Naval Auxiliary Radio Service
---- NARS ----
3rd Quarter 2026

NARS NEWS

Chief's Message

Some of you may have noticed already we had a Name Change for NARS, and we also have a new Logo.

Since we are not a "System" we changed that name to "Service" as that is what NARS is all about.

We are now known as Naval Auxiliary Radio Service which better clarifies our mission.

With that change came an updated logo for NARS.

We are working on a trifold for NARS to help get the word out, see last pages of this newsletter.

Military Observances

Oct. 13 – Navy Birthday

Oct. 26 – National Day of the Deployed

Get a friend to Join!

NARS application will be posted with this newsletter as a separate attachment

NARS Team Today

NARS.00 NATE ADMIRAAL NNN0NPA

NARS.01 RICH COURTNEY NL9H

NARS.02 TERRY SPARKS NNA0EX

NARS.03 BOB DAVIDSO NKB3KOW

NARS.04 SHANE CALLAGHAN AH2EJ

NARS.05 DENNIS WATSON K4DGW

NARS.06 MIKE HORVATH K7NFO

NARS.07 ROB SWEETON KG7ALH

NARS.08 LARRY_DA_PONTE N7BCP

NARS.09 Rick Low N6CY

NARS.10 Tibor SZIVOS.AC0TS

NARS.11 Will Guillermo WC6DX

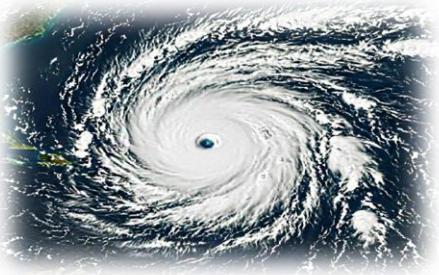
NARS.12 Chris Jones KI7HSH

NARS,13 Bruce Kliche W4BCK

NARS.14 Duane Ettwein KJ4YKG

WINLINK Tuesday – tune in for updates!

NARS At Work for the Navy



In September NARS.04 Chief Petty Officer Shane Callaghan and Dr. Dennis Watson (both NARS members), provided a brief for the United States Fleet Force Command (USFF) and Chief of Naval Installations Command (CNIC) on NARS capabilities. The initial planning meeting was held on 24 SEP 2026 for HURREX/CITADEL GALE 2027. Shane Callaghan is active duty in Suffolk, VA (NCDOC (N6)). Dr. Dennis Watson works full time as a developer for the Naval Information Warfare Development Center (NIWDC), where he has published works on high frequency spectrum and modes of operation.

USFF and CNIC was very impressed with the NARS performance in HURREX 2026 and CINIC hopes to use the NARS Team for other HURREX exercises on the East coast as well as CITADEL Rumble exercises on the west coast. Additionally, a lot of audience interest was generated in the HF kits.

Key Slides:

- Winlink assessed during HURREX/CG26 throughout CNRMA
  - During simulated catastrophic power and cellular communication network outages, Winlink proved effective as an auxiliary email and voice relay system across multiple shore sites throughout NRMA shore installations and afloat onboard the USS Kearsarge
- Observations
  - Mission Execution: Amateur radio operators successfully utilized portable Winlink systems to transmit critical hurricane weather reports via email between Norfolk, Washington D.C., and SUBASE New London
  - Ship-to-Shore Connectivity: Operators successfully established and maintained email and voice communications with the USS Kearsarge (delayed response)
  - Integration Gap: Winlink capability is currently not formally integrated into the CNRMA communications plan
  - Security Limitation: Standard amateur radio networks lack encryption, presenting operational security challenges for official traffic

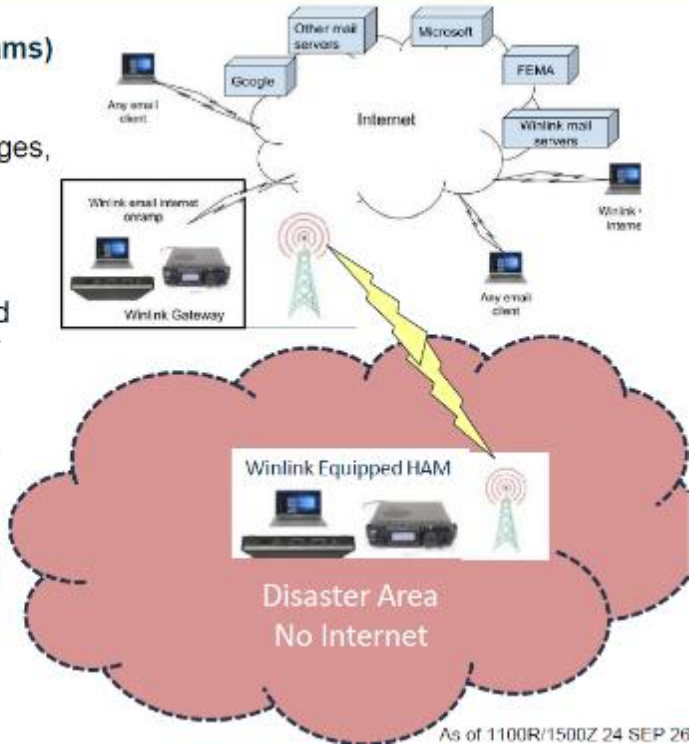


- Recommendations
  - Adopt Existing Policy: Review and evaluate the established amateur radio program policy from NRNW for regional adaptation
  - Formalize Emergency Framework: Coordinate with relevant stakeholders to formally incorporate auxiliary radio operators into the NRMA emergency management structure
  - Enable Encryption: Authorize and assign specific Navy frequencies to these operators to allow encrypted, secure transmissions (SHARES)
  - Establish Resilient Redundancy: Leverage Winlink as a dedicated, resilient contingency communications asset prior to, in parallel, and during catastrophic infrastructure failures (NLT TCCOR-2)
  - USFF assist with Afloat TASKORD to designate afloat asset off of JAX OPEREA to build upon afloat/ashore integration
- Recommendations for HURREX/CG27
  - To mature this capability within NRSE, the findings from the HURREX/CG26 AAR will be addressed by incorporating objectives into HURREX/CG27 exercise design

- Following steps will help implement recommendations for HURREX/CG27:
  - Policy and Stakeholder Coordination:
    - Obtain and review amateur radio program policy from NRNW to establish a baseline for NRSE
    - Coordinate and schedule planning meeting(s) with regional planners and key stakeholders (i.e. NRSE Emergency Management, Communications/N6, and local amateur radio group leaders), to draft a formal integration plan for the exercise
  - Technical and Operational Preparation:
    - Coordinate with appropriate spectrum managers to request and deconflict dedicated Navy frequencies for encrypted Winlink transmissions during the exercise period
    - Work with the amateur radio team to ensure their equipment is configured for secure operations on the assigned frequencies and that they are prepared to meet the exercise objectives
  - Exercise and Evaluation:
    - During the execution of HURREX/CG27, closely monitor and evaluate the performance of Winlink team based on the established objectives
    - Post-exercise, compile observations and performance metrics into HURREX/CG27 AAR and provide data-driven assessment of Winlink

- Proposed Objectives for HURREX/CG27
  - Test Formal Integration of Winlink: Rather than using Winlink as an informal backup, the exercise should be designed to test its performance as a formally integrated component of the CNRSE emergency communications plan
  - Exercise Secure Communications: The primary concern of using Winlink is the lack of encryption. Secure and utilize authorized Navy frequencies for the exercise. This will allow the amateur radio operators to conduct encrypted data and voice transmissions, simulating a secure and resilient communication link
  - Validate Interoperability: Include specific injects which require CNRSE to establish and maintain Winlink communications with key external partners, such as other Regions, afloat commands (e.g., USFF/C2F), and/or civilian emergency response agencies. This will validate the system's interoperability in a joint environment

- **WINLINK is a global radio messaging system for amateur radio operators (hams)**
  - Provides email and other communications
  - Especially useful during internet outages,
  - Used by civil emergency operation centers.
- **It acts as a radio-based email system,**
  - Allowing hams to send messages and attachments to other Winlink users or any internet addresses,
  - Connects to volunteer-run ad hoc gateways outside the internet outage
- **Think of Winlink as**
  - Robust digital email service
  - Ad hoc radio-based email messaging
  - Uses digital radio for precision,
  - Capable of bypassing the internet entirely
  - Or, can access the internet outside the outage zone.

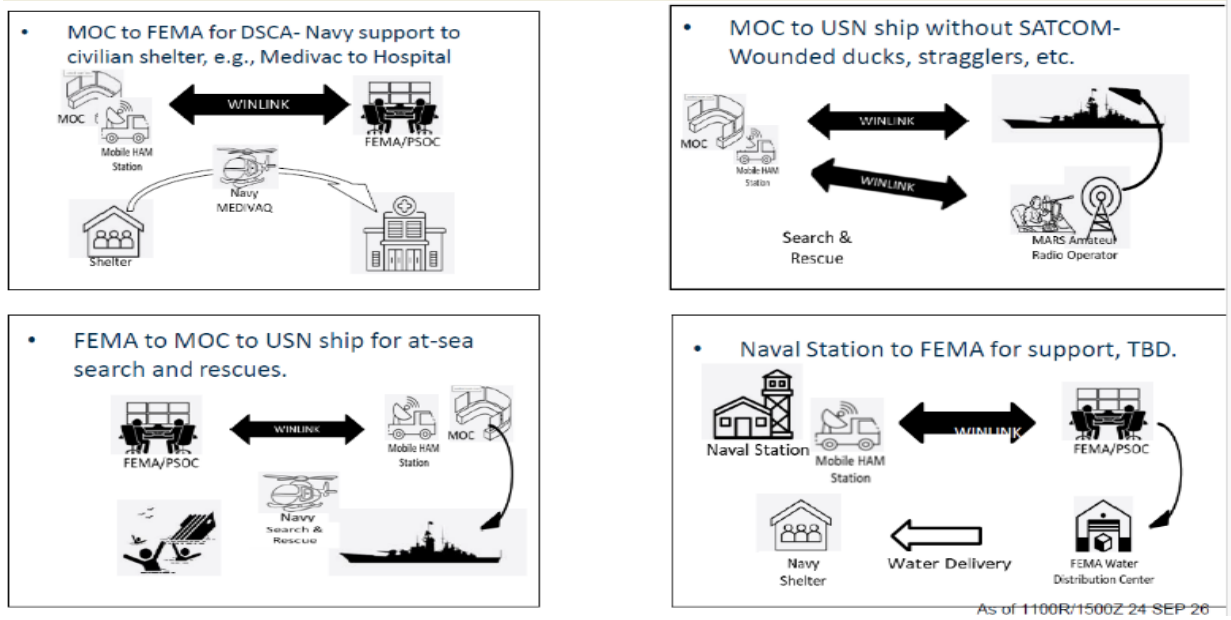


- All CNRNW Emergency Operations Centers (EOC) have "Go Boxes" with HF and VHF transceivers.
- Locally installed antennas and other antennas for remote location setup.
- Message traffic for monthly communications checks.
- Conduct multiple local and remote exercises that depend on HF/VHF communications.
- Naval Air Station Whidbey Island (NASWI) HF Station Team:
  - Exists to supports NRNW Emergency Operations Communications.
  - The team includes active-duty Navy, retired Navy, and select civilians with special skills who want to support CNRNW.
  - Provide radio operations and procedure training for EOC staff.
  - Provide programming of the HF and VHF transceivers.
  - Provide radio checks with all stations on the first Wednesday of each Month.
  - Consulting on equipment purchases and installation configuration.
  - Communications during real-world events.



UNCLASSIFIED





FEMA

- Executive Order 12472, gave the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) the responsibility of providing guidelines to local and state emergency agencies and volunteer organizations to develop an effective emergency communications system.
- In 1991, FEMA published its Civil Preparedness Guide (CPG) for Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES), which outlined procedures for emergency management agencies to establish and manage working relationships with amateur radio organizations. This guide gave local or state emergency managers the responsibility to recruit and establish RACES units and integrate them into emergency communications plans.

DoW participates via Defense Support of Civil Authorities (DSCA) authorities:

- The Department of War (DoW) has a long history of providing DSCA when requested by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and approved by the Secretary of War (SECWAR).

Federal Communications Commission (FCC)

- 47 CFR § 97.407 – Provides guidance for Radio amateur support to civil emergency service. Provides spectrum management. Works to ensure reliable emergency communications.

MARS

- The Military Auxiliary Radio System (MARS) is a United States Department of Defense sponsored program, established as a separately managed and operated program by the United States Army and the United States Air Force. The program is a civilian auxiliary consisting primarily of licensed amateur radio operators who are interested in assisting the military with communications on a regional and national level when access to traditional forms of communication may no longer be available. MARS has a long history of providing worldwide auxiliary emergency communications during times of need.

Winlink Tuesday

Send a WINLINK Message every week to keep in practice. It is not hard, but clearly not a Microsoft product. Here is the last message from NARS01.

Message Follows

UNCLASSIFIED//
ROUTINE
R 282222Z SEP 26 ZEU
FM NL9H
TO NAVAL ASSOCIATED RADIO SYSTEM (NARS) NET BT UNCLAS EXER//
MSGID/GENADMIN/NAVAL ASSOCIATED RADIO SYSTEM (NARS)// SUBJ/WINLINK TUESDAY REMINDER FOR 29 SEP 2026// REF/A/MSG/NL9H/131800ZJUL26// POC/RICH COURTNEY/-/NARS/LOC: GREENE RI/
TEL: 907-690-6899/EMAIL: RICH(AT)NAVAL-WEATHER.COM// RMKS/ 1. RMKS/1. PROPAGATION DATA: SFI:097; SN:46; A INDEX:08; K INDEX:00
2. THIS IS A REMINDER THAT WINLINK TUESDAY IS IN EFFECT 28 SEP 26 FROM 0001 LOCAL UNTIL 2359 LOCAL.
3. PLS SEND A ONE-LINE CHECK-IN MESSAGE CONTAINING YOUR CALLSIGN, FIRST NAME, TOWN/LOCATION, NEAREST NAVAL ACTIVITY, AND METHOD OF TRANSMISSION. EX: NL9H/RICH/GREENE, RI/SUBASE NEW LONDON/HF.
4. ATTEMPT HF WINLINK FIRST. IF HF IS NOT AVAILABLE, USE VHF/UHF. IF NEITHER IS AVAILABLE, USE TELNET WINLINK.
5. SEND ALL CHECK-IN MESSAGES TO: NL9H@WINLINK.ORG.
BT
NNNN

NARS Application

Feel free to print and fill in by hand or request a pdf fillable from NARS.02.Team@gmail.com.

APPLICATION FOR NAVAL AUXILLARY RADIO SERVICE (NARS)

Application Purpose: ○ New ○ Renewal ○ Modification

Application Information: *(All applicants Complete this section)*

Last Name	First Name		Middle Name
Mailing Address	City	State	Zip
Email	Home Phone	Work Phone	Cell Phone

Application Qualifying Information: *(All Applicants Complete this section)*

Amateur Radio Call Sign	Class of License		Expiration Date
Prior Military	Years of Service	End Date	Prior MARS Call Sign(s)

Station Qualifying Information:

Do you have or have access to HF SSB transceiver capable of operating on all frequencies between 2 and 30 MHz? ○ YES ○ NO

Is your station capable of transmitting and receiving using an approved data waveform? (*Waveforms such as: MIL-STD 188-110 Serial PSK, WINLINK, MT63*) ○ Yes ○ NO

Do you have a computer with internet access? ○ Yes ○ No

Program limiting Questions: *(Check if Yes)*

Are you a Citizen of the United States? ☐ YES

Explain any YES responses to the below questions on a separate sheet.

Have you ever been discharged from the Armed Forces under other than honorable conditions? ☐ YES

Have you ever been convicted of a felony? ☐ YES Are you currently under indictment in any court? ☐ YES

Are you a current user of unlawful user of illicit drugs? ☐ YES

re you associated with any terrorist organizations? ☐ YES

Have you ever been declared mentally incompetent? ☐ YES

NARSAPPFRORM1-1 9-24-2026

Membership Agreement: *(All Applicants Complete this section.)*

Participation in NARS is a voluntary activity undertaken by qualified amateur radio operator/citizens who contribute their time and use of personal communicaitons equipment to achieve the objectives of the Department of Navy. The activity is strictly voluntary, and the US Government, Department of War will provide no compensation, reimbursment, insurance, or other benifits to volunteers. Volunteers are free to seperate from NARS at any time. NARS is a structured organization and utilizes volunteers in leadership positions to direct, train and oversee activities. Members are authorized to operate on amateur radio frequencies and/or Navy assigned frequencies if allowcated; and are required to meet minimum qualifications, equipment and recurring training goals.
NARS members will hold unclassified but sensitive information; the nature of Navy activities require high degree of personal discretion and professional conduct.

I understand the voluntary nature of NARS and agree to utilize my personal radio equipment and contribute my time in support of the defense requirements of the United States, at my own risk and without compensation.
I understand it may be necessary to modify my radio equipment to operate on government frequencies, to complete required training, to meet minimum participation requirements and to participate in ongoing training and exercises.
I agree to share sensitive information only with authorized individuals whom have a need to know. I will not reveal sensitive information which has become known to me through NARS to unauthorized parties or in public forums.
I will comply with all NARS rules, policies, regulations and directives; cooperate fully with the NARS volunteer leadership and staff, as well as the government officials and their contractors who may have oversight of NARS.

Do you agree to publication of your name, address, email, and phone number(s) on the NARS roster which will be made available to other NARS members as well as key Naval personnel? ☐ YES

Do you agree to publication of your name and photograph in NARS and/or Navy press releases, newsletters, and social media for the purpose of recruiting and promoting NARS? ☐ YES

Note: Signature may be typed in if sent from your above email.

Signature	Date

Email your application to: NARS.Team.02@gmail.com

For Internal Use Only

Applicant is ACCEPTED	☐	Applicant is Accepted as Trainee	☐	Applicant is NOT ACCEPTED	☐

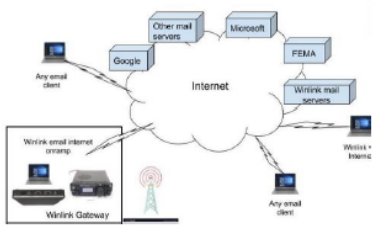
NARS Authorized Member / Date	Signature

NARSAPPFRORM1-1 9-24-2026

Outside part of Trifold

High Frequency (HF), Very High Frequency (VHF), and Ultra High Frequency (UHF) Radio Communications

Should the internet be unavailable, NARS utilizes the WINLINK system which sends email via radio communications between stations. Recipients with WINLINK may receive mail via radio or World Wide Web if available in their area. WINLINK also allows reception of emails to non-radio stations as it links to the internet where a link is possible.





NARS utilizes Go Boxes with voice and digital communications capability to pass information received from Navy facilities to other Navy commands and/or agencies such as FEMA.

NARS fits well with the Primary, Alternate, Contingency, and Emergency (PACE) communications plan. The Contingency and Emergency portions of the plan should include a variety of means, including WINLINK communication.

Low-Cost Support via Proven Technology!

NARS Mission

Provide operational radio communications support and technical training to the United States Navy.

NARS Vision

To cultivate a ready force of volunteer communication experts capable of training and supporting Navy activities in a denied or degraded communications environment.

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Now Recruiting: NARS members include Active-duty Navy, Department of Defense Civilians and Amateur Radio Operators interested in supporting the Navy. NARS retired members are individuals who wish to continue serving and supporting the United States Navy.

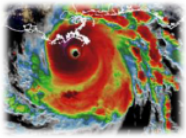
We are looking for qualified Amateur Radio Operators interested in supporting the Navy when needed. There are no daily or monthly commitments in NARS. Key qualifications include Amateur license, HF radio experience, and a good working knowledge of *WINLINK*. Send an application request to join to:

NARS.Team.02@gmail.com



Naval Auxiliary Radio Service (NARS)









NARS HF, VHF/UHF Radio Go Box.

When Real-World events happen there will be no internet or cell phones to communicate with and even Satellite communications could be inoperable.

NARS volunteers are training and ready to provide alternate voice and digital communications utilizing all forms of radio communications.



Inside of Trifold

Navy High Frequency (HF) History

The origins of today's Naval Auxiliary Radio Service (NARS) trace back to the Auxiliary Amateur Radio System (AARS) during World War I.

The United States Navy realized the potential of wireless communication from its inception. Within 10 days of the United States' entry into World War I, the Navy recruited 1500 Amateur Radio Operators from the more than six thousand licensed amateurs at that time.

The Secretary of the Navy approved the organization of the Navy-Marine Corps Military Affiliate Radio System (MARS) in August 1962. Department of Defense Instruction 4650.02, dated 23 December 2009, changed the status of MARS from an affiliate to an auxiliary, giving it equal status to the Coast Guard Auxiliary and Civil Air Patrol.

HF communications are challenging, as effectiveness depends on the time of day, season, and solar activity. Selecting the best frequency is an art and coordinating frequency selection between transmission and receiving stations can also be a challenge.

As military satellites were deployed, the Navy became reliant on satellite communications due to the simple and fast nature of the process. Ships could receive multiple messages in less time than it took to receive a single message via HF.

The end of Navy-Marine Corps MARS in May 2015 was transmitted by a message from the Chief of Navy and Marine Corps MARS.

The Message that ended Navy and Marine Corps MARS:

R 122Ø3ØZ MAY 2Ø15 FM
CHNAVMARCORMARS WILLIAMSBURG VA TO
ALNAVMARCORMARS

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As technology advanced, the potential for jamming our communications satellites during a conflict became a concern for the Navy. Ships at sea could not get the weather information they needed. In 2022, LT Admiraal (now LCDR Admiraal) took on the challenge of investigating how the Navy could cost-effectively regain HF resources.

Given the success of NRNW and other command exercises, Navy representatives have indicated plans to use the NARS team to employ backup radio communications for future East Coast HURREX and West Coast Citadel Rumble exercises. *(Correction: Consistent capitalization for directions.)*

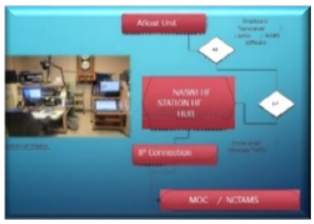
What We Do:

- Provide voice and digital radio communications.
- Support Navy exercises.
- Support real-world events.
- Coordinate communications with participating stations and activities.

The NW NARS Team

Navy Region Northwest (NRNW) created communications "Go Boxes" for each of the five Emergency Operations Centers (EOC). Naval Air Station Whidbey Island (NASWI) re-tasked a Navy and Marine Corp Military Auxiliary Radio System station to become part NRNW Emergency Management system. The NASWI HF Station is maintained and operated by volunteer Amateur Operators. The staff provides NRNW with equipment configuration, NRNW staff training, site evaluations, monthly communications checks with NRNW EOCs, and provide exercise and real world event communications support.





The HF station provides HF and VHF voice and digital capability for NRNW.



The NASWI HF station is an active part of NRNW Emergency Operations.