



Direct to Sailor Service Fact Sheet

The American Forces Network's Direct to Sailor Service was launched on December 23, 1997, in order to improve the quality of life of service members serving aboard U.S. Navy, Military Sealift Command, and U.S. Coast Guard vessels.

The initial, 24/7/365 three-channel standard-definition service included AFN|news, AFN|sports, and AFN|prime in addition to four audio services. All AFN television services transition to a high definition digital signal in December, 2017, which greatly improved the DTS picture quality. Digital signal compression improvements on the satellite-delivered programming stream freed up bandwidth space to allow for the addition of another channel, AFN|sports2, in January 2021.

DTS is available worldwide and because this is a true global service, it's also used by land-based authorized audience members living outside of the major force concentrations in Asia and Europe.

The DTS signal is available on three satellites, IS-35e, NSS-9, and NSS-12, for the Atlantic, Pacific, and Indian Ocean Regions respectively. It can be acquired by using a 1.2 to 1.5 meter satellite dish and an AFN-capable decoder. Decoder settings and program channel guides for all AFN services and decoders are available on our website, myafn.net, under the *Troubleshooting Help* link on the main page.



Sailors aboard the USS Theodore Roosevelt watch the first NFL game delivered in HD on the AFN DTS service in December, 2017, while underway in the Pacific Ocean.

This service is used by more than 200 U.S. Navy, MSC, and Coast Guard vessels worldwide and is the only service available for home users in South America, Africa, Oceania, and Southern and Southeast Asia.

AFN is the programming content provider and is not involved in the acquisition, installation or troubleshooting of the equipment needed for this service. Afloat forces desiring DTS service must process their request through the Naval Information Warfare Systems Command (NAVWAR), Sea Systems Command and Fleet Support Detachments.

