

I oppose the petition to reenstate the element 1 Morse code exam as a requirement for Amateur Extra class. The petitioner cites national security concerns as a reason to reenstate Morse code, however requiring Morse code proficiency of 5 WPM for Amateur Extra will not create the pool of Morse code proficient operators that the petitioner claims is necessary unless there is a periodic proficiency test required to maintain the Extra class license. Even an annual proficiency exam will not ensure a pool of proficient operators. It is more important to train emergency communications operators in the proper use of voice and digital communications than in Morse code. While code can get through in high noise environments with less bandwidth it is inconsistent with the DHS push to use plain language voice or text messaging for disaster communications as outlined in NIMS and ICS. Since the intent of the petitioner cannot be guaranteed by reenstating element 1, the petition should be denied.