

S e e k t h e

M o r s e

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By: Troop - 714

The Energizer Bunnies

**BSA** – The Boy Scouts have used Morse code since 1918. In the BSA history, Morse code was incorporated in several merit badges and first class rank requirements. Today, BSA has incorporated Morse code into the Signs, Signals and Code, Radio merit badges and the Morse Code Interpreter Strip.

**Navajo Code Talkers** – in wartime, secure communications are crucial, but for the U.S. armed forces, securing messages become a bewildering problem. Japanese cryptographers, many of them educated in the United States and fluent in standard and colloquial English, were amazingly adept at breaking codes. Enemy forces often knew about American battle plans in advance, and no defense against Japanese codebreaking had materialized. “Military communications were made available to the enemy like sand sifting through a sieve,” an analyst said. In 1942, there was no Navajo alphabet. The language did not exist in written form. The First Marine Division 1943 had trained nearly 200 Navajo, sent and received over 800 messages without an error and were it not for the Navajo Code Talkers, the Marines never would have taken **“Iwo Jima.”**

**Navy Cmdr. Jeremiah Denton Jr** - had been a prisoner of war in North Vietnam for nearly 10 months when he was interviewed by a Japanese television reporter on May 2, 1966, as part of a propaganda campaign Denton declared his loyalty to the U.S. government during a 1966 interview for what was supposed to be a propaganda film. But his enraged captors missed his more covert message: “T-O-R-T-U-R-E,” blinked into the camera in Morse code, a dispatch that would alert the U.S. military to the conditions he endured. Denton later became a US Senator from Alabama.

**Sen. John McCain** – was held captive as a POW in Vietnam along with Cmdr. Denton. “As a senior ranking officer in prison, Admiral Denton’s leadership inspired us to persevere, and to resist our captors, in ways we never would have on our own,” McCain said. During the final Presidential debate between McCain and President Obama, Professor Bob White told US News. "He blinked 3,000 times; I didn't know what that meant. After doing some research, I discovered he was communicating in Morse code even while he spoke aloud to Senator."

## Morse code Interpreter Strip Requirements

Youth and adults may wear this strip if they show their knowledge of Morse code by:

1. Carrying on a five-minute conversation in Morse code at a speed of at least five words per minute.
2. Copying correctly a two-minute message sent in Morse code at a minimum of five words per minute. Copying means writing the message down as it is received.
3. Sending a 25-word written document in Morse code at a minimum of five words per minute.



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# International Morse Code

## Basic used

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B	— • • •	
C	— • — •	
D	— • •	
E	•	
F	• • — •	
G	— — •	
H	• • • •	
I	• •	
J	• — — —	
K	— • —	
L	• — • •	
M	— —	
N	— •	
O	— — —	
P	• — — •	
Q	— — • —	
R	• — •	
S	• • •	
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X	— • • —	
Y	— • — —	
Z	— — • •	
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4	• • • • —	
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7	— — • • •	
8	— — — • •	
9	— — — — •	
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.	• — • — • —	period
?	• • — — • •	question mark
/	— • • — •	slash
-	— • • • • —	dash
()	— • — — • —	parenthesis