned, it must be included before, after, or both before and after, the call sign. No self-assigned indicator may conflict with any other indicator specified by the FCC Rules or with any prefix assigned to another country.

When the control operator of the station is a current member, or honorably discharged former member, of the United States military, an appropriate indicator may be included with the call sign identification announcement. The following indicators are reserved for this purpose as follows:

- (1) Air Force: /AIR FORCE or /AF
- (2) Army: /ARMY or /AA
- (3) Navy: /NAVY or /NA
- (4) Marine Corps: /MARINES or /NM
- (5) Coast Guard: /COAST GUARD or /ACG

SUMMARY

7. The Commission now has a timely opportunity to recognize and honor the contributions of those amateur operators who are now serving in our military and those veterans who have served honorably previously. QCWA urges the Commission to do so by adopting a direct clarifying Order to codify into its rules the requested provision.

Respectfully submitted,

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