

Homeland security may be expected to be improved by having several thousand more licensees trained, equipped and capable of operating on the HF bands. The VHF and UHF bands are not capable of reliably providing communications into and out of large disaster areas. In cases of natural or man-made disasters, the HF bands can be used for communications.

Amateurs study and pay for their own equipment providing widely scattered base stations. Many licensees will provide mobile and portable communications which are not easily neutralized or destroyed in case of man-made disasters. The equipment is movable and flexible.

I support the removal of the Morse code examination element for the all licensees. The remaining requirements of the written examinations for General and Extra Class licenses will help maintain the integrity of the Amateur Radio as a service to our country.

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