Virtual SATCOM, Skywave High-Frequency Communications at SATCOM Speeds Without Satellite Vulnerabilities

Presented at: Ionosphere Effects Symposium 2017 Alexandrea, Virginia May 10th 2017

Dennis G Watson

Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering

Frank Batten College of Engineering and Technology

Old Dominion University

dwats017@odu.edu









- 1. Title
- 2. Agenda
- 3. Current Limitations
- 4. What's new? Is it risky? Are there mitigations?
- 5. Spider Architecture
- Connect Pacific Ocean From California to China
- 7. Channel Capacity --Information is a commodity measured in bits per sec
- 8. PHaRLAP Model Output
- 9. PHaRLAP Model Data
- 10. Aperture
- 11. Conclusion





Current Limitations



Satellite Communications



- 1 High data rate
- In war time <u>vulnerable</u>, therefore unreliable
- ↓ High cost
- Complex hardware
- Difficult to upgrade hardware
- Low power downlink due to limits of solar power
- Limited maneuverability

HF Communications



- ↑ Beyond line of site Communications
- ↑ High Power—long range
- Narrow bandwidth
- Low data rate
- Dynamic Propagation
- Multipath Fading
- Vulnerable to SIGINT, GEO locate
- Low cost
- Difficult to operate



What's new? Is it risky? Are there mitigations?



What's New

- 1. Spider Architecture- SDMA Space Division Multiple Access
- 2. Ultra wideband 3MHz vs 3kHz --- 32 Cap
- 3. acity Mbps
- 4. Hub and Spoke for tactical communications
- 5. Aperture architecture for ultra wideband frequency transmission through directional beams
- Frequency agility to move with lonosphere using 4th Gen wireless protocols at HF Frequencies
 - 1. FTE
 - 2. OFDM Orthogonal Frequency Division Multiple Access

Mitigation

- 1. Apply OTHR technology/ science
- 2. More comprehensive study of lonosphere
- Low risk assuming high operational availability
- 4. Digital Signal Processing, Software defined radio MIMO
- Apply mobile cellular system protocols to this HF channel



Concept Spider Architecture





Spider Architecture- Focused beams from base station are bent by ionosphere to land on designated locations. Both friendly and adversary units can be serviced with network communications or electronic warfare (EW) techniques, e.g. jamming.



Concept: Connect Pacific Ocean From California to China



Mission set;

- Assured communications
 - C2 with:
 - Maritime, Air, UAV, ISR
- <u>Battle Space Awareness</u>
 - SIGINT
 - Ocean surveillance--Radar
 - Surface Weather
 - Brag line determination
 - Sea State information
 - Airspace Awareness
- Integrated Fires
 - EW vs adversary OTHR, C2 & SIGINT



Customers:

- o Maritime (Navy)
- o Unmanned vehicles (air & surface)
- Aircraft (Navy & Air Force)

Channel Capacity

CLD DOMINION UNIVERSITY IDEA FUSION

Information is a commodity measured in bits per sec



Shannon Hartley Equation

 $C = B \log_2(1 + SNR)$

where

$$SNR = \frac{P_r}{BN_0}$$

Friis Transmission Equation

 $\frac{P_{\rm r}}{P_{\rm t}} = G_{\rm t}G_{\rm r} \left(\frac{\lambda}{4\pi R}\right)^2$

Converting to decibels (dB)

$$Pr_{dB} = Pt_{dB} + Gt_{dB} + Gr_{dB} - P_{L}$$
$$P_{LdB} = 20 \log\left(\frac{4\pi R}{\lambda}\right)$$

Scenario	C Mbps	B MHz	No dBw	Pt [W]	Gt dBi	Gr dBi	Freq MHz
Forward Link	58	3	-160	200,000	24	2	5
	42	3	-160	200,000	24	2	30
Back Link Tx=100W	25	3	-160	100	2	24	5
	9	3	-160	100	2	24	30
High Noise No= -140 dBm/Hz	38	3	-140	200,000	24	2	5
	22	3	-140	200,000	24	2	30
Low band width B=1 MHz	20	1	-160	200,000	24	2	5
	15	1	-160	200,000	24	2	30
Low Gain Gt=18 dBi	52	3	-160	200,000	18	2	5
	36	3	-160	200,000	18	2	30
Average	31.8						

All rights reserved



Figure 3 is a PHaRLAP plot that shows rays transmitted at different frequencies and elevations all "landing" at a precise predetermined location. The diagram also indicates the gradient of the ionosphere's plasma frequencies. The top graph is local midnight, and the lower graph is local noon. At night, the ion concentration is lower and at a higher altitude.

n is the refractive index.



PHaRLAP Model

Data



Number of Rays									
Time of Day		Number of Rays							
UT Hour	Local Hour	Jan 2nd	Apr 2nd	July 2nd	Sept 2nd	Average			
0	5	38	45	24	19	31.5			
1	6	49	40	41	38	42			
2	7	55	80	23	52	52.5			
3	8	56	138	72	99	91.25			
4	9	95	168	122	129	128.5			
5	10	105	167	154	134	140			
6	11	105	156	134	141	134			
7	12	81	128	88	133	107.5			
8	13	86	70	57	68	70.25			
9	14	40	36	41	33	37.5			
10	15	10	31	58	25	31			
11	16	7	58	50	38	38.25			
12	17	14	71	35	56	44			
13	18	20	74	58	60	53			
14	19	40	67	51	54	53			
15	20	50	68	47	67	58			
16	21	23	85	50	78	59			
17	22	31	67	54	75	56.75			
18	23	28	57	36	50	42.75			
19	0	18	85	54	73	57.5			
20	1	15	101	53	92	65.25			
21	2	11	98	86	50	61.25			
22	3	59	73	69	49	62.5			
23	4	31	36	27	24	29.5			





Aperture



$$W(r,\theta,\phi) = \frac{1}{2} R(E \times H) = \frac{1}{2\eta} |E|^2 \hat{r}$$
$$U(\theta,\phi) = r^2 W(r,\theta,\phi) = \frac{r^2}{2\eta} |E(r,\theta,\phi)|^2$$
$$D(\theta,\phi) = \frac{4\pi U(\theta,\phi)}{\int_{0}^{2\pi} \int_{0}^{\pi} U(\theta,\phi) \sin \theta d\theta d\phi}$$

$$D_0 = 2N\frac{d}{\lambda}$$



Figure 4: FEKO output of far field for 152 element HF array. This aperture has narrow azimuth focus and wide elevation focus.





- 1. Ionosphere can support ultra wide bandwidths
- 2. Sky wave communications can compete with SATCOM or at least mitigate SATCOM vulnerability
- Digital Signal Processing and Software Defined Radio reduce the cost and risk









Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering Frank Batten College of Engineering and Technology Old Dominion University dwats017@odu.edu

703-789-7861



Special Thanks to Ray Bender Iona S. Fear





Physics of Refraction

)



$$\mathbf{F} = -e\mathbf{E}$$
(1)
$$\mathbf{F} = m\frac{d^2x}{dt^2} = m\omega^2 x$$
$$x = \frac{-e}{m\omega^2}\mathbf{E}$$

 $\mathbf{P} = -N_e \mathcal{C} \mathbf{x}$ (4)

$$\mathbf{P} = \frac{N_e e^2}{m\omega^2} \mathbf{E}$$
(5)

Using the constitutive relations of Maxwell's equations, the electric flux density (**D**) is composed of a free space component, equal to $\varepsilon_0 E$. Where ε_0 is the permittivity of the medium, and a material component, equal to the dipole moment (**P**).:

$$\mathbf{D} = \boldsymbol{\epsilon}_{\mathbf{0}} \boldsymbol{E} + \boldsymbol{P} \tag{6}$$

$$D = \epsilon_0 E + P =$$

$$\mathbf{D} = \boldsymbol{\epsilon}_{\mathbf{0}} \boldsymbol{E} - \frac{N_{e} e^{2}}{m \omega^{2}} \mathbf{E} = \boldsymbol{\epsilon}_{\mathbf{0}} \{1 - \frac{\omega_{p}^{2}}{\omega^{2}}\} \mathbf{E}$$

$$\omega_p = \sqrt{\frac{N_e e^2}{m\epsilon_0}}$$

$$f_p = \frac{\omega_p}{2\pi} = \frac{1}{2\pi} \sqrt{\frac{N_e e^2}{m\epsilon_0}}$$

$$f_p \cong 9x10^{-3}\sqrt{N_e}$$

$$\mathbf{D} = \epsilon_0 \left\{ 1 \frac{(2\pi f_p)^2}{(2\pi f)^2} \right\} \mathbf{E}$$
Let

_

$$\begin{cases} 1 - \frac{(2\pi f_p)^2}{(2\pi f)^2} \end{cases} = \epsilon_r \\ \mathbf{D} = \epsilon_0 \epsilon_r \mathbf{E} \\ k \equiv \frac{2\pi}{\lambda} = c \sqrt{\epsilon_r \epsilon_o \mu_o} \end{cases}$$

All rights reserved



Beam forming to put high power at receiver Wide bandwidth at receiver Shannon equation proves it will work

All rights reserved



6

3

≻

Skip distance -



- 7. How much will it cost?
- 8. How long will it take?
- 9. What are the midterm and final "exams" to check for success?

CONTRACTOR OF A

How much will it cost?

- 200k in 2016—Modeling and Simulation
- 500k in 2017—Test on ROTHR or build prototype

How long will it take?

Two years

What are the midterm and final "exams" to check for success?

- CONOPS and Technical Analysis @12 months
- Demonstration @ 24 months
- Fleet testing @ 36 months



10. Why Bent Ray Communication?



Operational Naval experience

- EW Experience in Iraq (Desert Storm) and Kosovo
- Warfare Commander of Carrier Strike Group, in Command and Control and N6
- XO of CVN
- CO of Navy Warship
- EA-6B Commanding Officer
- Acquisition Deputy PM Logistics NAVAIR
- DARPA Intern

• Education

- PhD student ODU- Electrical and Computer Engineering
- Master on National Resource Strategy at National Defense University
 - Area of study : Space, China, Senior Acquisition course
- MS System Eng. NPGS
 - Area of Study: Electronic Warfare
- Defense Acquisition University PM Course
- DAWIA Level 3 Certified
- Industry Experience
 - 8 years with Northrop in Cyber and EMW experience



4. What's new in this approach?



- Why Successful? Spider Architecture High power at receiver Wide Bandwidth at receiver Shannon equation proves it will work
- Land base segment: Analogy---Cell Tower
 - High Gain, High Power, Directional scanning (AESA)
 - High bandwidth within controlled beam
 - Direction beam allows:
 - LPI/LPD, Anti-Jam
 - Frequency reuse, ITU and FCC approval
 - High power at receive with high bandwidth yields high data rate
- Mobile segment: Analogy Cell Phone User
 - Low power Transmit for Low Probability of Detection
 - Similar to Mobile Cell architecture where:
 - All comms travel via towers
 - Here the cell tower range is 2000 NM



