



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS
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DC I
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MARINE CORPS ORDER 3070.3

From: Commandant of the Marine Corps
To: Distribution List

Subj: PERSONAL PORTABLE ELECTRONIC DEVICE (PPED) POLICY

Ref: See enclosure (1)

Encl: (1) References

1. Situation

a. The rapidly evolving market and proliferation of Personal Portable Electronic Devices (PPEDs) presents a significant risk to Marine Corps personnel both on and off duty, and to Marine Corps operations globally. PPED use can reduce situational awareness, compromise privacy, and threaten operations security (OPSEC) per reference (a). Reference (b) first established Marine Corps policy governing the use of PPEDs and official portable electronic devices (OPEDs), directing all commanders to publish detailed orders governing the use of PPEDs/OPEDs by Marines, Sailors, and Civilian Marines by 1 January 2017. This Order supersedes reference (b) and establishes guidance for commanders, leaders, and Marines to better address PPED/OPED usage and associated risks, across the fleet. This Order applies to the Total Force unless conducting activities, operations, or exercises under the authority, direction, and control of a joint command or other organization outside of the Marine Corps (i.e., units conducting activities under combatant command (CCMD) authority or the direction and control of a combat support agency (CSA)), with a policy that is more restrictive than that established by this Order. In such cases, Marines shall follow the guidance of that organization.

b. The term PPED means the following devices, referred to within this Order as Personal Portable Electronic Devices:

- (1) Cellular telephones, (i.e., smartphones and pagers);
- (2) Laptop computers;
- (3) Tablets or e-readers;
- (4) Smart watches and personal wearable fitness devices that transmit data and/or have a wired or wireless data transmission capability;
- (5) Digital cameras or camcorders;
- (6) Portable gaming systems;

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(7) Global Positioning System (GPS), Position Location Information (PLI), and devices that store and/or transmit geographic location;

(8) Bluetooth headphones; and,

(9) Any other device with the capability to store, record, and/or transmit text, images/video, or audio data and specifically identified by commanders and promulgated in local policy as creating unacceptable risks to mission or good order and discipline.

c. OPEDs are deliberately omitted from the list of PPEDs above. However, personnel assigned OPEDs must recognize that official devices may pose an OPSEC risk in some situations and their use may have to be temporarily restricted.

d. Per reference (c), non-official personal messaging accounts, including, but not limited to, e-mail, social media, or other messaging applications, are not permitted to be used for official business based on personal convenience or preference.

e. Reference (b) identified the high-risk situations in which PPEDs should be prohibited and describes violations that may result in disciplinary or administrative action. This Order directs and empowers commanders to promulgate local orders tailored to specific operational needs within certain parameters.

2. Mission. This Order updates Marine Corps policy, procedures, and responsibilities for regulating PPED use by Marines and Sailors. This Order is in accordance with references (a) through (v).

3. Execution

a. Commander's Intent and Concept of Operations

(1) Commander's Intent. The cycle of placing Marines into harm's way, defeating the adversary, and redeploying those forces is the core responsibility of Marine Corps leadership. Failure to recognize the risks PPEDs pose to the success of this mission is unacceptable, and a failure to maintain and enforce a PPED policy directly risks mission accomplishment.

(2) Concept of Operations. Driving a cultural change to PPED usage will require a trilateral approach of education and enforcement reinforced by technical oversight.

(a) Education

1. Risks. Per reference (d), the vast majority of Marines are experienced PPED users. However, while this technology may have been a part of their everyday lives, Marines may not understand the potential risks that PPEDs pose to their personal and professional well-being. Training is driven by education, and that education needs to be more impactful when it comes to understanding the risks and nuances of PPEDs. PPED education must support a commander's planning efforts as well as the individual Marine's well-being.

2. Force Protection. Force protection is the warfighting function that enhances the survivability of the force by allowing us to conceal our capabilities and intentions. It relies upon OPSEC, signature management (SIGMAN), operation risk management (ORM), and counterintelligence (CI). A combination of poor PPED practices and a lack of CI awareness of the Ubiquitous Technical Surveillance (UTS) threat posed by today's adversary intelligence services across the competition continuum can offset our best force protection efforts before we ever go to war. Per references (e) through (h), commanders and OICs who cannot drive the cultural change required to eliminate poor PPED practices fail to appreciate the changing character of warfare.

(b) Enforcement. Commanders are essential to the enforcement PPED regulations. While commanders must address all reported PPED violations, they remain authorized to determine the best manner to deal with violations. Where applicable, commanders are encouraged to use PPED violations as learning/training opportunities to both educate on the operational risks of PPEDs, while providing Marines the opportunity to learn from their mistakes without derailing their future career.

(c) Technical Oversight. Self-discipline and unit discipline can be enhanced through technical toolsets and processes that can detect friendly forces technical signatures. While we must educate Marines on the risks of PPED emissions, we must also be able to verify orders to restrict emissions are being adhered to per references (i) through (n). Until the service has adopted a communications approach of "hiding inside the noise," where small units may be able to avoid detection by transmitting over commonly used local frequencies, the predominant approach will be to limit technical indicators. The availability of technical toolsets offers opportunity to provide technical detection capabilities to complement enforcement. While this Order encourages commanders to use available tools to detect emissions in support of PPED use restrictions, it does not authorize collection of information, such as metadata, content, or publicly available information in support of PPED technical oversight. Such activities are beyond the scope of this Order and are governed by separate law and policy.

b. Subordinate Element Tasks

(1) Headquarters, Marine Corps (HQMC) Communication Directorate (CD). Produce a briefing card in order to synchronize service messaging on the policy changes and posture the service to respond to media queries resulting from the changes. Create an infographic informing Marines, Sailors, employees, and family members on the new restrictions; training requirements; and personal responsibilities contained in this Order. Share this product in order to inform key publics on these force protection measures. Answer media queries on this Order and its contents on behalf of the service.

(2) Deputy Commandant for Information (DC I)

(a) Ensure CI awareness and reporting briefs include the UTS basics for all Marines as part of a holistic CI, OPSEC, and SIGMAN awareness and training.

(b) Provide annual addendum to OPSEC training that references real-world operations by friendly and/or adversarial forces, in which electronic emissions by PPEDs were either successfully concealed to enable

mission success, or were inadvertently revealed, thereby compromising mission success.

(3) Deputy Commandant for Plans, Policies, and Operations (DC PP&O). Update annual OPSEC training in order to educate Marines on how PPEDs communicate with network providers and may reveal unique identifiers to FIE. Current training already addresses social media content that may reveal OPSEC indicators. All approved delivery methods for annual OPSEC training, in accordance with reference (f), must be updated.

(4) Commanding General of Training and Education Command (CG TECOM)

(a) Introduce Marine recruits and officer candidates to the risks of PPEDs during their respective introductory training schools.

(b) Incorporate the risks of PPED usage in SIGMAN training.

(c) Determine if distance education programs must be revised if PPEDs are considered a critical requirement for course execution. This Order will severely restrict and/or eliminate PPED access while training and/or deployed. Solutions may be material (such as government-provided electronic devices for students that cannot access non-course material) or administrative (such as a change to curriculum, a PPED waiver for students, or a waiver for Professional Military Education (PME)). Any such change is required to still support a commander's OPSEC and SIGMAN requirements.

(d) Collect and publish lessons learned feedback on PPED usage (positive and negative), in conjunction with all exercises and operations. All relevant lessons learned are encouraged; however, two topics will be mandatory:

1. Lessons learned where operational risks were accepted or were mitigated through the use or restriction of PPEDs.

2. Lessons learned where PPEDs could have rectified a material deficiency to command, control, or communications.

(e) Update Marine Corps Center for Lessons Learned SharePoint Portal with a specific tab on PPED lessons learned to enhance visibility of this issue for all Marines and commands.

(5) Commandant of the Marine Corps (CMC) Safety Division (SD). Compile mishap reports that include comments where PPEDs or OPEDs were perceived as a contributing factor to assess if the rate of those mishaps is trending up or down.

(6) All Commanding Generals and Commanding Officers (Battalion/Squadron and Higher as Well as Base, Station, Activity, and Installation) Shall:

NOTE. For purposes of this Order, an organization is at battalion/squadron or higher echelon when its head is a lieutenant colonel, a civilian grade GS-15, or higher.

(a) Review internal PPED policy orders that are required under references (o) and (p), and update as necessary. Internal orders should address the following restrictions to PPEDs:

1. PPEDs will not be carried by Marines while standing armed duty. Commanders may grant exceptions as authorized under subparagraph 3.b.(6) (b) below.

2. PPEDs will not be authorized during high-risk training events such as: live-fire training operations, water survival training, confidence/obstacle courses, and rappel/fast-rope training events. Restrictions apply to both trainers and trainees. OPEDs and/or approved range safety communication devices will continue to be used for official matters only. Commanders may grant exceptions as authorized under subparagraph 3.b.(6) (b) below.

3. Operators of government-owned vehicles/equipment and all associated crews are prohibited from PPED use that creates unreasonable risks to mission or good order and discipline while operating such vehicle/equipment. Commanders may grant exceptions as authorized under subparagraph 3.b.(6) (b) when PPED use supports mission or good order and discipline. Exceptions may not create less restrictive conditions than applicable federal, state, local, or foreign law or regulation.

4. Aviation Operations:

a. PPEDs are prohibited from the following areas actively involved with Marine Corps aviation operations: the hangar, the flightline, aircraft maintenance spaces, briefing areas, and in the aircraft. This restriction includes the use of voice, text, messaging, photo, video, headphone, and similar hands-free applications.

b. OPEDs, specifically tablets used for flight operations (i.e., KillSwitch, ForeFlight, etc.), and Portable Electronic Maintenance Aids are authorized for only their official application/use in and around the aircraft.

c. Personnel embarked on flights as passengers on Marine Corps aircrafts are authorized to use PPEDs upon approval from the aircraft commander, provided those passengers are not assigned on the flight schedule as aircrew members on the flight.

d. Communications Strategy Marines are authorized to conduct official photography and videography business on the flight line, in authorized workspaces, and in the aircraft with authorized OPEDs.

e. In the absence of an authorized OPED, aircrew members are authorized to retain a powered-off PPED, for use in extremis or emergency situations as a redundant communication option.

(b) Any exceptions to this policy will be approved no lower than the organization commanding officer, and shall be situation dependent and of limited duration. Exceptions may be granted when PPED use involves acceptable risks to mission or good order and discipline. Standing exceptions to policy based on billet, rank, or seniority are not permitted.

(c) Independent commands and commanding generals must verify that all subordinate commands have written policies regarding PPED usage during the conduct of inspections in accordance with references (o) and (p).

(7) Inspector General of the Marine Corps (IGMC). Maintain a Functional Area Checklist to verify compliance with this Order during Commanding General Inspection Program inspections and Inspector General of the Marine Corps (IGMC) inspections per references (o) and (p).

c. Coordinating Instructions

(1) PPEDs should not be carried by Marines conducting field training exercises. However, commanders may authorize limited PPED usage in bivouac areas. PPEDs should be powered off while not actively being used. PPEDs will not be used outside the bivouac area, or any alternate location designated for PPED usage except pursuant to an exception as authorized under subparagraph 3.b.(6) (b) above.

(2) This policy does not affect any current laws, policy, or regulations that apply to classified spaces.

(3) PPEDs will not be used to transmit, receive, or store controlled unclassified information (CUI), legacy documents still marked For Official Use Only (FOUO), or classified data. The restriction on transmitting or receiving CUI information does not apply when a PPED is solely being used as a wireless access point for an official device that utilizes an official Marine Corps Virtual Private Network (VPN) connection. The restriction on transmitting or receiving CUI information does not apply when a PPED is solely being used to access a Marine Corps approved Software as a Solution (SaaS) toolset, such as an official Marine Corps Microsoft Office 365 account where such information is virtually stored and does not reside on the physical PPED.

(4) All mishap reporting/investigations must include comments regarding both PPED and OPED use, if relevant, and consider a perceived/determined contribution to the reportable event.

(5) PPEDs will not be used during any off-base training involving intelligence personnel conducting collection in order to mitigate the UTS threat.

(6) Submit lessons learned feedback on PPED usage (positive and negative), in conjunction with all exercises and operations and provide that feedback to Training and Education Command (TECOM) in accordance with paragraph 3.b.(4) (d) of this Order and reference (q).

4. Administration and Logistics

a. Records Management. Records created as a result of this Order shall be managed according to National Archives and Records Administration (NARA)-approved dispositions in reference (r), SECNAV M-5210.1 w/CH-1, to ensure proper maintenance, use, accessibility, and preservation, regardless of format or medium. Records disposition schedules are located on the Department of the Navy/Assistant for Administration (DON/AA), Directives and Records Management Division (DRMD) portal page at: <https://portal.secnav.navy.mil/orgs/DUSNM/DONAA/DRM/Records-and-Information-Management/Approved%20Record%20Schedules/Forms/AllItems.aspx>. Refer to reference (s), MCO 5210.11F, for Marine Corps records management policy and procedures.

b. Privacy Act. Any misuse or unauthorized disclosure of Personally Identifiable Information (PII) may result in both civil and criminal penalties. The DON recognizes that the privacy of an individual is a personal and fundamental right that shall be respected and protected. The DON's need to collect, use, maintain, or disseminate PII about individuals for purposes of discharging its statutory responsibilities shall be balanced against the individuals' right to be protected against unwarranted invasion of privacy. All collection, use, maintenance, or dissemination of PII shall be in accordance with the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended [reference (t)] and implemented per reference (u).

c. Forms. There are no forms used in this Order.

d. Updates. Updates made to this Order must be done in accordance with the current iteration of reference (v).

e. Recommendations. Recommendations concerning the contents of this Order are welcome and may be forwarded to Deputy Commandant for Information (DC I) via the appropriate chain of command.

5. Command and Signal

a. Command. This Order is applicable to the Marine Corps Total Force.

b. Signal. This Order is effective the date signed.



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References

- (a) SECDEF Memo, "Use of Geolocation-Capable Devices, Applications, and Services," August 3, 2018
- (b) CMC White Letter 3-16, "Personal Portable Electronic Device (PPED) Policy," November 6, 2016
- (c) MARADMIN 653/23
- (d) U.S. Marine Corps 2021 Social Media Handbook
- (e) MCTP 3-32B
- (f) MCO 3070.2A
- (g) "U.S. Marine Corps Signature Management Planning Handbook," June 2021
- (h) "U.S. Marine Corps Own Force Signature Assessment Handbook," April 2022
- (i) MARADMIN 520/20
- (j) MARADMIN 023/21
- (k) DoDD 5205.02E w/CH-2, "DoD Operations Security (OPSEC) Program," August 20, 2020
- (l) DoDM 5200.01 Volume 3 w/CH-3, "DoD Information Security Program: Protection of Classified Information," July 28, 2020
- (m) SECNAVINST 5510.30C
- (n) SECNAVINST 5510.36B
- (o) MCO 5040.6J
- (p) MCO 5239.2B
- (q) MCO 3504.1
- (r) SECNAV M-5210.1 w/CH-1
- (s) MCO 5210.11F
- (t) 5 U.S.C. § 552a
- (u) SECNAVINST 5211.5F
- (v) MCO 5215.1K w/Admin CH-1

APPENDIX A

Glossary of Acronyms and Abbreviations

AED	Automated External Defibrillator
CCMD	Combatant Command
CD	Communication Directorate
CG TECOM	Commanding General of Training and Education Command
CI	Counterintelligence
CIO	Chief Information Officer
CMC	Commandant of the Marine Corps
CSA	Combat Support Agency
CUI	Controlled Unclassified Information
DC I	Deputy Commandant for Information
DC PP&O	Deputy Commandant for Plans, Policies, and Operations
DoD	Department of Defense
DoDD	Department of Defense Directive
DoDM	Department of Defense Manual
DON	Department of the Navy
DON/AA	Department of the Navy/Assistant for Administration
DRMD	Directives and Records Management Division
FAC	Functional Area Checklist
FOUO	For Official Use Only
GPS	Global Positioning System
GS	General Schedule
HQMC	Headquarters, Marine Corps
IGMC	Inspector General of the Marine Corps
MARADMIN	Marine Administrative
MCO	Marine Corps Order
MCTP	Marine Corps Tactical Publication
NARA	National Archives and Records Administration
OFSA	Own Force Signature Assessment
OPED	Official Portable Electronic Device
OPSEC	Operations Security
ORM	Operation Risk Management
PII	Personally Identifiable Information
PLI	Position Location Information
PME	Professional Military Education
PPED	Personal Portable Electronic Device
SaaS	Software as a Solution
SCI	Sensitive Compartmented Information
SCIF	Sensitive Compartmented Information Facility
SD	Safety Division
SECDEF	Secretary of Defense
SECNAV	Secretary of the Navy
SECNAVINST	Secretary of the Navy Instruction
SIGMAN	Signature Management

TECOM	Training and Education Command
U.S.C.	United States Code
UNSECNAV	Under Secretary of the Navy
USMC	United States Marine Corps
UTS	Ubiquitous Technical Surveillance
VPN	Virtual Private Network