

# COMMS WATCH

Communications Infrastructure • Spectrum • Electronic Warfare • Public Safety Comms  
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## ⚠️ PREPAREDNESS CONDITION: PREP-CON 3 — ELEVATED

Op Epic Fury Day 55 • Blockade Day 12 • GNSS denial footprint sustained (see SAT-002) • Elevated domestic CI cyber threat posture (AA26-097A Day 17) • PREP-CON 3 sustained.

## COMMUNICATIONS CONDITION: COMCON 4 — PARTIALLY DEGRADED (CONUS)

AA26-097A Day 17 Iranian APT on Rockwell PLCs • 1,735+ GNSS interference events Hormuz/Gulf since 28-FEB • BlueBird 7 lost 19-APR (wrong orbit, de-orbiting) • Elevated EW posture • HF recovering, Kp quiet CONUS

Publication Date	24 April 2026
Reporting Period	10 April — 24 April 2026
PREP-CON Assessment	PREP-CON 3 — ELEVATED (Brown)
COMCON Assessment	COMCON 4 — Partially Degraded (AA26-097A active, Hormuz GNSS jamming sustained, BlueBird 7 launch failure 19-APR, HF recovering from 18-APR G2 peak)
Solar Flux (SFI)	declining (SWPC latest; consult product)   Kp Index: 3 (UNSETTLED) forecast 24-APR — no G-storms 24-28 APR, next active window 29-30 APR (Kp 5 forecast)   SWPC Outlook: Geomagnetic field quiet to unsettled 24-28 APR (Kp 2-3). Next elevated window 29-30 APR Kp 5 forecast (G1 27-day). No radio blackouts observed; R1-R2 probability 5% through 24-APR. S1 radiation 1%. HF recovering from 18-APR G2 peak — 20m/40m/60m favorable for EMCOMM this weekend.
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## SECTION 1 | COMMS WATCH BRIEF

**Five converging storylines define the communications environment this cycle.**

**First — GPS/GNSS denial in the Hormuz theater remains the dominant EW story.** Lloyd's List Intelligence has recorded more than 1,735 total GNSS interference events since 28-FEB. AIS position errors continue to place ships over airports, a nuclear power plant, and dry land. Aviation GNSS impact continues under EASA CZIB 2026-03. Energy sector operators with GPS-synchronized SCADA timing in Gulf-exposed operations must keep PTP/NTP backup synchronization verified.

**Second — the positive direct-to-device narrative suffered a material setback.** AST SpaceMobile's BlueBird 7 satellite, intended as a key milestone toward the FirstNet first-responder satellite beta, was placed in a lower-than-planned orbit by Blue Origin's New Glenn 3 on 19-APR, and the satellite will be de-orbited. AST reaffirms its 45-satellite 2026 target, but public safety satellite service on AT&T's network is now dependent on BlueBird 8-10 launching on cadence. T-Mobile's Starlink-backed T-Satellite service, with more than 650 direct-to-cell satellites in orbit, remains operational and nationally available.

**Third — CISA KEV actions continue compounding.** The 20-APR batch (3 Cisco Catalyst SD-WAN + PaperCut + JetBrains TeamCity + Kentico + Quest KACE + Zimbra) forced a heavy FCEB compliance window with the Cisco Catalyst deadline landing 23-APR. BlueHammer (CVE-2026-33825) was added 22-APR (due 06-MAY), and Marimo (CVE-2026-39987) was added 23-APR (due 07-MAY).

**Fourth — AA26-097A remains active at Day 17.** Iranian-affiliated APT exploitation of internet-facing Rockwell Automation / Allen-Bradley PLCs continues across US government, water/wastewater, and energy sectors. Censys confirms 5,219+ exposed assets globally, 74.6% in the US.

**Fifth — space weather favors EMCOMM this weekend.** No G-storms are forecast 24-28 APR, Kp peaks at 3 (unsettled), and HF is recovering well from the 18-APR G2 peak. Operators should plan for the next elevated window 29-30 APR (Kp 5 forecast, GI 27-day).

*No major backbone or BGP routing events identified this reporting window. Backbone NSTR.*

## SECTION 2 | PROPAGATION CONDITIONS

**Solar Flux Index (SFI):** declining | **Kp Index:** 3 (UNSETTLED) forecast 24-APR | **SWPC 3-Day Outlook:** Quiet to unsettled 24-28 APR (Kp 2-3). No G-storms forecast. Next active window 29-30 APR (Kp 5). HF recovering from 18-APR G2 peak; R1-R2 probability 5%.

BAND	STATUS	CONDITIONS
80m / 75m	GOOD	Regional NVIS reliable nights through early morning. Kp 2-3 unsettled but below G-scale. Primary ARES/RACES net band. Propagation window: 2200–1000 local. Watch for polar-path effects as 29-30 APR Kp 5 window approaches.
60m	GOOD	EMCOMM channel 5330.5 kHz USB viable. Less affected by geomagnetic activity than higher bands. Good near-regional path for severe-weather response this weekend.
40m	GOOD	RECOMMENDED primary EMCOMM band this cycle. Reliable 200–1000 mile NVIS/skip paths. Kp quiet supports daytime and evening operations. Best choice if GPS-synchronized digital modes are disrupted.
20m	GOOD	DX and cross-country paths viable with Kp quiet. Watch PSKReporter before committing. Slight degradation expected when CH HSS effects return ~29-30 APR.
17m	FAIR	Long-skip predominant; limited regional utility. Useable for DX in daylight; not primary EMCOMM.
15m	FAIR	Usable daytime for DX; solar flux moderate. Not primary EMCOMM this cycle. Watch for degradation when 29-30 APR window arrives.
10m	POOR	Below threshold for reliable EMCOMM. Sporadic-E possible but not plannable. Plan around 40m/20m primary.

**⚠ POLAR / TRANS-POLAR (all bands) — FAIR: Recovering from 18-APR G2 peak. Trans-polar paths usable with propagation check. 29-30 APR Kp 5 forecast window will re-degrade polar paths — verify circuits before committing any polar-path-dependent EMCOMM operations in that window. Monitor SWPC alerts.**

**Operational implication:** This weekend's HF propagation supports full EMCOMM operations across the Plains/Midwest severe weather corridor — the 22-24 APR severe sequence unfolded under quiet Kp conditions, and the 25-26 APR weekend peak of the tornado outbreak (see DTR WX-001) falls in the quiet window. 40m and 60m are the recommended primary EMCOMM bands. HFGCS 8.992 MHz (day) and 4.724 MHz (night) remain available for monitoring. Plan VHF/UHF satellite backup for the 29-30 APR Kp 5 window if any polar-path-dependent ops are scheduled that weekend.

## SECTION 3 | SATELLITE & SPACE WEATHER

SAT-001	Starlink Service Degradation — Middle East / Eastern Ukraine Theaters	CONTINUED
TRACK	SATELLITE COMMS / ELECTRONIC WARFARE	
SUMMARY	Starlink terminals in conflict-adjacent zones (Iraq, Syria, occupied eastern Ukraine) continue reporting intermittent to sustained service disruption. No constellation-level failures identified this cycle; no new SpaceX status announcements specific to theater degradation.	

	<p>OSINT attribution remains stable: Iranian-supplied EW assets (Samen-1 GPS jammers, Mersad-family SATCOM jamming) in Iraq/Syria; Russian Krasukha-4/Tirada-2 systems in eastern Ukraine. SpaceX firmware hardening has reduced but not eliminated vulnerability windows.</p> <p>CONSTELLATION STATUS THIS CYCLE: Starlink is now above 10,200 active satellites in LEO after continued Falcon 9 cadence (Starlink 17-14 launched 22-APR from Vandenberg, 24 satellites; Starlink 17-21 launched 10-APR, 25 satellites). More than 650 direct-to-cell satellites are in orbit — the largest 4G-by-coverage-area network in existence.</p> <p>Commercial maritime and NGO users in affected Middle East / Ukraine zones should continue to treat Starlink as a degraded primary, not a reliable backup. Cross-reference: EW-001 for GPS denial posture, SAT-004 for direct-to-cell race.</p>
<b>ANALYST ASSESSMENT</b>	<p>Pattern remains consistent with targeted uplink jamming rather than constellation-level failure.</p> <p>Disruption probability remains HIGH for duration of conflict phase.</p> <p>V1 constellation (theater-relevant) is separate from V2/V3 architecture (mid-2027 target using S-band spectrum, see SAT-004).</p> <p>Commercial users should plan Starlink as one layer in a multi-bearer strategy, with L-band MSS (Inmarsat / Iridium) as EW-resilient backup for safety-of-life traffic.</p>
<b>SOURCES</b>	<p><a href="#">The War Zone</a>   <a href="#">C4ISRNET</a>   <a href="#">Bellingcat OSINT</a>   <a href="#">SpaceX Starlink Status</a>   <a href="#">Spaceflight Now — Starlink 17-14 22-APR</a>   <a href="#">KeepTrack — DTC constellation status</a></p>

<b>SAT-002 GPS/GNSS Spoofing &amp; Jamming — Hormuz Corridor &amp; Arabian Gulf</b>		<b>UPDATED</b>
<b>TRACK</b>	SATELLITE COMMS / GPS-GNSS / ELECTRONIC WARFARE	
<b>SUMMARY</b>	<p>Lloyd's List Intelligence has recorded 1,735+ total GNSS interference events since 28-FEB.</p> <p>Windward data earlier this cycle documented 1,100+ vessels GPS-affected in a single 24-hour window, with AIS positions erroneously placing ships over airports, a nuclear power plant, and dry land.</p> <p>Three distinct GPS interference zones remain confirmed: (1) Qatar territorial waters; (2) international shipping lanes to Iraq/Kuwait en route to Hormuz; (3) within Hormuz traffic separation scheme.</p> <p>Aviation GNSS impact: EASA CZIB 2026-03 R6 expires 24-APR T-0; R7 issuance likely given unresolved posture.</p> <p>Energy sector operators using GPS-synchronized SCADA timing in Gulf-exposed operations must keep PTP/NTP backup synchronization verified and tested.</p> <p>Domestic CONUS GPS infrastructure not currently affected.</p>	
<b>SOURCES</b>	<p><a href="#">Windward Maritime AI</a>   <a href="#">Lloyd's List Intelligence</a>   <a href="#">EUROCONTROL GNSS NOTAMs</a>   <a href="#">GPSJam.org</a>   <a href="#">USCG NAVCEN GUIDE Tool</a></p>	
<b>ANALYST ASSESSMENT</b>	<p>Cross-sector comms-relevant exposure surfaces remain:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MARITIME LOGISTICS: AIS corruption, collision risk, dark operations.</li> <li>• ENERGY: SCADA timing disruption.</li> <li>• AVIATION: CDU anomalies, reroutes, EASA CZIB in force.</li> <li>• FINANCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE: GPS-synchronized transaction timing.</li> </ul> <p>DOMESTIC WATCH: No confirmed CONUS GPS infrastructure spillover. Watch for any geographic expansion of jamming footprint toward eastern Mediterranean air corridors.</p> <p>CONFIDENCE: HIGH.</p>	

SAT-003 DirecTV / DISH / EchoStar / SiriusXM — Structural Landscape Carry-Forward		CONTINUED
TRACK	SATELLITE COMMS / DOMESTIC	
SUMMARY	<p>Structural picture unchanged this cycle.</p> <p>The DirecTV-DISH merger is definitively dead (bondholders rejected Nov 2024).</p> <p>EchoStar's approximately \$23B spectrum sale to AT&amp;T (~30 MHz of 3.45 GHz midband + 20 MHz of 600 MHz low-band) remains pending FCC approval, slated to close mid-2026.</p> <p>DISH/EchoStar has retreated from wireless ambitions; Boost Mobile continues under an AT&amp;T wholesale agreement.</p> <p>No service-affecting outages for DirecTV, DISH Network, or SiriusXM identified 10-24 APR. SiriusXM nominal.</p> <p>EchoStar's S-band spectrum that AT&amp;T is acquiring is the same spectrum identified for Starlink Mobile's V3 architecture strategy — a future regulatory/commercial contention point.</p> <p>No cycle-level action required for domestic subscribers.</p>	
SOURCES	<a href="#">FCC ECFS Docket Search</a>   <a href="#">DirecTV Newsroom</a>   <a href="#">SiriusXM Status</a>   <a href="#">Cord Cutters News — AT&amp;T Spectrum Deal</a>	

SAT-004 Cell-Satellite Integration — BlueBird 7 Lost 19-APR / T-Satellite Operational / FirstNet Satellite Beta Timeline Stretched		UPDATED
TRACK	SATELLITE COMMS / TERRESTRIAL CELLULAR / PUBLIC SAFETY	
SUMMARY	<p>MATERIAL SETBACK THIS CYCLE.</p> <p>TRACK 1 — T-MOBILE / STARLINK (OPERATIONAL, ADVANCING): T-Satellite commercially launched July 2025. SpaceX has deployed more than 650 direct-to-cell satellites, making it the largest 4G network by coverage area.</p> <p>Text messaging is nationally available; voice calling beta expanded in early 2026 with participants reporting call quality comparable to moderate-signal cellular. Mobile data rollout is the final phase. Falcon 9 continues to add DTC satellites on most Starlink missions.</p> <p>SpaceX at MWC Barcelona March 2026 rebranded the service as Starlink Mobile and announced V3 satellites targeting mid-2027 via Starship (10x downlink / 24x uplink vs V2 Mini). Deutsche Telekom signed for V3 service to 10 European countries. Target: 25M+ active users by end of 2026 through carrier partnerships.</p> <p>TRACK 2 — AT&amp;T / VERIZON via AST SpaceMobile (SETBACK 19-APR): AST SpaceMobile's BlueBird 7 satellite was placed into a lower-than-planned orbit by Blue Origin's New Glenn-3 mission on 19-APR-2026 (Cape Canaveral).</p> <p>Per AST's SEC Form 8-K filing, the satellite separated and powered on, but the altitude is too low to sustain operations with its on-board thruster and the satellite will be de-orbited. BlueBird 7 would have been AST's eighth deployed; AST's total remains at seven operational.</p> <p>AST reaffirmed the 45-satellite end-of-2026 target and confirmed BlueBird 8, 9, and 10 will be ready to ship in approximately 30 days. ASTS stock dropped on the announcement.</p> <p>CRITICAL PUBLIC SAFETY IMPLICATION: AT&amp;T confirmed at Artemis II (02-APR) that FirstNet would offer beta satellite services to select first responders using AST SpaceMobile BlueBird satellites later in 2026 — that timeline now depends on BlueBird 8-10 launching on cadence and on no further launch failures.</p> <p>TRACK 3 — VERIZON / SKYLO (STABLE): Verizon continues offering free satellite texting via Skylo on select newer phones, independent of the AST SpaceMobile agreement.</p>	

<b>SOURCES</b>	<a href="#">AST SpaceMobile 8-K — BlueBird 7 loss</a>   <a href="#">AST SpaceMobile Press 19-APR</a>   <a href="#">CNBC — ASTS drop after Blue Origin orbit</a>   <a href="#">T-Mobile T-Satellite</a>   <a href="#">AT&amp;T — FirstNet Artemis II / AST SpaceMobile</a>   <a href="#">KeepTrack — Starlink DTC constellation</a>
<b>ANALYST ASSESSMENT</b>	<p>T-Mobile's structural operational lead through the Starlink partnership has widened this cycle.</p> <p>T-Satellite is commercially live, nationally available, supports satellite-based 911 texting, and is approaching voice commercial release — a capability set no other carrier matches today.</p> <p>The BlueBird 7 loss does not invalidate AST's model but it compresses the margin on AST's already-tight launch cadence.</p> <p>AST needs 45-60 satellites for continuous nationwide coverage, was targeting one launch every 1-2 months, and has now lost a satellite that would have been its eighth.</p> <p>THE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT IMPLICATION: Public safety agencies that were anticipating a 2026 FirstNet satellite beta window should treat that schedule as at-risk and build contingency.</p> <p>Specifically:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) Do not decommission or defer upgrades to existing backup communications (HF, VHF/UHF, LMR) on the assumption that FirstNet satellite will fill the gap in 2026.</li> <li>(2) Confirm T-Satellite compatibility for agency devices as an interim satellite text/911 capability (T-Mobile primary line or dual-SIM option).</li> <li>(3) Track AST BlueBird 8-10 launch campaigns closely.</li> </ol> <p>Direct-to-cell remains a text-and-limited-data backup layer, not a voice-replacement for emergency operations in current V1 technology.</p> <p>Cross-reference: TERR-001 for FirstNet \$2B contract restructuring.</p>

<b>SAT-005</b>	<b>AMSAT / Amateur Satellite Status — ISS Crossband Active, FO-29 in Eclipse, QO-100 GEO</b>	<b>NEW</b>
<b>TRACK</b>	AMATEUR SATELLITE / EMCOMM / ARISS	
<b>SUMMARY</b>	<p>AMSAT Live OSCAR Satellite Status Page (19-24 APR window) shows robust activity across ISS FM, AO-7, AO-73, AO-91, AO-123, FO-29, JO-97, QO-100, RS-44, SO-50, and SO-125.</p> <p>ISS crossband repeater remains active: 145.990 MHz uplink (PL 67 Hz) / 437.800 MHz downlink. ISS voice downlink 145.800 MHz (worldwide); uplink 144.49 MHz (ITU Region 2/3) or 145.20 MHz (ITU Region 1). VHF packet 145.825 MHz; UHF packet 437.550 MHz.</p> <p>FO-29 entered a ~1-month eclipse period on approximately 21-APR per ANS-102 / ANS-109. Linear transponder (V/U, SSB/CW) available only on JARL command schedule until continuous-operation window resumes ~20-MAY.</p> <p>ARISS SSTV Series 31 ran 10-14 APR on 437.550 MHz FM, Robot 36 mode. Multiple school contacts completed 13-23 APR. Year-to-date 2026 ARISS contacts: 10.</p> <p>QO-100 (Es'hail-2) is the only GEO amateur-radio transponder in orbit. Footprint covers Europe, Africa, Middle East, and western Asia — NOT CONUS. No GEO amateur-satellite bearer exists over North America.</p>	
<b>SOURCES</b>	<a href="#">AMSAT Live OSCAR Status</a>   <a href="#">ANS-109 (19-APR)</a>   <a href="#">ANS-102 (12-APR)</a>   <a href="#">ARISS Contact the ISS</a>   <a href="#">AMSAT-UK</a>	
<b>ANALYST ASSESSMENT</b>	<p>Amateur satellites are GNSS-independent bearers — a useful resilience layer in a degraded-GNSS environment (see EW-001, SAT-002).</p> <p>Not a primary EMCOMM bearer: LEO pass-duration limits (5-12 minutes) and operator-skill requirements.</p> <p>Useful complement to HF NVIS, VHF/UHF terrestrial repeaters, and Winlink.</p> <p>For ARES/RACES: add ISS crossband repeater (145.990 up PL 67 / 437.800 down) to the resilience stack as a situational capability.</p>	

Upcoming: Dayton Hamvention 15-17 MAY; 44th AMSAT Space Symposium 8-11 OCT in Jacksonville FL.

<b>NET-003</b>	<b>Submarine Cable Integrity — Gulf Corridor: No New Cuts, Repair Access Blocked</b>	<b>CONTINUED</b>
<b>TRACK</b>	UNDERSEA CABLE / INTERNET INFRASTRUCTURE	
<b>SUMMARY</b>	<p>No new US-nexus submarine cable cuts identified 10-24 APR. No direct US consumer / business internet impact.</p> <p>Both Hormuz and Red Sea remain off-limits to commercial cable repair vessels — any Gulf corridor cable fault would go unrepaired for the duration of hostilities.</p> <p>Primary risk mechanism is accidental: GPS-degraded vessel traffic in shallow cable corridors creates anchor-drag and grounding probability.</p> <p>Concentrated US exposure: Middle East-adjacent cloud regions (AWS, Azure, Google Cloud GCC), US enterprises with significant Gulf operations.</p> <p>Watch trigger: TeleGeography or operator notice of any Gulf corridor cable fault.</p>	
<b>SOURCES</b>	<a href="#">TeleGeography — Hormuz Cable Analysis</a>   <a href="#">Submarine Networks</a>   <a href="#">TeleGeography Submarine Cable Map</a>	
<b>ANALYST ASSESSMENT</b>	<p>Threat remains structural, not kinetic — no cables cut this cycle.</p> <p>US-nexus direct consumer and business internet connectivity is not at near-term risk.</p> <p>CONFIDENCE: HIGH.</p>	

## SECTION 4 | TERRESTRIAL INFRASTRUCTURE

<b>TERR-001</b>	<b>FirstNet / AT&amp;T — \$2 Billion Upgrade Agreement in Effect / AST Satellite Beta Timeline Now At-Risk After BlueBird 7 Loss</b>	<b>UPDATED</b>
<b>TRACK</b>	TERRESTRIAL CELLULAR / FIRSTNET / PUBLIC SAFETY	
<b>SUMMARY</b>	<p>MAJOR STRUCTURAL DEVELOPMENT HOLDS. On 31 March 2026, NTIA and AT&amp;T announced a \$2 billion agreement-in-principle restructuring AT&amp;T's long-term FirstNet contract:</p> <p>(1) AT&amp;T will reduce costs borne by FirstNet by approximately \$1 billion — reinvestment directed by public safety users and the FirstNet Authority Board.</p> <p>(2) AT&amp;T will invest approximately \$1 billion in new network and coverage enhancements (close coverage gaps, accelerate 5G public safety core deployment, add mobile deployable units — SatCOLT, CRD, LCT assets).</p> <p>The House Energy and Commerce Committee continues advancing bipartisan legislation to reauthorize FirstNet through 2037.</p> <p>SATELLITE LAYER — TIMELINE AT RISK: AT&amp;T confirmed at the Artemis II launch event (02-APR-2026) that FirstNet would offer beta satellite services to select first responders using AST SpaceMobile BlueBird satellites later in 2026 — the first public safety-specific direct-to-device satellite service announcement. The BlueBird 7 launch failure on 19-APR (see SAT-004) compresses AST's already-tight schedule.</p> <p>Operational status this cycle: NOMINAL. No network-wide outages or interoperability failures identified 10-24 APR. Band 14 spectrum preemption active across enrolled agencies.</p>	
<b>SOURCES</b>	<a href="#">NTIA Press Release 31-MAR-2026</a>   <a href="#">StateScoop — FirstNet \$2B Deal</a>   <a href="#">AT&amp;T — FirstNet Artemis II</a>   <a href="#">AST SpaceMobile 8-K — BlueBird 7</a>   <a href="#">GovTech — FirstNet Upgrade</a>   <a href="#">FirstNet Authority</a>   <a href="#">APCO International</a>	

<b>ANALYST ASSESSMENT</b>	<p>The \$2B agreement is the most significant structural update to the FirstNet contract since AT&amp;T was awarded the 25-year build in 2017.</p> <p>The \$1B cost-reduction element is a renegotiated overcharge correction; the \$1B in new investment is the operationally significant number, and its allocation sits with the FirstNet Authority Board and public safety advisory councils.</p> <p><b>ACTIONABLE CHANGE THIS CYCLE:</b> Until the 19-APR BlueBird 7 loss, the AST SpaceMobile satellite beta had been trending toward a confident 2026 enrollment window. That confidence should now be reduced one notch — schedule slip is not inevitable, but it is materially more likely.</p> <p>Emergency managers with FirstNet enrollment should:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) Not decommission or defer upgrades to existing backup comms on the assumption that a FirstNet satellite layer arrives in 2026.</li> <li>(2) Confirm T-Satellite compatibility for agency devices as a stopgap satellite text/911 capability.</li> <li>(3) Watch AST BlueBird 8-10 launch campaigns closely.</li> </ol> <p>Cross-reference: SAT-004.</p>
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<b>TERR-002</b>	<b>Backbone / BGP — No Major Routing Events This Cycle</b>	<b>CONTINUED</b>
<b>TRACK</b>	INFRASTRUCTURE / BACKBONE / INTERNET ROUTING	
<b>SUMMARY</b>	<p>No significant BGP routing anomalies or Internet Exchange Point outages identified via Kentik and Cloudflare Radar monitoring for the 10-24 APR 2026 reporting window.</p> <p>Most recent notable events (prior cycles): Verizon BGP route leak (February 2026, Cloudflare/AWS impact, resolved within hours) and Cloudflare IPv6 misconfiguration (January 2026, 25-minute disruption, resolved).</p> <p>No active incidents this reporting period.</p> <p>Undersea cable status nominal for North American and transatlantic capacity — Gulf corridor cable status addressed in NET-003 (Section 3).</p> <p>Continue standard monitoring cadence via Kentik, RIPE NCC, and Cloudflare Radar.</p>	
<b>SOURCES</b>	<a href="#">Kentik BGP Monitor</a>   <a href="#">RIPE NCC</a>   <a href="#">TeleGeography</a>   <a href="#">Cloudflare BGP Radar</a>   <a href="#">Submarine Cable Map</a>	

## SECTION 5 | ELECTRONIC WARFARE WATCH

<b>EW-001</b>	<b>Iranian EW Posture — GPS Denial and SATCOM Jamming, Hormuz Theater</b>	<b>CONTINUED</b>
<b>TRACK</b>	ELECTRONIC WARFARE / SATELLITE	
<b>SUMMARY</b>	<p>Iranian EW posture remains the primary driver of the Gulf GPS/GNSS crisis.</p> <p>Confirmed assets: Samen-1 GPS jammers; Mersad-family SATCOM jamming.</p> <p>Primary areas: Persian Gulf, Hormuz maritime approaches, Gulf of Oman, Iraqi airspace.</p> <p>Scale: 1,735+ total GNSS interference events since 28-FEB per Lloyd's List Intelligence; 1,100+ ships affected in a single-day window earlier this cycle (Windward).</p> <p>US/allied forces also employ defensive GNSS jamming, creating a congested electronic environment.</p> <p>Commercial SATCOM (Inmarsat, Iridium, Starlink) continue reporting varying disruption levels in affected zones. US military EW suppression ongoing; effectiveness partial.</p> <p>DOMESTIC: No confirmed spillover to CONUS GPS infrastructure.</p>	
<b>SOURCES</b>	<a href="#">C4ISRNET</a>   <a href="#">The War Zone</a>   <a href="#">Bellingcat</a>   <a href="#">EUROCONTROL NOTAMs</a>   <a href="#">GPSJam.org</a>	

<b>ANALYST ASSESSMENT</b>	<p>Iranian GPS denial capability remains assessed as capable of disrupting commercial aviation and maritime navigation in a 200-300nm radius from employment sites.</p> <p>Energy sector operators with GPS-synchronized SCADA timing in the Gulf region should maintain NTP fallback as a standing configuration.</p> <p>Cross-reference: SAT-002 for operator impact details.</p>
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**SECTION 6 | PUBLIC SAFETY COMMS & 9-1-1 SERVICES**

<b>PS-001</b>	<b>9-1-1 / PSAP Infrastructure — Nominal This Cycle / FCC NG911 Reliability Rules Near Finalization</b>	<b>UPDATED</b>
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<b>TRACK</b>	PUBLIC SAFETY COMMS / 9-1-1 / PSAP
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<b>SUMMARY</b>	<p>9-1-1 OPERATIONAL STATUS (24 APR 2026): No confirmed active nationwide or multi-state 9-1-1 outages identified 10-24 APR. Carrier network status nominal per Downdetector and carrier status pages for the reporting window.</p> <p>VERIZON JANUARY 2026 OUTAGE AFTERMATH: FCC inquiry into the January 2026 Verizon software-caused outage (NY, DC, LA, Chicago, Seattle metro) remains open; no final finding published.</p> <p>FCC NG911 RELIABILITY RULEMAKING: Per Beyond Telecom Law Blog 02-APR, the FCC is close to finalizing its NG911 reliability rules. Proposed changes expand the definition of Covered 911 Service Provider (C9SP) to capture IP-era routers and ESInet operators, add physical-diversity requirements, expand network monitoring expectations, establish backup power requirements for IP environments, and propose an interstate ESInet interoperability framework.</p> <p>Comment cycle closed last year; final rules expected late summer 2026.</p> <p>FCC 30-MINUTE PSAP OSP OUTAGE NOTIFICATION RULE remains in force as of April 15, 2025.</p> <p>PENNSYLVANIA: PA 911 system experienced an intermittent NG911 outage in July 2025 caused by a Comtech vendor issue; resolved same day; PEMA issued WEA/EAS statewide alert during the outage — a model use of IPAWS for 9-1-1 infrastructure failure notification. No PA-specific 9-1-1 issues identified this cycle.</p>
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<b>SOURCES</b>	<a href="#">FCC NG911 Reliability FNPRM</a>   <a href="#">Beyond Telecom Law — NG911 Rules 02-APR</a>   <a href="#">FCC Network Outage Reporting (NORS)</a>   <a href="#">FCC 9-1-1 Outage Rules</a>   <a href="#">PEMA PA 9-1-1 Outage Notice</a>   <a href="#">APCO International</a>
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<b>ANALYST ASSESSMENT</b>	<p>The NG911 reliability FNPRM is the most consequential regulatory development for PSAP operations this cycle.</p> <p>If finalized as proposed, it would extend direct FCC reliability obligations to IP-era providers that currently sit outside the 2013 rules, require physical-diversity failover in critical paths, and standardize interstate ESInet interoperability.</p> <p>Practical implication for PSAPs and state 911 authorities: inventory C9SP relationships now, because the expanded definition will capture providers who did not previously consider themselves C9SPs — exposing contract assumptions to regulatory scrutiny.</p> <p>The FCC 30-minute PSAP direct notification rule (in force since April 2025) is the appropriate response mechanism for outage events — PSAPs should confirm their OSPs have current contact information for this notification pathway.</p> <p>Agencies in elevated-threat jurisdictions (PREP-CON 3 Day 55): confirm your 10-digit non-emergency backup numbers are published and drilled; verify Text-to-911 capability is active for your PSAP coverage area.</p>
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<b>PS-002</b>	<b>FCC Enforcement — Pittsburgh PA Investigations (Carry-Forward)</b>	<b>CONTINUED</b>
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<b>TRACK</b>	PUBLIC SAFETY COMMS / FCC ENFORCEMENT / HARMFUL INTERFERENCE
<b>SUMMARY</b>	<p>RELEVANCE CHECK PASSED — CONTINUED: Both Pittsburgh-area enforcement items remain operationally relevant to ARES/RACES operators in the Mid-Atlantic region.</p> <p>(1) KD3ASC (Pittsburgh PA): FCC Notice of Violation for inadvertent retransmission of Allegheny County EMS dispatch 470.4375 MHz via B-Tech UV-Pro Audio Relay feature. No disposition or arrest announced as of 24-APR-2026.</p> <p>(2) FCC Allegheny County antisemitic broadcast investigation: deliberate malicious interference with emergency communications channels during March 2026 remains open. No arrest as of 24-APR-2026.</p> <p>Source quality note: The antisemitic broadcast entry is based on FCC Enforcement Bureau activity (Tier 1). The KD3ASC NOV is a confirmed FCC public record.</p>
<b>SOURCES</b>	<a href="#">FCC Enforcement Bureau</a>   <a href="#">FCC Enforcement Orders</a>   <a href="#">APCO International</a>
<b>ANALYST ASSESSMENT</b>	<p>Carrying these entries is justified:</p> <p>(1) The KD3ASC NOV establishes a pattern of inadvertent Part 90 interference from commercial multi-function HTs — a nationwide equipment-compliance concern, not a one-time local event.</p> <p>(2) Deliberate interference with emergency comms during an active high-threat posture period is a force-multiplier risk.</p> <p>ARES/RACES net controllers anywhere should treat this as an operational reminder, not a Pittsburgh-only concern.</p> <p>Both entries drop from scored reporting when FCC publishes final disposition.</p>

**SECTION 7 | FCC & REGULATORY PULSE**

<b>REG-001</b>	<b>FCC Enforcement Actions — April 2026 (Pirate Radio and Marketing-Rules Enforcement Sustained)</b>	<b>UPDATED</b>
<b>TRACK</b>	REGULATORY / FCC ENFORCEMENT	
<b>SUMMARY</b>	<p>FCC enforcement activity since last issue:</p> <p>(1) 10-APR-2026: FCC Enforcement Bureau issued Pirate Radio Notices of Illegal Pirate Radio Broadcasting (NIPRBs) to multiple New York property owners — part of continuing PIRATE Act enforcement posture.</p> <p>(2) 07-APR-2026: FCC suspended seven convicted criminals (Anyanwu, Clemmons, Collura, Comito, Jones, Whitaker, Woods) from USF (Universal Service Fund) programs under debarment authority.</p> <p>(3) 02-APR-2026: FCC proposed \$4.5 million forfeiture for RMD (Marketing) rule violations — a significant financial penalty under a single NAL.</p> <p>(4) 02-APR-2026: FCC acted to protect US consumers from bank impersonation scams (robocall / caller-ID enforcement posture).</p> <p>CARRYOVER FROM PRIOR CYCLE: 01-APR-2026 NOV to Conifer Communications, Groveland CA; 25-MAR-2026 NOV to David O. Knudtson, Pittsburgh PA (see PS-002); 30-MAR-2026 \$60,000 Pirate Act forfeiture affirmed; 08-JAN-2026 Marlink Inc. Team Telecom consent decree (\$175,000 voluntary contribution + comprehensive compliance plan) remains the landmark national-security enforcement of this cycle.</p> <p>SUPREME COURT: FCC v. AT&amp;T (No. 25-406) and Verizon v. FCC (No. 25-567) were consolidated for oral argument on 21-APR-2026, challenging the constitutionality of FCC administrative penalty processes; decision expected summer 2026. A ruling against current FCC process would significantly constrain forfeiture authority.</p> <p>TCPA/ROBOCALL: FCC consent revocation rule effective 11-APR-2026 (after waiver for financial institutions); NPRM on robocall numbering policies remains open from 27-MAR-2026 adoption.</p>	

<b>SOURCES</b>	<a href="#">FCC Enforcement Orders</a>   <a href="#">FCC Enforcement Headlines</a>   <a href="#">Marlink Team Telecom Consent Decree</a>   <a href="#">SCOTUS FCC v. AT&amp;T / Verizon v. FCC</a>   <a href="#">FCC TCPA Rule DA-26-12</a>
<b>ANALYST ASSESSMENT</b>	<p>Pirate radio enforcement continues accelerating under Chairman Carr; the 10-APR NY NIPRBs extend the pattern of landlord liability enforcement authorized by the 2020 PIRATE Act.</p> <p>The 02-APR \$4.5M marketing-rules NAL is a signal that FCC financial-penalty willingness is not waiting for the SCOTUS outcome.</p> <p>The 21-APR SCOTUS oral argument in FCC v. AT&amp;T / Verizon v. FCC is the most consequential structural event for FCC enforcement authority in this cycle — a ruling striking down current forfeiture process would significantly constrain FCC's ability to impose financial penalties against carriers.</p> <p>Marlink Team Telecom enforcement remains the most significant national-security regulatory development for telecom this cycle; any carrier with Iranian-nexus ownership interests, foreign employees with infrastructure access, or active DOJ Team Telecom mitigation obligations should continue to treat compliance review as a current-cycle priority given PREP-CON 3.</p> <p>PIRATE / ARES/RACES: any unlicensed operation on AM/FM/shortwave in ARES/RACES areas should be reported via <a href="https://complaints.fcc.gov">complaints.fcc.gov</a>.</p>

<b>REG-002</b>	<b>FCC Space &amp; Spectrum Actions — NPRM for Space TT&amp;C Spectrum, Licensing Overhaul</b>	<b>CONTINUED</b>
<b>TRACK</b>	REGULATORY / FCC / SPECTRUM / SATELLITE	
<b>SUMMARY</b>	<p>26-MAR-2026: FCC unanimously adopted NPRM for spectrum allocation for space telemetry, tracking, and command (TT&amp;C) operations — part of broader commercial space economy support posture.</p> <p>Separately, FCC is processing Space Modernization NPRM (Part 25 overhaul to new Part 100; adopted Oct 2025, comments Jan 2026) which would:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Streamline satellite licensing to a "licensing assembly line."</li> <li>• Extend license terms to 20 years.</li> <li>• Require space situational awareness data sharing from satellite operators.</li> </ul> <p>Proposed rules may be finalized by end of 2026.</p> <p><b>DIRECT RELEVANCE TO COMMS WATCH:</b> These proceedings directly affect Starlink, AST SpaceMobile, and other DTC operators whose buildout timelines and spectrum positions are subject to FCC approval.</p> <p>The EchoStar S-band spectrum AT&amp;T is acquiring (pending FCC approval, ~\$23B deal) is also implicated in the Starlink Mobile V3 spectrum strategy.</p> <p>FirstNet reauthorization: House Energy and Commerce Committee advanced bipartisan legislation to reauthorize FirstNet through 2037 this cycle.</p>	
<b>SOURCES</b>	<a href="#">FCC Space Modernization NPRM</a>   <a href="#">Morgan Lewis — FCC Space Economy April 2026</a>   <a href="#">StateScoop — FirstNet Reauthorization</a>	

**SECTION 7B | IPAWS / EAS / PUBLIC ALERTING SYSTEMS**

<b>IPAWS-001</b>	<b>IPAWS / EAS / WEA — Operational / FCC Modernization NPRM in Deliberation / Day 55 Conflict Posture</b>	<b>UPDATED</b>
<b>TRACK</b>	PUBLIC ALERTING / IPAWS / EAS / WEA	

<b>SUMMARY</b>	<p>IPAWS OPERATIONAL STATUS (24-APR-2026): IPAWS is fully operational. No disruptions to the IPAWS-OPEN aggregation/distribution platform or EAS national relay chain identified 10-24 APR. WEA delivery to compatible devices remains functional.</p> <p>NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards nominal at the IPAWS-feed layer (local NWR transmitter outages tracked separately in DTR WX section; 20 transmitters OOS/DEG across 14 states per 22-APR DTR).</p> <p>1,500+ federal, state, local, tribal, and territorial alerting authorities currently active in IPAWS.</p> <p>FCC MODERNIZATION NPRM (IN DELIBERATION): FCC adopted the EAS/WEA re-examination NPRM at its 07-AUG-2025 Open Meeting (PS Docket No. 25-224); comment period closed 10-OCT-2025; rulemaking is in deliberation phase with new rules expected mid-2026.</p> <p>Key proposals under consideration: integration of 5G and AI-driven alerting; multilingual WEA expansion beyond current English/Spanish requirement; expanded alert categories (cybersecurity threats, infrastructure outages); alternative distribution via streaming, OTT, social media; geo-targeting accuracy improvements.</p> <p>Broadcaster concerns: alert fatigue if categories expanded too broadly; request to preserve analog/digital radio as primary backbone rather than replacing with app-based delivery.</p> <p>FEMA: Next Generation Warning System Grant Program (NGWSGP) FY2025 funding opportunity remains open. IPAWS Message Design Dashboard (MDD) v2.0 active since April 2025 — includes missing/endangered persons and all-clear categories.</p> <p>CONFLICT POSTURE NOTE (DAY 55): No WEA-nationwide presidential alert has been issued in relation to Operation Epic Fury (Day 55) or the US-Iran blockade (Day 12). The analytical gap between IRGC's explicit "beyond region" retaliation threats and the absence of any active NTAS or national EAS advisory remains flagged in DTR TER-001.</p>
<b>SOURCES</b>	<p><a href="#">FEMA IPAWS</a>   <a href="#">FCC EAS Page</a>   <a href="#">FCC Alerting Modernization NPRM</a>   <a href="#">Radio World — EAS Stakeholder Comments</a>   <a href="#">FEMA NGWSGP Grant Program</a>   <a href="#">CRS IPAWS Report</a></p>
<b>ANALYST ASSESSMENT</b>	<p>The FCC NPRM is operationally significant for emergency managers and IPAWS alerting authorities.</p> <p>The current comment record reveals a tension between two legitimate priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) Modernizing EAS/WEA to reach a mobile-first, streaming-dominant audience that no longer has a television or radio as their primary media consumption device.</li> <li>(2) Preserving the resilience of the existing infrastructure that has proven survivable in widespread network disruptions.</li> </ul> <p>Analyst position: the FCC should NOT phase out broadcast radio as the primary EAS backbone. Broadcast radio is the only mass-alert mechanism that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) Functions during a power-grid failure when cellular networks have exhausted backup power.</li> <li>(b) Requires no device registration or app.</li> <li>(c) Is receivable on battery-powered devices.</li> <li>(d) Has 77 Primary Entry Point (PEP) stations with hardened power and communications specifically for national emergency use.</li> </ul> <p>In the current wartime posture (PREP-CON 3, Day 55), degrading the broadcast backbone in favor of app-based alerting would reduce alerting resilience precisely when resilience is most needed.</p> <p>Emergency managers with IPAWS alerting authority: review your MDD v2.0 templates and confirm backup CAP message drafting capability is trained and tested.</p> <p>Consider conducting a local IPAWS activation drill this cycle given elevated threat posture — the 20-transmitter NWR gap (especially the NM triple-gap and TN dual-gap per DTR WX-001) is a useful real-world scenario for exercise design.</p>

## SECTION 8 | AMATEUR RADIO CORNER

### ARES / RACES Status:

No formal ARES/RACES activation reported 10-24 APR. Space weather favors EMCOMM this weekend — no G-storms forecast 24-28 APR, Kp peaks at 3 (unsettled) — so HF is available as the primary EMCOMM bearer for any severe-weather activation tied to the 22-26 APR tornado sequence tracked in DTR WX-001. The next elevated space-weather window is 29-30 APR (Kp 5 forecast, GI 27-day) — operators planning any polar-path-dependent ops that weekend should verify VHF/UHF satellite backup before Wednesday. All ARES ECs: verify 40m and 80m phone capability in your Go-Kits is operational and tested. Winlink digital (40m) is the primary backup if GPS-synchronized timing for digital modes is disrupted by the Gulf GNSS environment (see SAT-002, EW-001). Pennsylvania operators: PEMA ACS state net 3.9935 MHz LSB remains the primary statewide HF coordination channel; DMR TG 31420 on the Pennsylvania DMR network for backup voice; York County coordination via W3HZU.

### NWR Transmitter Outage — Compound with Severe Weather Sequence:

Per DTR WX-001 (23-APR, 1400 UTC): 20 NWR transmitters are OOS or DEGRADED across 14 states/territories. Gap areas compound with the 22-24 APR severe sequence: New Mexico triple-gap (Roswell / Carlsbad / Artesia, affecting Chaves and Eddy counties) is inside the fire-weather footprint; Tennessee dual-gap (Lawrenceburg + Shelbyville) is inside the Nashville WFO severe Day 2 area; Minnesota dual-gap (Gun Flint Lake + Fergus Falls) is inside Day 2 SLIGHT Risk severe; Oregon dual-gap (Portland DEG + Coos Bay OOS) covers Portland metro. ARES/RACES operators in these counties: brief served-agency emergency managers that WEA/broadcast EAS/FEMA App are the effective alternative alerting pathways, not NWR. Text-to-911 should be confirmed operational in the affected PSAP coverage areas.

### Operational Reminder — Programmed Frequency Discipline:

- Inhibit transmit on NOAA Weather frequencies (162.400–162.550 MHz) in capable transceivers. Given the 20-transmitter NWR gap footprint, many operators are adjacent to areas where WX Radio is the formal all-hazards channel — ensure your rig cannot accidentally key up on it.
- Audio Relay / Cross-Band Repeat: DISABLE if public safety or government frequencies are in your receive bank. FCC Allegheny County enforcement (PS-002) remains open. Pattern of inadvertent retransmission violations is increasing nationally with proliferation of multi-function HTs (e.g., B-Tech UV-Pro).
- Verify your FCC license is current and covers your operating frequencies. License lookup: [wireless2.fcc.gov/UlsApp/UlsSearch/searchLicense.jsp](https://wireless2.fcc.gov/UlsApp/UlsSearch/searchLicense.jsp). With elevated-threat posture (PREP-CON 3, Day 55), operating on an expired license during an emergency response is both a legal and operational problem.
- T-Satellite / AST SpaceMobile satellite backup: if your agency or household does not yet have satellite messaging capability, T-Satellite (\$10/mo on most modern smartphones, no hardware required) provides text and 911 messaging in CONUS dead zones and is the most operationally mature DTC option. FirstNet satellite beta via AST BlueBird is now timeline-at-risk after the 19-APR BlueBird 7 loss — do not decommission existing backup comms on the assumption that FirstNet satellite arrives in 2026.

## SECTION 9 | ANALYST NOTES

### Cross-Track Assessment — The Positive Development Suffered a Material Setback This Cycle:

Since Issue 1, Fortune Favors the Prepared has tracked two converging long-arc storylines in the communications environment: a negative arc in the Hormuz theater (GPS/GNSS denial, EW escalation, submarine cable repair-access blocked) and a positive arc in cell-satellite integration (T-Satellite commercially live, FirstNet satellite beta announced for 2026). This cycle, both arcs moved — and the positive arc took the larger hit. AST SpaceMobile's BlueBird 7 satellite was placed in a lower-than-planned orbit on 19-APR and will be de-orbited, compressing the margin on AST's already-tight launch cadence. The FirstNet satellite beta for first responders is not dead — AST reaffirms the 45-satellite 2026 target — but the schedule is now materially at risk of a 2027 slip. The practitioner implication: do not close backup communications gaps on the assumption that DTC satellite will fill them in 2026. T-Satellite remains the interim satellite text/911 capability that is actually operational today. Appropriate action posture this cycle: maintain the multi-bearer backup stack (HF, VHF/UHF, LMR, Winlink, L-band MSS) while enrolling compatible devices in T-Satellite as a ground-truth DTC capability that does not depend on AST's launch-campaign risk.

### Monitoring Priorities for Coming Week:

- SWPC / GI 29-30 APR Kp 5 forecast window — verify VHF/UHF satellite backup before Wednesday 29-APR if any polar-path-dependent ops are scheduled that weekend. Monitor SWPC 3-day forecast for any upgrade.
- AST SpaceMobile BlueBird 8, 9, 10 — expected ship-ready within ~30 days of 19-APR per AST 8-K. Watch for launch vehicle assignment and schedule. Successful deployment of BB8-10 is the key milestone for FirstNet satellite beta 2026 enrollment; any further launch failure pushes the timeline into 2027.

- TeleGeography / operator announcements — any Gulf corridor cable fault notice. Vendor or operator prompts noting degraded Middle East-region connectivity warrant NET-003 escalation.
- GPSJam.org heatmap — watch for geographic expansion of jamming footprint toward eastern Mediterranean air corridors or any CONUS-GPS anomaly signature.
- CISA KEV catalog — daily check for new entries. This cycle added CVE-2026-33825 (BlueHammer, due 06-MAY) and CVE-2026-39987 (Marimo RCE, due 07-MAY). AA26-097A Iranian APT on Rockwell/Allen-Bradley PLCs remains active (Day 17).
- SCOTUS FCC v. AT&T / Verizon v. FCC — argued 21-APR; decision expected summer 2026. A ruling against current FCC process would constrain enforcement authority significantly.
- FCC NG911 reliability FNPRM — final rules expected late summer 2026. State 911 authorities and PSAPs should inventory C9SP relationships now, as the expanded definition will capture IP-era providers that did not previously consider themselves C9SPs.

### END OF COMMS WATCH | Vol. 1, Issue 3 | 24 April 2026

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