

In the matter of RM-11699

The opposition to this proceeding makes strong arguments for retaining the current status quo with regards to Encryption in Amateur Radio. My view is from that of a currently active Amateur Radio Emergency Communications operator, the one existing option for encryption, the Military Auxiliary Radio Service, is not for those hams that do not have the time to dedicate to the requirements of the Service. There needs to be an option within our own service to use encryption under very strict circumstances, which would be as follows)

- 1* During the initial days of a natural disaster where there is no other functional way to pass the encrypted traffic
- * During training exercises that are intended to simulate the conditions of a natural disaster

For both points, there would need to be certain things done, which would be as follows)

- 1* For a natural disaster, the operator would log the contact as normal, indicate that an encrypted file was sent, and have the representative of the served agency that needed this service sign the log as well
- * For training, the above requirement would be in force, as would a requirement to have a neutral observer sign the log to signify that they were aware of the nature of the content of the transmission

At no time should the amateur radio operator be the one doing the encryption unless they are also a staff member of the served agency, nor should the amateur be required to possess a copy of the transmitted item, either still encrypted with a decryption key, or in plain text

Some opponents of encryption often go so far as to point out that IARF does have exemptions for certain conditions which include transmission over radio, what they do not seem to understand is that these exemptions were included in the law at a time when the Internet and radio monitoring technology did not easily allow for identity theft. Increasingly, health care providers, law enforcement and other served agencies have become reluctant to utilize Amateur Radio without some way to remove risks, as has been stated by at least one other commenter. I believe being allowed to send encrypted data via Amateur Radio when there is no other method available to them will alleviate this reluctance.

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