

Chapter 18

HF and Satellite Airborne Communications

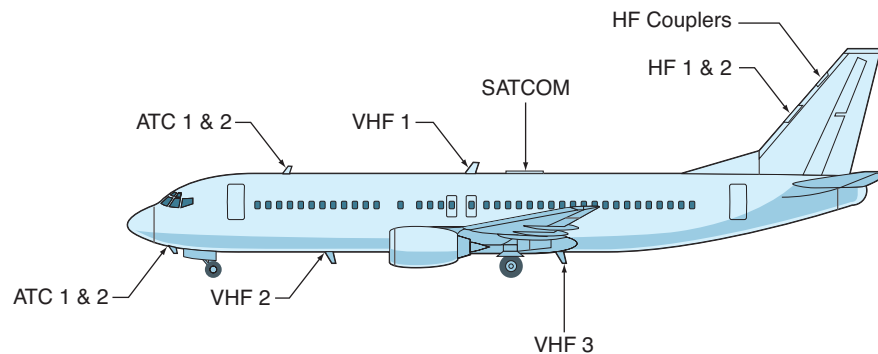
INTRODUCTION

Air carrier operations ideally require uninterrupted communications when:

- Contacting Air Traffic Control to ensure a safe flow and separation from other traffic and to be kept up to date with conditions along the route and at the destination. Being able to communicate is also essential in the event of any incident that might endanger the aircraft or those on board.
- Communicating with the Company concerning people, freight, or maintenance-related items
- Assisting other aviators

In 1994 for example, 99% plus of such communications were achieved by voice, using either short range VHF or HF for long distance communications. This situation has now dramatically changed, and information is now digitised and routed over data links including satellites, with printouts available as required. The antenna map below shows the typical equipment installation in a modern jet transport aircraft for communication purposes.

Aerial Locations - Communications Only



Many equipment manufacturers produce communications and navigation equipment, so the following descriptions are generally representative of the many and various models that are available.