



# Garland RACES/ARES Digital Radio Operator Skills Certification

## WINLINK - TACTICAL DIGITAL OPERATOR SKILLS

This is the competency skills level training for basic digital modes operation with focus on using Winlink for radio messaging on VHF/UHF frequencies. (See Reference Information for suggested equipment)

Task Record for Name/Call/Unit # : \_\_\_\_\_

The Tactical Digital Operator (TDO) is minimally expected to:

TASKS:	Evaluator Initials - Date
1 <input type="checkbox"/> Operator should possess the Equipment necessary to perform listed tasks.	_____
2 <input type="checkbox"/> Install, register, configure and connect to Winlink using Telnet	_____
3 <input type="checkbox"/> Demonstrate the ability to select the various Winlink Sessions	_____
4 <input type="checkbox"/> Update the packet channel selection list and initiate a packet session using Packet Winlink	_____
5 <input type="checkbox"/> Demonstrate the ability to open Winlink standard template-based forms (e.g., Check In, Quick Message, ICS 213)	_____
6 <input type="checkbox"/> Create and send Winlink Check In message to include USNG and/or GPS latitude and longitude. Show competency in connecting to an RMS Packet Gateway direct and via digipeater	_____
7 <input type="checkbox"/> Send and receive a Winlink message via a Winlink RMS Packet Gateway	_____
8 <input type="checkbox"/> Send and receive a Winlink message using a packet peer-to-peer (P2P) session	_____
9 <input type="checkbox"/> Demonstrate the ability to attach or remove a document to/from a Winlink message	_____
10 <input type="checkbox"/> Successfully create a Personal Folder and organize (move) received messages into folder	_____
11 <input type="checkbox"/> Demonstrate the ability to configure and operate Winlink using a tactical call sign	_____
12 <input type="checkbox"/> Demonstrate the ability to create an ICS-309 document	_____
13 <input type="checkbox"/> Record activity with ICS-214 message template, save and reload form data	_____
14 <input type="checkbox"/> Demonstrate the ability to connect to a Bulletin Board Server (BBS), post a message and retrieve a bulletin.	_____
<b>OPTION</b> - <input type="checkbox"/> Demonstrate the use of Vara FM to connect to a RMS Station Gateway	_____

### Certified as:

**Garland RACES WINLINK - Tactical Digital Operator:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Evaluator/Call:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date:**

### Deployment Options:

#### Deployment:

- I possess a portable Winlink Express station and am available for local deployment as a Winlink RADO.
- I possess a mobile Winlink Express station and am available for local deployment as a Winlink RADO.

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Signature:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Call/Unit Number :**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date:**

## REFERENCE INFORMATION

The following information is from the Amateur Radio Resource Typing Document and list equipment for the various Resource Types. It is presented here as equipment suggestions for the various tactical functions.

### ◇ **RADO** - Radio Operator

#### ◇ **Amateur Radio Resource - Type TM[ ] Function = Tactical Data Messaging | VHF/UHF**

**ARR-TM[ ]** - Denotes an amateur radio communicator and listed equipment functioning as a "last mile" (Tactical) messaging system providing traceable messaging and/or "radio email" with attachments.

[Sub Functions]: **w** - Winlink capable; **u** - User group's messaging software (specify if known)

- ARR-B** Equipment Kit
- Terminal Node Controller (TNC) with necessary data cables, accessories, and documentation (A soundcard implementation may be used in lieu of a hardware TNC at users discretion.)
- Computer (laptop or other w/min 2 serial ports or USB to serial adapters) suitable for portable operations, running mission applicable amateur radio software, with minimum of 25' CAT5 cable - (Printer, printing supplies, Scanner, AC adapter recommended)
- Software: Winlink Express program and/or user group's standard Data program(s)

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#### ◇ **Amateur Radio Resource - Type B** Function = Base | VHF/UHF

**ARR-B** - Denotes an amateur radio communicator and listed equipment functioning as a portable amateur radio station temporarily set-up at remote locations providing communications to/from field bases, net control, EOC, CP, Shelter, Staging or rest/aid station, etc.

- 2 Meter (2M/70cm Recommended) FM Transceiver with programmable CTCSS, 25 watts minimum output
- Gain antenna (dual band recommended) with mast and support, 25' minimum coax cable with PL259 connectors, PL258 coupler (Additional 25' or longer RG-8X or RG-8 coax cable recommended)

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#### ◇ **Common items included in all Amateur Radio Resource equipment kits**

- Copy of amateur radio license, badge/ID, and photo driver's license
- Writing material; pen, pencil, writing pad, and message forms (ICS-213, 214, 205, Radiogram, etc.)
- Transceiver operating instructions or summary guide
- External speaker with 1/8" phone plug and earphones or headset attachment with VOX disabled
- Portable power source meeting equipment needs for a minimum of 12 hours of typical operation (Medium to Long Assignments may require additional power sources)
- Vehicle power port and clip lead power adapters, equipment fuses and power cords with all equipment ARES/RACES standardized (Powerpole™, PL-259, 1/8" speaker plug)
- Duct tape, miscellaneous adapters and comfort items (food, water, optional chair and table)
- Mission suitable personal support gear (Refer to local group standard kit lists; adjust for duration/season)

\*Page information from "[Resource Guide - For ARES, RACES, EmComm and Public Service Communications](#)"