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 xxnnxx
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 to 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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