



"Dedicated Volunteers—In Unity of Purpose—Serving DOD"

Volume V Issue I

Fred Hambrecht NNN0ASG EIGHT

4th Qtr 2008

THE TRIAD

Editor- NNN0AAG SC editor@winlink.org

CW - the original digital mode - returns to MARS

After more than a dozen years, Morse code has returned to MARS nets. In the 1990s, the Department of Defense did away with CW operation across the board, including MARS nets. It was felt that in the era of Sat phones and the internet it was no longer needed. MARS members who had embraced CW operation knew that Morse code, the most "digital" mode of all, was an important tool for ECOM. Hurricane Katrina demonstrated the need for communications by low power stations with make-shift antennas to get traffic out of the disaster area. CW was authorized during the emergency and afterwards many MARS members led a campaign to resume CW operations on their nets. In announcing the return of CW to MARS nets, Navy-

Marine Corps MARS Chief Bo Lindfors cited an emergency where CW was sorely missed: "I remember the Northeast Ice Storm shortly after I became Chief and the unnecessarily lengthy effort by all of southern New England to receive one voice Essential Elements of Information Report from a northern New England member whose antenna was covered in ice and lying on the ground. It took more than an hour when CW could have handled it in a few minutes. As more and more of our members enter MARS with no Morse code experience, I am afraid that we will soon lose that skill set if we don't do something." We now get to show the skill is still alive and is capable of getting through when nothing else will!

If your state is running CW nets, please forward the time and designator to the editor . In future issues we will publish a list of CW and other digital nets.

The Venerable J-37



The members in my state met the change with excitement and immediately lined up to participate in the CW net. We have also seen increased participation as well as the re-affiliation of two old members with more expected.

Talking to Winlink

Airmail and Paclink are two programs that will allow you to communicate via Winlink (WL2K). What is the difference and which one should I use? Airmail is a stand alone program that allows you to create and read messages as well as connect to WL2K via Telnet, Pactor or Packet. It is necessary to manually specify each connection, and if that connection fails another manual selection is required. If you are getting traffic for multiple calls it requires a separate instance for each call. Paclink on the other hand

allows you to configure an unlimited number of addresses to receive traffic. In addition it gives you the ability to create Staff calls, impossible under airmail. NNN0ASA will be disseminating the approved procedure by broadcast in the near future. Another Paclink feature is the use of tactical call signs such as State-EOC or Police-911 that allows your TWO to create a tactical call to be used at a site regardless of which member may be manning the site. Paclink acts as POP mail account so you can use your

favorite e-mail program to prepare messages and set up addresses by group, such as EEI. You may have noted our e-mail address on the sidebar, editor@winlink.org, it was set up using Paclink. NNN0ASA has indicated Paclink will be the new standard for WL2K. Shortly paclink will include a soundcard mode that does not require a \$1000 modem to get reasonable speeds on HF. It has been tested at speeds approaching that of Pactor III. Like the old commercial used to say "Try it, you'll like it."

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Get Acquainted with MT-63

MT-63 is a digital mode finding favor for traffic handling on MARS. It is a soundcard mode that is extremely robust and can be received and transmitted with NO OUTLAY of additional squirreled away dollars. That's extremely appealing to us old cheap curmudgeons!

MT-63 operates in several modes 500, 1000 and 2000 Hz wide with short and long interleave. MARS has settled on 1K long as the normal mode of operations. What does all that mean? 1K indicates the bandwidth and equates to about 100 words per minute. We will get to the interleave in a minute. MT-63 sends sixty three tones and a character is re-

peated a number of times over some of the sixty three tones. In addition characters are sent again in succeeding groups of sixty three tones. The character can be said to be sent in both time and frequency division. Now back to the long, it equates to six seconds of time division so any noise of less than six seconds causes no errors. It is as much of an improvement over AMTOR FEC as AMTOR was over RTTY. Remember when you got to throw away the garble table?

If you have not tried it, here is what you need to do. First get a copy of IZ8BLY MT-63 from <http://xoomer.alice.it/aporcino/MT63/index.htm> and install

it on your computer. Next using the mike that came with your computer, start IZ8BLY and lay the little cheapy mike you have plugged into your soundcard input near your rig speaker. You should now be able to copy a transmission even if your dog is barking or the XYL is hollering for the dog to shut up. To transmit you start the IZ8BLY and key the mike so it picks up the output from the computer speaker. Granted an interface would make life easier and the best low buck one I have found is available from <http://home.att.net/~n8st/DDI-index.html> (Donner Interface) available for \$40.00 with all cables needed for your rig.



The Donner Interface

IZ8BLY Screen Shot from the internet

A Note To Ben NNN0JQC

As I assume the position of ASG EIGHT, I have to take a moment to reflect on our past EIGHT, NNN0JQC. Ben spent ten years as editor of the newsletter and managed to always come up with a great issue each time. I am just beginning to understand the difficulty he went thru with each new issue. In spite of having to come up with material for each newsletter on his own, he managed and shined at the position. BZ my friend, you have left some large shoes to fill.

- Fred NNN0AAG SC

A Word To Members About Your Newsletter

This is your newsletter and only exists to serve you. I need your help in sending items from your state that you would like to see in the Triad. It doesn't have to be anything polished or complete. Just jot down a few sentences about what you would like to say and the people involved. I will call you and get further details as needed. This is the place for state directors to recognize those members that have gone above and beyond. A short piece on why a member was selected for communicator of the quarter along with a pic-

ture would be great. We also would like to see technical articles or a hint that you have found helpful in making things work in the shack. State TWO's and FOUR's tell us what you are doing to develop drills that would be of use to other states. What kind of training are you doing during your nets? The exchange of ideas is the real purpose of any newsletter. Let us have your ideas so we may all benefit from the collective knowledge of the whole Central Area. Send your Ideas to: editor@winlink.org



· On June 3, 1999, the Secretary of the Navy authorized submarines and submarine tenders to fly a special Submarine Centennial Jack throughout the year 2000 in honor of the U. S. Submarine Force's Centennial. This marked the first occasion since 1775 that a specific class of ships has been so honored.

· On May 22, 2002, the U.S. Navy ordered all ships to display the First Navy Jack during the War on Terrorism.

South Carolina and Florida Hold joint drill that started to look all too real!

With hurricane season on the horizon and both Florida and South Carolina due for a drill, it was decided by GAL and GBS to hold a joint drill.

The drill situation was a hurricane entering Florida just below the Jacksonville area and proceeding up the coast through Hilton Head and Charleston and on up the eastern part of South Carolina into North Carolina.

Florida was sending evacuees from the Jacksonville area to shelters in South Carolina. Traffic was handled between the states on SSB, MT-63 and Amtor FEC. The drill went well as the mythical storm proceeded on the path established by NNN0ICX (GAL TWO) and NNN0JKI (GBS TWO) creating the nec-

essary traffic flow and the opportunity for the two states to work together under hurricane conditions.

Then as Yogi Berra used to say "it was déjà vu all over again". The predicted course showed actual hurri-

"It seems every time we put a drill together it turns into reality. If it happens again, I am breaking my two's pencil"
-Mike NNN0GAL-

cane Hanna following the exact pattern of the finished drill. The storm was predicted to enter Florida just below Jacksonville and proceed up the coast.

The difference was this time we were ready! We had jointly

agreed on MT-63 as the preferred digital communications method and which state would be responsible, as the storm progressed, for NECOS on the net.

Then the update showed that Florida had dodged the bullet and it would come ashore at Beaufort and go up the center of the state.

Condition COMCON Two was set in South Carolina and all stations waited to see what was happening next.

Then as predicted by the Region Four weather prognosticator AS4-TWO, Hanna turned and finally made landfall in North Carolina. The only damage in South Carolina was to our wallets as they raised gas prices.

As the storm entered North Carolina it had dropped in intensity and damage was minimal.

Members in both Florida and South Carolina should take satisfaction in knowing they were ready!



· Hurricane Hanna threatened Florida and South Carolina and finally came ashore in North Caro-

The Central Area Newsletter, The TRIAD, is published for the enjoyment and edification of Navy-Marine Corps MARS members. The contents do not reflect official Navy positions.
EDITOR: Fred NNOASG EIGHT.
 129 Indian Trace Ct Gilbert, SC 29054
 E-Mail: . nnn0aag@navymars.org
Central Area Director
 Steve NNN0ASG IL
Deputy Director Central Area
 Dave NNN0ASG ONE MI
Director Region Four
 Jack NNN0AS4 GA
Director Region Five
 Tim NNN0AS5 MN

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A Story You Won't Hear On MSNBC – An Email From Iraq

Just wanted to write to you and tell you another story about an experience we had over here.

As you know, I asked for toys for the Iraqi children over here and several people (Americans that support us) sent them over by the box. On each patrol we take through the city, we take as many toys as will fit in our pockets and hand them out as we can. The kids take the toys and run to show them off as if they were worth a million bucks. We are as friendly as we can be to everyone we see, but especially so with the kids. Most of them don't have any idea what is going on and are completely innocent in all of this.



On one such patrol, our lead security vehicle stopped in the middle of the street. This is not normal and is very unsafe, so the following vehicles began to inquire over the radio. The lead vehicle reported a little girl sitting in the road and said she just would not budge. The command vehicle told the lead to simply go around her and to be kind as they did. The street was wide enough to allow this maneuver and so they waved to her as they drove around.

As the vehicles went around her, I soon saw her sitting there and in her arms she was clutching a little bear that we had handed her a few patrols back. Feeling an immediate connection to the girl, I radioed that we were going to stop. The rest of the convoy paused and I got out the make sure she was OK. The little girl looked scared and concerned, but there was a warmth in her eyes toward me. As I knelt down to talk to her, she moved over and pointed to a mine in the road.

Immediately a cordon was set as the Marine convoy assumed a defensive posture around the site. The mine was destroyed in place.

It was the heart of an American that sent that toy. It was the heart of an American that gave that toy to that little girl. It was the heart of an American that protected that convoy from that mine. Sure, she was a little Iraqi girl and she had no knowledge of purple mountain's majesty or fruited plains. It was a heart of acceptance, of tolerance, of peace and grace, even through the inconveniences of conflict that saved that convoy from hitting that mine. Those attributes are what keep Americans hearts beating. She may have no affiliation at all with the United States, but she knows what it is to be brave and if we can continue to support her and her new government, she will know what it is to be free. Isn't that what Americans are, the free and the brave?

If you sent over a toy or a Marine (US Service member) you took part in this. You are a reason that Iraq has to believe in a better future. Thank you so much for supporting us and for supporting our cause over here.

Semper Fi,
Mark
GySgt / USMC