Identify Tactical Data Link (TDL) Networks

Proficiency Code: A

All IT systems, including National Security Systems (NSS), with external interfaces (i.e., top-level information exchange requirements or equivalent interoperability requirements) must be evaluated and certified by the DISA Joint Interoperability Test Command (JITC).

Tactical data links (TDL) network involve the transmissions of bit-oriented digital information that exchanges via data links known as Tactical Digital Information Links (TADIL). The Network Centric approach is the TDL, which enable the real-time transfer of information to tactical units and their command centers. The three commonly used TADILs in the Air Force are TADIL-A, TADIL-C, and TADIL-J, which are described in the table below.

Commonly Used AF TADILs	
Type	**Description**
TADIL-A (Link 11)	TADIL-A, also known as Link 11, is a secure, half-duplex (poll-response) netted digital data link that uses parallel transmission frame characteristics and standard message formats. TADIL-A uses a roll call mode under the control of a net control station (a machine function). The net control station synchronizes the track reporting of link participating units. Information transmits at either 1,364 or 2,250 bits per second (bps) over a high frequency (HF) or ultra-high frequency (UHF) carrier. TADIL-A is normally used to exchange data between airborne, sea-based, and ground-based air defense units.
TADIL-C (Link 4A)	TADIL-C, also known as Link 4A, is an unsecure, time-division digital data link between an air defense-controlling unit; e.g., Tactical Air Operations Center (TAOC) or airborne warning and control system (AWACS) and appropriately equipped aircraft. Information exchange at 5,000 bps can occur in one of three modes: full two-way (ground to air to ground), one way air to ground, or one way ground to air.
TADIL-J (Link 16)	TADIL-J, also known as Link 16is a secure, high-speed digital data link. It uses the joint tactical information distribution system transmission (JTIDS) characteristics and protocols, conventions, and fixed length message formats defined by the JTIDS technical interface design plan. The intention of TADIL-J is to replace or augment many existing TADILs as the joint standard for data link information exchange. Information is passed at one of three data rates: 26.88, 53.76, or 107.52 kilobits per second. TADIL-J devices will be located in ground, airborne, and sea-based air defense platforms and selected fighter aircraft.