

The Automatic Message Routing and Distribution equipment (AMRAD) is a computer which is associated with message Local Delivery Points (LDPs) situated strategically throughout the Ministry of Defence and its satellite buildings. There will be about 85 LDPs. It will also have main trunk connections to the major gateway relay stations and an ability to route traffic over the UK military telegraph network and TELEX.

Messages will be typed at LDPs by secretarial staff in a special simplified format known as Format D and, when the page copy is seen to be correct, it will be transferred to the AMRAD by a release button. The AMRAD will acknowledge the message by a print-back complete with a filing time added.

The AMRAD converts the simplified message format to ACP 127 format, substitutes routing indicators for the message addresses and takes note of the classification and precedence of the messages. The equipment then clears the message on to appropriate circuits according to their precedence and distributes internal copies, again on the simplified message format, in compliance with the Standard Distribution Lists (SDLs) of the Delivery Indicator Group (DIG).

Incoming messages addressed to MODUK, MODNAVY, MODARMY, MODAIR are converted from ACP 127 format to the simplified message format and are automatically distributed to LDPs according to the SDL of the DIG(s) used. Messages may even be refiled automatically to the UK military telegraph network or semi-automatically to TELEX.

It is estimated that 75% of the incoming and outgoing traffic at the Ministry of Defence commences will be handled automatically; the remainder, such as special handling or messages of non-standard format, or those carrying no DIG or the DIG—RTT, will be rejected to manual positions and handled accordingly.

The importance of selecting the correct DIG is a prime factor of the system, for example: A FLASH 'SUBMISS' message (KAP) if incorrectly allocated the DIG KAO 'SMASHEX' would receive a distribution greatly reduced to that intended for SUBMISS.

The AMRAD system is also available for the rapid conveyance of inter-branch memos.