GAREC 2011

Operating Practices and Procedures

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International HF Procedure

IARU HF INTERNATIONAL
EMERGENCY OPERATING PROCEDURE

As Adopted by all 3 Regions
The IARU Procedure ...

- Originated in 1998
- Format based on ARRL NTS
- Captured in just three pages.
- ARRL NTS Methods and guidance notes extend to over 200 pages covering all aspects of running a message handling net.
- Does it give enough guidance?
“It is old fashioned”
But we need a basic form!

- Having a standard form allows stations to have confidence in the information being passed and an audit trail should something go wrong.
- Just because it looks old does not mean it no longer works!
Message format does adapt.

- APRS standard includes format for sending messages
  N\#\number\precedence\originator\check\place\time\date
  NA\address_line1\address_line2\address_line3\address_line4
  NP\phone number
  N1\line 1 of message text
  N2\line 2 of message text
  N3\line 3 of message text
  N4\line 4 of message text
  N5\line 5 of message text
  N6\line 6 of message text
  NS\Signature block
  NR\Received from\date_time\sent_to\date_time
Encouraging simplicity

• Our users are expecting to be able to send messages in real time as if their systems have not failed.
• We cannot replace multi-MegaByte data links quickly in an emergency.
• Twitter users can get a message in 140 characters why can't we?
Encouraging simplicity

“In the post-exercise debriefs, communications personnel also said that if people had the discipline of responding in 140 characters – as one has to do on Twitter – this would sharpen correspondence in general and speed up the entire communication process between responders.”
Reduce the overhead...

----- Original Message -----  
Message ID: xx_xxxxx  
Date: 2010.11.13 11:05  
From: xxxxx  
To: xxxxx  
Cc: xxxxx; xxxxx; xxxxx; xxxxx; xxxxx  
Source: xxxxx  
Subject: GlobalSet exercise  

GLOBALSET EXERCISE  
MESS ID: 0004  
FROM xxxxx PORTABLE - xxxx OP xxxxx  
THIS IS NOT AN EMERGENCY MESSAGE  
LOC: xxxxx xnnxx  
DATE: NOV 13 - 2010  

MESSAGE TO G0DUB  

TEXT OF MESSAGE:  
WX CLOUDY 90% - TEMP 6 C - RH 70% - SOFT WIND  
RIG: FT 897 PORTABLE - VERTICAL ANT - AUTOMATIC TUNER - P 30W  
END OF MESSAGE  

73 DE xxxxx xxxxx  
PSE I NEED OK REPLAY TKS
Reduce the overhead...

715 characters sent

Message content actually 143 characters.
Need more guidance...

• The procedure has been invaluable in providing a starting point for a common procedure.

• The questions that come up (frequently) after exercises indicate the need for more guidance.
Need to broaden the choice

• The original procedure tried to include voice, CW and possibly RTTY into one document.

• Causes confusion and in some places not compatible with the probably ARRL source.
Need to walk before running...

- The existing procedure is getting embedded in groups.
- The basic message format must allow messages to be passed in any mode. The internet manages to do this, why can't we?
- We need to look at message delivery to our served agencies. Something not practised at the moment.
Some examples.

• Here is how one country approached the problem (handouts shown at conference).

• Still not perfect but provides more information than existing document.

• How do we begin to make changes?

• Is GAREC the right forum to discuss this in?
Thank you!

The International Amateur Radio Union

Since 1925, the Federation of National Amateur Radio Societies Representing the Interests of Two-Way Amateur Radio Communication