

AMATEUR RADIO FACT SHEET / DISCUSSION POINTS

TOPIC: WINLINK

Dominant Amateur Radio Digital Platform in USA

- Developed 2 decades ago to provide support for ships at sea.
- HF Primary; but also VHF gateways
- Connects mariners to email system that connects to Internet.
- Five (or more) mirrored servers on multiple continents
- Software has advanced with Microsoft Windows
- Works with both proprietary PACTOR modems and with software-driven soundcard protocols
- Throughput at maximum allowed by FCC in the United States on HF
- Also works through Iridium satellites and microwave MESH
- June HF Traffic: 34,000+ messages, 149+ Mbytes
- June VHF Traffic: > 17,000 messages
- USA HF Gateways: 45+
- U.S. Government instigated Internet-Independent modes that function during complete loss of Internet (but slowly)
- By 2008, 19,000 users (likely many more now)
- Able to handle email and attachments
- Able to support non-amateur tactical users
- World-wide system

SHARES Implementation

- Hush-hush. Material not disseminated.
- See elsewhere for servers
- Operated by NCC, part of DHS.
- Licenses available for the asking.
- Allows non-amateur government employees to gain HF skills / digital skills / voice skills
- Wednesday lunchtime training net.
- State EOC is on SHARES.
- Further details available.