Preliminary proposal to encode Vexillology Symbols in Unicode

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1 Introduction

This is a preliminary proposal to encode symbols used in the field of vexillology for conveying information regarding usage and features of national flags. These symbols are used in printed materials and in digital content. A tentative character set is shown in the attached code chart and names list. The set contains two categories of characters: 64 flag information symbols and 19 flag typology symbols.

The flag information symbols have character names beginning with ‘FLAG SYMBOL’. The glyphs for these symbols were produced from SVG images generated by the fiav_dots.pl Perl application written by Claus Faerber (2006). The flag typology symbols have names beginning with ‘FLAG TYPOLOGY SYMBOL’. Glyphs for these characters were designed by António Martins-Tuválkin and Željko Heimer.

Research on encoding vexillology symbols is ongoing and a formal proposal is forthcoming. Please submit comments and questions to the proposal author at the above address.

2 Description

2.1 Flag information symbols

The flag information symbols were officially adopted by Fédération internationale des associations vexillologiques (FIAV). The symbols are described in the “Flag Information Code”, which was adopted on August 27, 1981, and amended on July 5, 1995. Section 5 (“National Flag Use”) of the code states:

(a) The following grid is used to describe the use or uses of a flag whose primary function is to identify nationality rather than some other characteristic (such as the rank of an individual, the existence or a specific government or military institution, or some other concept):

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(b) The six areas of the grid indicate the six basic uses of national flags: (1) use by private individuals and institutions on land; (2) use by nonmilitary government institutions on land; (3) use by military institutions on land; (4) use by private individuals and institutions at sea; (5) use by nonmilitary governmental institutions at sea; and (6) use by military institutions at sea. Private, nonmilitary governmental, and military use is indicated from left to right by the three vertical columns; use on land and sea is indicated from top to bottom by the two horizontal rows.

(c) The grid is to be written or printed in the line of identifying text near an illustration of a flag, together with the ratio indicating proportions. The use or uses of the flag design are indicated by placing a point (•) or an × in the appropriate area or areas of the grid.

The grid may be visualized as per the following schema:

```
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Private use</th>
<th>Public use</th>
<th>Military use</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Land use</td>
<td>Civil flag</td>
<td>State flag</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sea use</td>
<td>Civil ensign</td>
<td>State ensign</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
```

Some vexillologists use symbols based upon a 3×3 grid, in which an additional row is added to the top for indicating air flags. The expanded grid has not been officially recognized by FIAV.

2.2 Flag typology symbols

The flag typology symbols are used for describing the design and additional features of flags.

3 Tentative encoding model

Although there are a variety of methods for representing flag information symbols, the tentative model proposes encoding each of the 63 configurations as distinctive characters in addition to 1 empty grid. Alternate models will be discussed in the formal proposal.

4 References


# Vexillology Symbols

<table>
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<th>1FA00</th>
<th>1FA01</th>
<th>1FA02</th>
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<td>1FA0B</td>
<td>1FA0C</td>
<td>1FA0D</td>
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<td>1FA2B</td>
<td>1FA2C</td>
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<td>1FA39</td>
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</table>

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Flag information symbols

Grid symbols based upon the Flag Information Code adopted by Fédération internationale des associations vexillologiques (FIAV). The first row represents land use; the second row represents sea use. From left, columns indicate civil, state, and military usage.

1FA00 ✂️ FLAG SYMBOL NO ATTRIBUTES SELECTED
• Text: ***/***  

1FA01 ✂️ FLAG SYMBOL WAR ENSIGN
• Text: ***/**W  

1FA02 ✂️ FLAG SYMBOL STATE ENSIGN
• Text: ***/*S*  

1FA03 ✡️ FLAG SYMBOL STATE AND WAR ENSIGN
• Text: ***/*SW  

1FA04 ✄️ FLAG SYMBOL CIVIL ENSIGN
• Text: **/*C*  

1FA05 ❏️ FLAG SYMBOL CIVIL AND WAR ENSIGN
• Text: **/*C*W  

1FA06 ❏️ FLAG SYMBOL CIVIL AND STATE ENSIGN
• Text: **/*CS*  

1FA07 ❏️ FLAG SYMBOL NATIONAL ENSIGN
• Text: **/CSW  

1FA08 ❏️ FLAG SYMBOL WAR FLAG
• Text: **W/***  

1FA09 ❏️ FLAG SYMBOL WAR FLAG AND ENSIGN
• Text: **W/**W  

1FA0A ❏️ FLAG SYMBOL WAR FLAG AND STATE ENSIGN
• Text: **W/*S*  

1FA0B ❏️ FLAG SYMBOL WAR FLAG AND STATE AND WAR ENSIGN
• Text: **W/*SW  

1FA0C ❏️ FLAG SYMBOL WAR FLAG AND CIVIL ENSIGN
• Text: **W/C**  

1FA0D ❏️ FLAG SYMBOL WAR FLAG AND CIVIL AND WAR ENSIGN
• Text: **W/C*W  

1FA0E ❏️ FLAG SYMBOL WAR FLAG AND CIVIL AND STATE ENSIGN
• Text: **W/CS*  

1FA0F ❏️ FLAG SYMBOL WAR FLAG AND NATIONAL ENSIGN
• Text: **W/CSW  

1FA10 ❏️ FLAG SYMBOL STATE FLAG
• Text: *S/***  

1FA11 ❏️ FLAG SYMBOL STATE FLAG AND WAR ENSIGN
• Text: *S/**/**W  

1FA12 ❏️ FLAG SYMBOL STATE FLAG AND ENSIGN
• Text: *S/*/C**  

1FA13 ❏️ FLAG SYMBOL STATEフラッグ AND STATE AND WAR ENSIGN
• Text: *S/*/SW  

1FA14 ❏️ FLAG SYMBOL STATEフラッグ AND CIVIL ENSIGN
• Text: *S/*/CS*  

1FA15 ❏️ FLAG SYMBOL STATEフラッグ AND CIVIL AND WAR ENSIGN
• Text: *S/*/C*W  

1FA16 ❏️ FLAG SYMBOL STATEフラッグ AND CIVIL AND STATE ENSIGN
• Text: *S/*/CSW  

1FA17 ❏️ FLAG SYMBOL STATEフラッグ AND NATIONAL ENSIGN
• Text: *S*/CSW  

1FA18 ❏️ FLAG SYMBOL STATE AND WAR ENSIGN
• Text: *SW/***  

1FA19 ❏️ FLAG SYMBOL STATE AND WAR ENSIGN
• Text: *SW/**W  

1FA1A ❏️ FLAG SYMBOL STATE AND WAR ENSIGN AND STATE ENSIGN
• Text: *SW//*S*  

1FA1B ❏️ FLAG SYMBOL STATE AND WAR ENSIGN AND WAR ENSIGN
• Text: *SW/CSW  

1FA1C ❏️ FLAG SYMBOL STATE AND WAR ENSIGN AND CIVIL ENSIGN
• Text: *SW/C**  

1FA1D ❏️ FLAG SYMBOL STATE AND WAR ENSIGN AND CIVIL AND WAR ENSIGN
• Text: *SW/C*W  

1FA1E ❏️ FLAG SYMBOL STATE AND WAR ENSIGN AND CIVIL AND STATE ENSIGN
• Text: *SW/CS*  

1FA1F ❏️ FLAG SYMBOL STATE AND WAR ENSIGN AND CIVIL AND NATIONAL ENSIGN
• Text: *SW/CSW  

1FA20 ❏️ FLAG SYMBOL CIVIL FLAG
• Text: C****  

1FA21 ❏️ FLAG SYMBOL CIVIL FLAG AND WAR ENSIGN
• Text: C**/**W  

1FA22 ❏️ FLAG SYMBOL CIVIL FLAG AND STATE ENSIGN
• Text: C**/*S*  

1FA23 ❏️ FLAG SYMBOL CIVIL FLAG AND STATE AND WAR ENSIGN
• Text: C**/*SW  

1FA24 ❏️ FLAG SYMBOL CIVIL FLAG AND CIVIL ENSIGN
• Text: C**/C**  

1FA25 ❏️ FLAG SYMBOL CIVIL FLAG AND CIVIL AND WAR ENSIGN
• Text: C**/C*W  

1FA26 ❏️ FLAG SYMBOL CIVIL FLAG AND CIVIL AND STATE ENSIGN
• Text: C**/CS*  

1FA27 ❏️ FLAG SYMBOL CIVIL FLAG AND NATIONAL ENSIGN
• Text: C**/CSW  

1FA28 ❏️ FLAG SYMBOL CIVIL FLAG AND STATE ENSIGN
• Text: C**/*S*  

1FA29 ❏️ FLAG SYMBOL CIVIL FLAG AND STATE AND WAR ENSIGN
• Text: C**/*SW  

1FA2A ❏️ FLAG SYMBOL CIVIL FLAG AND STATE AND CIVIL ENSIGN
• Text: C**/CS*  

1FA2B ❏️ FLAG SYMBOL CIVIL FLAG AND STATE AND NATIONAL ENSIGN
• Text: C**/CSW  

1FA2C ❏️ FLAG SYMBOL CIVIL FLAG AND STATE ENSIGN
• Text: C**/W/**W  

1FA2D ❏️ FLAG SYMBOL CIVIL FLAG AND STATE ENSIGN
• Text: C**/C**  

1FA2E ❏️ FLAG SYMBOL CIVIL FLAG AND STATE ENSIGN
• Text: C**/C*W  

1FA2F ❏️ FLAG SYMBOL CIVIL FLAG AND STATE ENSIGN
• Text: C**/CSW  

1FA30 ❏️ FLAG SYMBOL CIVIL FLAG AND STATE ENSIGN
• Text: CS*/***/
Flag typology symbols
Additional symbols proposed by FIAV, but never officially adopted.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1FA37</td>
<td>FLAG SYMBOL CIVIL AND STATE FLAG AND NATIONAL ENSIGN</td>
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<tr>
<td>1FA36</td>
<td>FLAG SYMBOL CIVIL AND STATE FLAG AND WAR ENSIGN</td>
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<td>1FA30</td>
<td>FLAG SYMBOL NATIONAL FLAG AND STATE ENSIGN</td>
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<td>FLAG SYMBOL NATIONAL FLAG AND WAR ENSIGN</td>
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<td>FLAG SYMBOL NATIONAL FLAG ON LAND</td>
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<td>1FA27</td>
<td>FLAG SYMBOL NATIONAL FLAG AND CIVIL ENSIGN</td>
</tr>
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<td>FLAG SYMBOL NATIONAL FLAG AND STATE ENSIGN</td>
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<td>FLAG SYMBOL NATIONAL FLAG on land</td>
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<tr>
<td>1FA22</td>
<td>FLAG SYMBOL NATIONAL FLAG and companion flag</td>
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<tr>
<td>1FA21</td>
<td>FLAG SYMBOL NATIONAL FLAG and companion flag (alternative)</td>
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<td>1FA20</td>
<td>FLAG SYMBOL NATIONAL FLAG and companion flag (de facto)</td>
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<td>1FA19</td>
<td>FLAG SYMBOL NATIONAL FLAG and companion flag (vertical unknown)</td>
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<td>1FA18</td>
<td>FLAG SYMBOL NATIONAL FLAG and companion flag (vertical exclusive)</td>
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<td>1FA17</td>
<td>FLAG SYMBOL NATIONAL FLAG and companion flag (vertical inapplicable)</td>
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<td>1FA16</td>
<td>FLAG SYMBOL NATIONAL FLAG and companion flag (vertical normal)</td>
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<td>1FA15</td>
<td>FLAG SYMBOL NATIONAL FLAG and companion flag (vertical rotated)</td>
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<td>FLAG SYMBOL NATIONAL FLAG and companion flag (vertical two-sided)</td>
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<td>FLAG SYMBOL NATIONAL FLAG and companion flag (vertical equal)</td>
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<td>FLAG SYMBOL NATIONAL FLAG and companion flag (vertical mirror)</td>
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<td>FLAG SYMBOL NATIONAL FLAG and companion flag (vertical reverse)</td>
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<td>FLAG SYMBOL NATIONAL FLAG and companion flag (proposed)</td>
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<td>FLAG SYMBOL NATIONAL FLAG and companion flag (de facto)</td>
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<td>FLAG SYMBOL NATIONAL FLAG and companion flag (two-sided)</td>
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<td>FLAG SYMBOL NATIONAL FLAG and companion flag (reverse)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1FA1</td>
<td>FLAG SYMBOL NATIONAL FLAG and companion flag</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Flag symbols
Additional symbols proposed by FIAV, but never officially adopted.