

Navy Media Content Services (NMCS) CHINFO OI-2 – Video file notes – Sept. 21, 2011

THE MOST IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Notify NavyMedia@navy.mil of file transmissions to DIMOC, NVNS, NMC, DMA or other DoD servers. This will ensure a timely response.

FILE NAMES

VIRIN file names. NVNS and DIMOC share files daily. When a file has a VIRIN it is automatically routed from DIMOC to NVNS via their servers. Files with noun names can be delayed as they require human intervention to move them. Noun names can also cause server issues as we are seeing names exceeding 64 characters.

You must use a VIRIN with a VISION ID, not a SSN based identifier.

BARS AND TONE

Bars and tone should not be included in video files. B&T are used to calibrate a deck and tape to an edit suite. In video files, they only increase the file size and your transmission burden.

SLATES

Video slates should resemble a full still photo caption (example below) with white text over black background. They should be added to the end of a video and run no more than 10 seconds. This provides for easier social media viewing. Slates placed on the front of video files do not render well on social media sites and tend to make viewers move on without viewing the clip.

Include hometowns when possible and appropriate.

Do not include e-mail or commercial phone numbers in slates.

Videos are often posted to the internet to sites like YouTube. This places your contact information into the cloud and will cause a flood of unwanted correspondence for the originator and release authority. We recommend you use your DSN number. Slates should run for at least 10 seconds but not longer than 30 seconds.

Video slate/caption example:

*NORTH ARABIAN SEA (July 16, 2010) Helicopters assigned to Carrier Air Wing (CVW) 2 aboard USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72), transfer equipment and supplies during an underway replenishment with the Military Sealift Command ship USNS Rainer (T-AOE 7). The Fast Combat Support Ship pulled along-side Abraham Lincoln to refuel and resupply the aircraft carrier and her crew. Lincoln is deployed to the U.S. 5th Fleet area of responsibility to support Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom as well as maritime security operations. This video shows scenes from the flight deck and hangar bay. (U.S. Navy video by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Susan Sailor/ Released)
Released by Lt. John Officer, CVN 72 PAO*

VIDEO TECHNICAL SPECS

We are looking for 16:9 HD video. No agencies or media outlets outside of DoD use standard definition footage.

The dimensions for 4:3 video are

720x486

720x480

640x480

For 16:9 video. Pay special attention to exporting wide format video for transmission. Video shot in 16:9 and then squeezed into a 4:3 aspect ratio looks distorted. Please advise all shooters to export in the video's native aspect ratio.

The dimensions for 16:9 video are:

864 x 486 < - standard definition

960x720 HD (or larger)

1024 x 576 HD
1280 x 720 HD 1920 x 1080 HD

AVI is a dying file format and should be phased out as technology is refreshed. Specific requirements are on page 2 of this document.

Shoot in HD if available. Down-convert for file transmission (but do not squeeze) over slow internet connections. If your bandwidth is fast enough, transmit HD files. HDV down-converted to DVCAM video produces better quality than shooting in DVCAM as a native format. This also future-proofs the video you shoot today for use in the future.

VIDEO CODEC INFORMATION

The U.S. Navy uses many different brands and versions of video editing software. It is not possible to give a step by step guide/SOP for exporting video for each one. Instead we are providing a general guide of common settings. You will need to know your editing platform to apply these settings.

Video file export settings:

Windows Media Player - .WMV

VIDEO: "Quality" encoding with 1 Pass VBR with Quality set to 85 or 90.

AUDIO: Higher quality audio set to VBR at 90

QuickTime h.264 - .mov

VIDEO: Compression H.264 - Quality: HIGH - Key Frame Rate: 24 - Frame Reordering: Yes - Encoding Mode: Multi-pass - Dimensions: 640x480 for SD or 1920x1080 for HD

AUDIO: Format: AAC - Sample Rate 48 kHz – Stereo - Bit Rate 288 kbps

ARCHIVE VIDEO EXPORT

If you are editing with Avid Media Composer or Adobe Premiere CS 5.5 or later, then we can export an MXF file. This file format is of exceptional quality and can be used for documentary support, internal videos and the historic record. Contact Damon Moritz for instructions.

VIDEO TAPES

Warning. There are two different types of HDV/DVCAM tapes on the market and they should not be mixed. Those tapes are wet lube and dry lube. If you mix wet lube tapes and dry lube tapes in a video camera or deck it will clog the recording heads and cause drop outs. Sony uses a wet lubricant – almost all other manufacturers use a dry lubricant. While people have differing opinions on the quality of various MiniDV and HDV tapes, in general, the tape cartridge format and the tape used in MiniDV and HDV tapes are exactly the same. Putting the HDV label on the packaging is a marketing gimmick. You could buy tapes labeled HDV and use them in a MiniDV camcorder. Or you could buy tapes labeled MiniDV and use them in an HDV camcorder.

FORWARD VIDEO TAPES

Post event/deployment tapes should be sent to NVNS with a DD 2537 run sheet attached. This ensures a high quality tape version goes to the historical record of the U.S. Navy at DIMOC (DVIC) and the National Archives.

<http://www.dtic.mil/whs/directives/infomgt/forms/eforms/dd2537.pdf> - contact navyvisualnews@navy.mil for shipping address. Tapes should NOT be shipped direct to CHINFO as Pentagon force protection procedures can melt plastic tape housings and CD/DVD jewel cases, rendering the media unusable.

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