

U. S. Signal office

MANUAL No. 2

REGULATIONS  
FOR  
UNITED STATES  
MILITARY TELEGRAPH LINES,  
ALASKAN CABLES, AND  
TELEGRAPH STATIONS  
U. S. SIGNAL CORPS

Prepared under the direction of  
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1915

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WAR DEPARTMENT,  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF STAFF,  
*Washington, April 16, 1915.*

The following regulations for the operation and maintenance of all military lines of communication under the direction of the Chief Signal Officer of the Army are published for the information and guidance of the officers, men, and employees of the Signal Corps. They will replace all instructions contained in previous publications relating to the operation of military telegraph lines.

While the specific rules herein promulgated have been drawn with special reference to the Washington-Alaska Military Cable and Telegraph System, they will be adhered to where applicable at all military telegraph offices. All officers and enlisted men of the Signal Corps and civilian employees engaged in telegraph work are enjoined to make themselves familiar with the provisions of this Manual.

In addition to the prescribed course of instructions given to Signal Corps enlisted men, it is necessary that they be fully informed relative to the method of counting words in telegrams, cablegrams, and radiograms, and in the preparation of accounts pertaining thereto. Commanding officers of schools for Signal Corps enlisted men are hereby charged with the duty of having all men under their control thoroughly instructed in this regard.

References to Army Regulations are from the 1913 edition.

By order of the Secretary of War :

H. L. SCOTT,  
*Brigadier General, Chief of Staff.*

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# REGULATIONS FOR UNITED STATES MILITARY TELEGRAPH LINES.

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## CHAPTER I.

### GENERAL INFORMATION.

1. In General Orders, No. 1, Adjutant General's Office, January 20, 1879; the Secretary of War states :

“ In all instances in which United States telegraph lines are by order of the Secretary of War placed in charge of acting signal officers, who are thus made responsible for the construction, maintenance, and operation of the same, commanding officers and others will see that the especial duties of such officers are not interfered with, and will, upon application, render whatever proper assistance may be in their power.

“ The lines form parts of one connected system of telegraphy extending throughout the United States. They serve military, commercial, naval, and other distant interests. The disabling of or interference with any part may cause complications not possible to be contemplated in the immediate vicinity. Official and military messages have precedence on all Government lines.”

## CHAPTER II.

### CONTROL AND MAINTENANCE.

2. The act of Congress approved October 1, 1890, section 2, directs that the Chief Signal Officer shall have charge, under direction of the Secretary of War, of \* \* \* "the construction, repair, and operation of military telegraph lines," \* \* \* "and the duty of collecting and transmitting information for the Army by telegraph or otherwise."

In construing this law it has been decided that (U. S. Military Laws, ed. 1901, p. 463) "the act of October 1, 1890 (Stat. L., 653, par. 1227), which places the Chief Signal Officer in charge of 'construction, repair, and operation of military telegraph lines,' repealed the act of August 7, 1882 (22 Stat. L., 319), which vested the supervision of the construction and operation of military telegraph lines in department commanders."

3. For an efficient telegraph system it is necessary to have uniformity in the regulations governing the operation of military lines, and such rules should not conflict with the rules in force upon connecting commercial lines. To secure this uniformity, two classes of rules have been established. First: General regulations which must be obeyed by all concerned. Second: Special regulations which are applicable to certain cases only. The regulations in this Manual cover only the general rules.

4. For convenience of administration all telegraph and telephone lines are divided into classes, and unless otherwise specially ordered are placed under the control of officers, as follows:

(a) Lines complete within the limits of a single military post, in charge of the post signal officers under direction of the post commanders;

(b) Short lines constructed to connect single posts with a commercial telegraph or telephone office, and having no other stations upon them; and

(c) Lines connecting two or more posts in the same military department and all other lines which are complete within the limits of a single department, in charge of the department signal officer.

5. The regulations contained in this Manual and Manual 2-A will govern in all matters pertaining to military telegraph lines, cables, and radio stations maintained and operated by the Signal Corps.

6. "Whoever shall willfully or maliciously injure or destroy any of the works, property, or material of any telegraph, telephone, or cable line or system operated or controlled by the United States, whether constructed or in process of construction, or shall willfully or maliciously interfere in any way with the working or use of any such line or system, or shall willfully or maliciously obstruct, hinder, or delay the transmission of any communication over any such line or system, shall be fined not more than \$1,000 or imprisoned not more than three years, or both." (Act of Mar. 4, 1909, G. O. 22, W. D., 1910.)

7. The following sections found on page 1029, Supplement to the Revised Statutes of the United States, Volume II, 1892-1901, are inserted here for the information and guidance of all.

"SEC. 166. That if any officer, agent, operator, clerk, or employee of any telegraph company, or any other person, shall willfully divulge to any other person than the party from whom the same was received, or to whom the same was addressed, or

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his agent or attorney, any message received or sent, or intended to be sent, over any telegraph line, or the contents, substance, purport, effect, or meaning of such message, or any part thereof, or shall willfully alter any such message by adding thereto or omitting therefrom any word or words, figure or figures, so as to materially change the sense, purport, or meaning of such message, to the injury of the person sending or desiring to send the same, or to whom the same was directed, the person so offending shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be punished by a fine not to exceed \$1,000, or imprisonment not to exceed one year, or by both such fine and imprisonment, in the discretion of the court: *Provided*, That when numerals or words of number occur in any message the operator or clerk sending or receiving may express the same in words or figures, or in both words and figures, and such fact shall not be deemed an alteration of the message, nor in any manner affect its genuineness, force, or validity.

“SEC. 167. That if any agent, operator, or employee in any telegraph office, or other person, shall, knowingly and willfully, send by telegraph to any person or persons any false or forged message purporting to be from such telegraph office, or from any other person, or shall willfully deliver or cause to be delivered to any person any such message, falsely purporting to have been received by telegraph, or if any person or persons shall furnish or conspire to furnish, or cause to be furnished, to any such agent, operator, or employee to be sent by telegraph, or to be so delivered, any such message, knowing the same to be false or forged, with the intention to deceive, injure, or defraud any individual, partnership, or corporation, or the public, the person or persons so offending shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be punished by a fine not to exceed \$1,000 or



imprisonment not to exceed one year, or by both such fine and imprisonment, in the discretion of the court.

“**SEC. 168.** That if any agent, operator, or employee in any telegraph office shall, in any way, use or appropriate any information derived by him from any private message or messages passing through his hands and addressed to any other person or persons, or in any other manner acquired by him by reason of his trust as such agent, operator, or employee, or shall trade or speculate upon any such information so obtained, or in any manner turn or attempt to turn the same to his account, profit, or advantage, the person so offending shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be punished by a fine not to exceed \$1,000 or imprisonment not to exceed one year, or by both such fine and imprisonment, in the discretion of the court, and shall also be liable in treble damages to the party aggrieved for all loss or injury sustained by reason of such wrongful act.

“**SEC. 171.** That if any person not connected with any telegraph company shall, by means of any machine, instrument, or contrivance, or in any other manner, willfully and fraudulently read or attempt to read any message or learn the contents thereof whilst the same is being sent over any telegraph line, or shall willfully and fraudulently or clandestinely learn or attempt to learn the contents or meaning of any message while the same is in any telegraph office, or is being received thereat, or is sent therefrom, or shall use or attempt to use, or communicate to others, any information so obtained by any person, the person so offending shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be punished by fine not to exceed \$1,000 or imprisonment not to exceed one year, or by both such fine and imprisonment, in the discretion of the court.

“**SEC. 172.** That if any person shall, by the payment or promise of any bribe, inducement, or reward, procure or attempt to pro-

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cure any telegraph agent, operator, or employee to disclose any private message, or the contents, purport, substance, or meaning thereof, or shall offer to any such agent, operator, or employee any bribe, compensation, or reward for the disclosure of any private information received by him by reason of his trust as such agent, operator, or employee, or shall use or attempt to use any such information so obtained, the person so offending shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be punished by a fine not to exceed \$1,000 or imprisonment not to exceed one year, or by both such fine and imprisonment, in the discretion of the court."

8. Such authority and supervision over military telegraph lines as is delegated under the law and existing regulations to department signal officers is, in connection with the Alaskan Military Cable and Telegraph System, vested in the officer in charge of the Washington-Alaska Military Cable and Telegraph System, Seattle, Wash., and all reports, etc., required to be submitted to the former should, in respect to the Alaskan system, be submitted to the officer in charge at Seattle. (G. O. No. 81, W. D. 1914.)

9. By authority of the Secretary of War, approved June 16, 1900, all matters relating to the handling of official and commercial business over the United States military telegraph and cable lines in Alaska are under the direction and supervision of the Chief Signal Officer of the Army.

10. The auditor of the Washington-Alaska Military Cable and Telegraph System shall perform such duties as may be assigned to him by the officer in charge of the system. He will be held responsible and accountable for all funds coming into his hands, and shall dispose of them in accordance with the law and regulations.

11. All radio stations in any department which are maintained and operated by the Signal Corps are considered a part of the military telegraph system of that department.

12. Regulations governing commercial and official radio service between ship and shore stations of the United States Army—also the interchange of radio traffic with connecting radio companies—will be found in Signal Corps Manual 2-A.

All reports and remittances should be made in conformity therewith to the respective zone officers indicated therein.

GENERAL ORDERS, } WAR DEPARTMENT,  
 No. 212. } WASHINGTON, *November 12, 1910.*

I. 1. Signal Corps Manuals, Nos. 2, 3, 6, 7, and 8, and such amendments thereof as have heretofore been published by the Chief Signal Officer of the Army, have received the formal approval of the Secretary of War, and in accordance with paragraph 1588, Army Regulations, when not in conflict with any of the provisions of Army Regulations or of general orders or circulars of the War Department, will have equal force therewith.

\* \* \* \* \*  
 GENERAL ORDERS, } WAR DEPARTMENT,  
 No. 81. } WASHINGTON, *November 5, 1914.*  
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II. The officer in charge, Washington-Alaska Military Cable and Telegraph System, under the Chief Signal Officer of the Army, is charged with all that pertains to the technical handling and maintenance of the cable and telegraph lines and the receipt and disbursement of funds pertaining thereto, and will exercise supervision over the duties of the Signal Corps in connection with the construction, operation, and maintenance of all cables, telegraph lines, and radio installations of that sys-