

## Glossary Of Utility Terms And Acronyms

*AFB*—Air Force Base

*ALE*—Automatic Link Establishment, a link control system that includes automatic scanning, selective calling, sounding, and channel selection, without human intervention using processor control.

*AM*—Amplitude Modulation

*ANDVT*—Advanced Narrowband Digital Voice Terminal, a secure voice mode used by the military.

*ATC*—Air Traffic Control

*CAMSLANT*—Communications Area Master Station Atlantic, the U.S. Coast Guard's primary HF radio station for the Atlantic region, located at Portsmouth, Virginia.

*CAMPAC*—Communications Area Master Station Pacific, the U.S. Coast Guard's primary HF radio station for the Pacific region, located at Pt. Reyes, California.

*COMMSTA*—Communications Station, for example: COMMSTA Kodiak, a communications station of the U.S. Coast Guard, located at Kodiak, Alaska.

*CGAS*—Coast Guard Air Station

*Cut Numbers*—The use of letters in place of numbers when sending a long string of numbers, for brevity's sake. This is often done by "numbers" stations, such as sending one long dash instead of five normal dashes to indicate a zero, or the letter N instead of the number nine, etc.

*CW*—Continuous Wave (Morse code)

*DE*—The Morse code operating prosign DE, meaning "from," as in DE NMN, meaning from station NMN

*D-Layer Absorption*—A phenomenon where the sun's rays ionize the D layer of the atmosphere causing it to absorb, rather than propagate (reflect/bounce), radio signals at certain frequencies.

*Duplex*—A means of radio communication where a station can both transmit and receive at the same time.

*EAM*—Emergency Action Message, coded instructions commonly sent by U.S. military stations. Despite the name, they usually aren't emergency traffic at all.

*EHF*—Extremely High Frequency (30-300 GHz)

*FAX*—Facsimile, a transmission mode used to send maps, charts, and other non-textual material.

*FEMA*—Federal Emergency Management Agency, a part of the Department of Homeland Security.

*FM*—Frequency Modulation

*Ham Station*—A licensed station operating in the Amateur Radio Service under the control of an operator who is licensed to operate the station.

*HF*—High Frequency (3-30 MHz)

*LINK-11*—Also called TADIL-A for TACTical DIGital Link, a secure digital data mode used by the military. Utilizes a 16-tone data modem to allow assets to share digital information, such as radar data.

*M/V*—Merchant Vessel

*NAS*—Naval Air Station

*Propagation*—The means by which radio signals get from one place to another; some forms are quite simple (such as line of sight) while others are much more complex (such as EME, or earth-moon-earth).

*QRM*—Man-made interference to radio signals

*QRN*—Natural interference to radio signals, such as the static crashes often heard due to thunderstorms

*QSO*—A contact between two or more stations

*QSY*—Change frequency.

*QTH*—Location

*RTTY*—Radio TeleTYpe

*SELCAL*—SElective CALLing, a method for activating a radio or data terminal at one station without disturbing other stations that are monitoring the same frequency.

*Simplex*—A means of radio communication where a station may transmit or receive at any given time, but not do both at the same time.

*SITOR*—Simplex Teletype Over Radio, a transmission mode used to transmit text messages over radio. There are two SITOR modes: SITOR-A (also called AMTOR) uses Automatic Repeat Request (ARQ); SITOR-B uses Forward Error Correction (FEC).

*SWL*—Shortwave Listener, a person who enjoys listening to short-wave radio stations.

*UHF*—Ultra-High Frequency (300-3000 MHz)

*USAF*—United States Air Force

*USB*—Upper Sideband

*USCG*—United State Coast Guard

*USMC*—United States Marine Corps

*USN*—United States Navy

*UTC*—Coordinated Universal Time, formerly known as Greenwich Mean Time, and also commonly referred to as ZULU time and abbreviated as in 1200Z.

*UTE*—Utility Station

*Utility Station*—Stations transmitting material that is not intended for reception by the general public and is not originating from an amateur (ham) station.

*VHF*—Very High Frequency (30-300 MHz)

*VOLMET*—Station that transmits aeronautical weather information. Comes from a French term that literally means, "flying weather."