

**ORDER**

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION  
SOUTHWEST REGION

SW 6610.5B

5/18/98

**SUBJ: REPORTING COMMUNICATIONS COVERAGE DEFICIENCIES**

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- 1. PURPOSE.** This order restates procedures and outlines responsibilities for reporting communications coverage deficiencies for Airway Facilities (AF) and Air Traffic (AT) personnel.
- 2. DISTRIBUTION.** This order is distributed to the branch level in the AF and AT Divisions, to all AF field offices, and AT field offices.
- 3. CANCELLATION.** Order SW 6610.5A, Reporting Communications Coverage Deficiencies, dated November 9, 1989, is cancelled.
- 4. ACTION.** When reporting inadequate communications coverage, AF SMO Managers and AT Facility Managers should submit a report in memo format to their respective Division Managers, Attention: ASW-470 or ASW-510, as appropriate. An advance copy via cc: Mail with copy to ASW-473 Spectrum is encouraged. The report should contain the following information:
  - a. Communications frequency.
  - b. Location of deficient communications coverage, altitudes, positions, etc.
  - c. Number and type of aircraft experiencing deficient communications coverage; if possible, including the type of avionics equipment.
  - d. Dates and times of deficient communications coverage.
  - e. Weather conditions during deficient communications coverage.
  - f. Other technical data (if available):
    - (1) Facility identifier, type, and location.
    - (2) Transmitter/receiver types.
    - (3) Transmitter output power.
    - (4) Antenna types and configuration.
    - (5) Facilities peculiarities.

**5. BACKGROUND.** Inadequate communications coverage can contribute to missed communications between pilot and controller derogating the national airspace system. Any defined air route traffic control center (ARTCC), airport traffic control tower (ATCT), or automated flight service station (AFSS) airspace can be susceptible to communications coverage deficiencies. For example, communications coverage deficiencies have been documented to occur at the edges of a large geographical ARTCC sector. Transmitted frequencies have physical constraints that restrict continuous reliable communications over a large distance. Coordination and cooperation between AF and AT personnel are a must when considering sector boundary changes. (For guidance in this area see the latest version of SW 6050.12, Southwest Region Spectrum Management Handbook).

**6. EXPLANATION OF CHANGE.** This directive has been updated to reflect current Airway Facilities Division organizational titles and provide the reference to Order SW 6050.12 as a resource document.

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