



# *GAREC 2011*

## *Operating Practices and Procedures*

**Greg Mossop**  
**IARU Region 1 Emergency  
Communications Co-Ordinator**  
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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”*

Form No 1

**THE WESTERN UNION TELEGRAPH COMPANY.**

INCORPORATED

**21,000 OFFICES IN AMERICA.**

**CABLE SERVICE TO ALL THE WORLD.**

This Company TRANSMITS and DELIVERS messages only on conditions limiting its liability, which have been assented to by the sender of the following message. Errors can be guarded against only by repeating a message back to the sending station for comparison, and the Company will not hold itself liable for errors or delays in transmission or delivery of **Unrepeated Messages** beyond the amount of tolls paid thereon, nor in any case where the claim is not presented in writing within sixty days after the message is filed with the Company for transmission.

This is an **UNREPEATED MESSAGE**, and is delivered by request of the sender, under the conditions named above.

**THOS. T. ECKERT, President and General Manager.**

NUMBER	SENT BY	RECD BY	CHECK

**RECEIVED at:** \_\_\_\_\_ 189

Dated \_\_\_\_\_

To \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



## *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 xxxxxx

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**

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

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