



THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1200

16 June 97

**MEMORANDUM FOR:** Deputy Surgeon General of the Army  
Deputy Surgeon General of the Navy  
Deputy Surgeon General of the Air Force

**SUBJECT:** Policy Clarification Letter - Long-Haul and Regional Telecommunications Systems and Services for the Department of Defense (DoD)

The purpose of this policy is to endorse and proliferate the [attached memorandum](#) from the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Command, Control, Communications and Intelligence) (ASD(C3I)), dated 5 May 1997, subject as above.

One of the principal elements of the Military Health Services System (MHSS) infrastructure program is extensive and robust communications support. The expansion and growth of our information management requires that this support be coordinated and available worldwide to support our warfighter's needs. It has been the policy of the MHSS to use the Defense Information Systems Agency (DISA) and the Defense Information Systems Network (DISN) for all data communications circuits external to the medical treatment facility, and not provided by the local base or installation. Each of the Military Departments must work closely with Defense Medical Information Management (DMIM) and the Tri-Service Infrastructure Management Program Office to ensure all data communications requirements of the MHSS are coordinated and integrated through the DISN.

Any waiver request, as outlined in the attached memorandum, will be submitted first through the Tri-Service Infrastructure Management Program Office and then through the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Health Affairs) for approval prior to submission to the DISA.

Edward D. Martin, M.D.  
Acting Assistant Secretary of Defense

**HA Policy 97-056**

Attachment:  
As stated

cc:  
Lead Agents, TRICARE Regions  
Technical Program Managers, Military Health Services System Information Management/Information Technology Business Areas  
Chief Information Officer, Department of the Army, Office of the Surgeon General  
Commanding Officer, Naval Medical Information Management Center  
Chief, Medical Information Systems Division, USAF