



John C. Stennis  
Carrier Strike Group  
N6 Post Deployment Brief  
27 July 2011 – 02 March 2012



*ITCS(SW/AW/NAC) Robert Riccitelli*

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# Voice over Secure Internet Protocol (VOSIP)

## Observations

- Reliable, secure comms relied on for Strike Group, Warfare Commander, CO, TAO, LNO discussions
- Secure, easy to use, high quality, joint, quick, affordable ~\$250 (v. \$3k/STE)
- No keymat required, less admin/overhead
- Non-std install approval ISO C5F Ops
  - C5F 170547ZOCT11

## Discussion

- Once installed and configured in C7F, VOSIP quickly became the comms path of choice for secure phone calls.
- Supported OPSEC
- Used extensively for Air Defense Exercises with the CAOC
- Relied on for Warfare Commander synchronization

## Recommendations

- Fund call managers at fleet NOCs
- Establish as a program of record
- Expand to unsecure VoIP
  - Allows for dynamic bandwidth allocation for phones



**Strike Group Commander's tool of choice. If he could spend one more dollar...**



# Full Motion Video (FMV)

## Observations

- JCSSG Strait of Hormuz transits
  - 20 Sep 11 (inbound) CDLS
  - 8 Oct 11 (outbound) CDLS, Rover 4/5
  - 12 Nov 11 (inbound) MC2
  - 27 Dec 11 (outbound) CDLS, MC2

## Discussion

- Critical for situational awareness:
  - Used to identify unknown contacts
  - Critical to identify and track Warships
  - Verify intent
  - Monitor counter-piracy events and relay to HHQ for public affairs
- Video streamed to warfare commander watch stations via SIPR
- Real-time streaming to NAVCENT limited

## Recommendations

- Fund FMV as a Program of Record
- Standardize CPED, establish Navy wide CONOP, TTPs
- Develop video feed for both internal viewing and external (HHQ)
- Exercise use during FRTP





# JCSSG MC2 Video Scout install



**Ad-hoc installation not ideal. Need fully developed solution.**



# Global Broadcast System (GBS)

## Observations

- Potential to be a great resource
  - Split IP, Imagery (standing deck and ad-hoc), UAV (Predator/Raptor), TURBULENT WAVE, Legacy web downloads, 3 TV Channel broadcast
- No formal IT technician or end user training
  - Very little knowledge at CSG/CVN
- Difficult to manage
  - Broadcast footprint, theater chops, different process for each fleet

## Recommendations

- Establish CONOP
- Establish formal GBS training for users and technicians-like 'ISNS end to end training'
- Exercise use during FRTP
- Establish standardized fleet Global Mission Requests (GMR) and Tactics, Techniques and Procedures (TTP)
- Make legacy web downloads transparent to users
  - Seed web cache with downloads

## Discussion

- Critical for imagery downloads
- Other than imagery, GBS added little value
- Shore support not available 24x7
- Legacy web downloads were incomplete and not useful
- Maintaining system is manpower intensive

**Untapped Potential**  
**Too unreliable to rely on**



# Link Redundancy for Reliability

## Observations

- Systems are fragile
- Utilized every data path and piece of equipment to keep COP
  - RF/Sat Link 16, HF/UHF Link 11, JREAP-C
- Large AOR required extensive use of SAT J and JREAP-C

## Discussion

- High number of CRUDES CASREPs
  - Avg fix 2.5 wks.
- C5F JNL problems
- Shutdown of Link 16 towers in Iraq forced HF Link 11 as long haul link
- Ships conducting similar missions had to use SAT J/HF 11/JREAP-C
- Joint community using JREAP-C almost exclusively

## Recommendations

- Maintain redundancy on link systems
- JREAP-C is way of future operations, connectivity easier
- Expedite fielding of Next Generation Command and Control Processor (NCG2P)
- Establish forward deployed Maintenance Assistance Module (MAMs) with high fail cards and chassis
- Establish forward deployed tech support



# LINK Frequencies

## Observation

- ❑ The Joint Information Control Officer (JICO) requires the use of frequencies listed in the Numbered Fleet Commanders OPTASK Link.

## Discussion

- ❑ While deployed, transiting Strike Groups utilized link frequencies promulgated in the numbered fleet's OPTASK link vice frequencies provided by the standing CSG communications plan provided by the numbered Fleet Commander.
- ❑ While in C5F, the NMCSO disapproved C5F OPTASK Link frequencies for CSG maritime operations.

## Recommendation

- ❑ Coordination required between various joint and Navy/Marine Corps spectrum offices to ensure no frequency conflict exist and frequencies are authorized for use throughout the AOR.



# IP reliance

## Observations

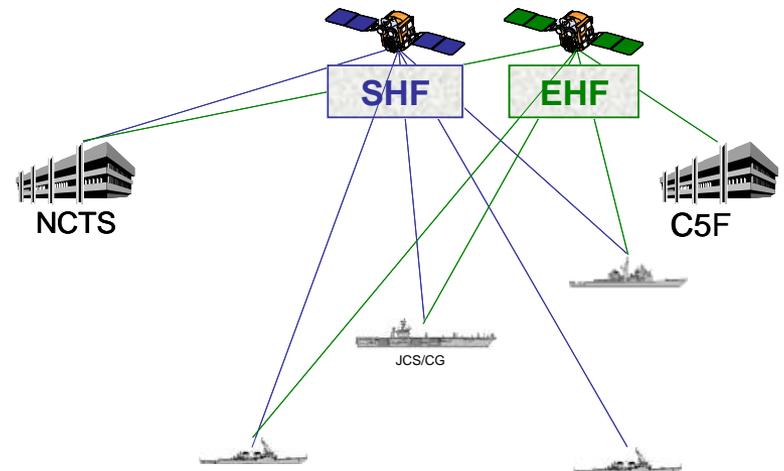
- All Strike Group functions are increasingly dependent on IP services
- Mission critical: time sensitive I&W feeds, command and control systems, NSAnet access, EP-3 and BAMS-D imagery, FMV, VTC, VOSIP, Logistic, Medical
- SHF cutovers can be difficult
- ADNS is single point of failure

## Recommendations

- Redundancy required in satellites, frequencies and data paths
- Continue funding for SHF DSCS and CBSP
- Pursue larger allocation of bandwidth as an increasing number of war fighting systems are dependent on IP services
- Implement smart bandwidth usage
  - Authorized compression software
  - Acceleration
- LNO at shore station during cutovers

## Discussion

- Redundancy is required to support war fighting
- Using SHF cross-patch, 8 Mbps DSCS carried NIPR services, routinely saturated
- Intelligence community migrated to reach back support, heavily dependent on IP services
- Unacceptable outages during SHF cutovers





# C7F SATCOM Coverage GAP

## Observations

- Transiting westbound from the Strait of Malacca, we experienced a UHF SATCOM coverage gap.
- Same gap in coverage experienced during eastbound transit

## Discussion

- Impact:
  - No dedicated CSG DAMA package
  - No UHF DAMA voice communications with CTF 70
  - No dedicated GBS spot beam
  - Loss of LR SPRAC coverage

## Recommendations

- ❑ Educate strike groups on expectations and coverage during transit. Two false planning assumptions for the last 3 CSGs:
  - ❑ C7F/CTF 70 knew about the gap in coverage
  - ❑ CSG DAMA package would transition to next UFO Satellite
  - ❑ Pursue solution to address coverage gap



**We were not the first CSG to transit, but it seemed that way.**



# HYDRA

## Observation

- HYDRA Radio use is restricted in all Gulf Co-operative Countries in order to avoid interference with trunked mobile radio systems.
- Similar restrictions exist in the 7<sup>th</sup> Fleet AOR for Japan port visits.

## Discussion

- Ships must request approval from 5<sup>th</sup> Fleet N6 and NMCSO CENT Bahrain at least 96 hours prior to entering any port.
- Contact Numbers for each ship is required for an individual who can immediately secure transmissions if necessary.

## Recommendation

- Channelization plans for each ship must be provided to the Strike Group Staff N6 and N39 shops prior to deployment to avoid delays in approval to operate.
- Securing of topside antennas will alleviate interference issues while still meeting Force Protection requirements.



# RSN – USN PASSEX

## Observation

- PASSEX conducted with the Republic of Singapore Navy and the John C. Stennis Strike Group from 30 Jan -02 Feb 12.
- Exercise was conducted using UHF LOS communications with HF as a backup. This required each ship to re-configure their communications suite.

## Recommendation

- Warfare Commanders must provide input for communications guard requirements.
- Senior Leadership must be briefed on guard requirements and changes to standing communications configuration.

## Discussion

- RSN-USN Planning conference was held at Changi Naval Base on 27 January. RSN communications requirements were more extensive than previously briefed by CTF 73 (4 UHF/HF voice nets, 2 UHF/HF Link). RSN listed over 20 VHF/UHF/HF voice and data nets.
- Minimal attendance by JCSSG personnel hampered dissemination of information.

## Additional Information

- RSN conducts all exercises in local time vice Zulu.
- Plain voice used due to non-compatible encryption devices on RSN ships. RSN expects to have new crypto gear by summer of 2012.
- RSN very pleased with level of participation of USN and communications excellence.



# N6 LL Topics

- **VOSIP**
- **FMV: MC2 Video Scout, Rover, Hawklink, CDLS**
- **GBS: Imagery (standing deck and ad-hoc), Legacy web scrapes, Predator, TURBULENT WAVE, Split IP, TV broadcast**
- **JADOCs**
- **Airwing NMCI embarkables**
- **Airwing Tactical iPads**
- **Link redundancy and spares**
- **CTN skill set in the CSG**
- **IAVA's**
- **CENTRIXS peripherals**
- **IAWF training**
- **C7F SATCOM dead zone**
- **IP reliance**
- **COMPOSE software issues**
- **JCS ISNS**
- **SIPR REL for UK Pilot**
- **HBSS**
- **Intel Systems: DCGS-N, TSVOSIP, Gale Lite Proforma Feed**
- **JICO: GCCS/CV-TSC; install Tacview for ADC**
- **distance support, VRAM, Retina**
- **Goods: JADOCs, C5F support, VTC, CTF 50 CAS, CENTRIXS CAS, CENTRIXS ISAF, Hawklink, DCO, COOPEX, Comms Denied tabletop, Fighting Hurt drills, SHF Cross patch**