



PRINCIPLES OF OFFICIAL MESSAGE PASSING

Good operators are made, not born!

What is a Message Net?

- ❖ **A network of Amateur Radio Operators acting in an official capacity to pass traffic to or receive traffic from a served agency.**

Types of Nets

- **County Message Net** – City to Santa Clara County OpArea
- **Local Net** – Field Stations to Mountain View EOC

Traffic Net Operator...

- ...is as concise as possible
- ...frequently identifies tactical call (FCC call sign only every 10 minutes and at end of traffic)
- ...clearly states the nature of the traffic (“I have official traffic for you.”)
- ...passes or copies messages exactly as written
- ... uses the EOC Message Form
- ... keeps an accurate log

Calling Net Control

- When calling Net Control, say your tactical call or FCC call sign, state the precedence of the message (immediate, priority, routine) and the message type (informal, ICS-213 [General or Summary]).
- i.e., “Net Control, this is Cuesta with a priority ICS-213 General message.”

Msg. Handling Prowords

- ***WORD AFTER*** “Say again word after...”
- ***WORD BEFORE*** “Say again word before...”
- ***BETWEEN*** “Say again between...and...”
- ***ALL AFTER*** “Say again all after...”
- ***ALL BEFORE*** “Say again all before...”
- ***I SPELL*** “Alfa, Bravo...”
- ***FIGURES*** “Wun, ZEE-row, FY-ive, THUH-ree”

Control Phrases

- “All stations standby” or “All stations hold your traffic”
- “Pass messages no faster than you can write them”
- “Pass messages in five word groups”
- “Use phonetics when spelling”

Pacing Phrases

- At end of each five words, drop PTT.
- If line ends with less than 5 words, say “Over”.
- To tell sender to proceed, say “Go” or “Go ahead”.
- To start a new line, say “New line”.
- At end of the message, say “End of message.” or “End of exercise message.” if appropriate.

Pacing Phrases (Cont.)

- Hearing “End of Message”, receiver says “I copy your message number____. My message number____. This is (tactical call, FCC call sign). Out.”
- Sender says, “This is (tactical call, FCC call sign). Out.”

Punctuation

- Plain language is to be used.
- Send it the way the originator has written it on the message form.

Phonetic Alphabet

A - Alfa (Al-fa)

B - Bravo (BRAH-voh)

C - Charlie (CHAR-lee)

D - Delta (DELL-tah)

E - Echo (ECH-oh)

F - Foxtrot (FOKS-trot)

G - Golf (GOLF)

H - Hotel (HOH-tel)

I - India (IN-dee-ah)

J - Juliet (JU-lee-ett)

K - Kilo (KEY-loh)

L - Lima (LEE-mah)

M - Mike (MIKE)

N - November (no-VEM-ber)

O - Oscar (OSS-cah)

P - Papa (PAH-PAH)

Q - Quebec (KAY-bec)

R - Romeo (ROW-me-oh)

S - Sierra (SEE-air-rah)

T - Tango (TANG-go)

U - Uniform (YOU-ni-form)

V - Victor (VIK-tor)

W - Whiskey (WISS-key)

X - X-Ray (ECKS-ray)

Y - Yankee (YANG-key)

Z - Zulu (ZOO-loo)

Number Pronunciation

- 1 - one (Wun)
- 2 - two (TOOO)
- 3 - three (THUH-ree)
- 4 - four (FOH-wer)
- 5 - five (FY-ive)
- 6 - six (Sicks)
- 7 - seven (SEV-in)
- 8 - eight (Ate)
- 9 - nine (NINE-er)
- 0 - zero (ZEE-row)*

***Zero is never “oh”**

Numbers are always pronounced individually

Decimal point is never “dot”

Remember:

*For want of a letter, a word
was lost.*

*For want of a word, the
message was lost.*

*For want of a message, a life
was lost.*

Message Blank

Wrap-Up

- Questions/Discussion
- Personal Experiences
- Exercise

Exercise

- Each participant should have two blank ICS-213 Message Forms and two exercise messages to be transmitted.
- Leader will appoint a Ham to be “Exercise Net Control Operator”.
- Net Control will announce as net control of a directed net for exercise purposes.
- Exercise NCO takes check-ins for the net.
- NCO controls direct message traffic between stations.