STRUCTURE AND DOCUMENT REVISIONS
CONCEPTUAL PROPOSAL
ARRL FIELD ORGANIZATION - PSCM
NTSWC W3YVQ for the NTS Chairs, NOV 5, 2013

BACKGROUND

The ARESCOM ad-hoc committee unanimously adopted and recommended in 2004 to the ARRL Board of Directors a plan to deploy a modern, virtually real-time, national emergency communications network for ARES(r) and NTS/NTSD. This new layer provides for messaging in the standard email format transmitted over amateur radio with packet or HF modems, and with access to the public internet outside of disaster areas.

The NTS and NTSD have for the past 9 years deployed the Radio-email Layer capabilities and supported deployment of them by ARES(r) in the ARRL Sections. The Radio-email Layer is now regularly used in our nation-wide Simulated Emergency Tests which allows equal access to all appropriately equipped ARES(r), NTS, and NTSD stations everywhere in the country. Client access to the Radio-email Layer may be sustained even with loss of ground infrastructure during disasters.

The ARRL *Public Service Communications Manual* (PSCM), Appendix B, "Methods and Practices Guidance" has been updated to provide guidance for stations throughout the Field Organization to use the Radio-email layer with the objective of providing for total agency interoperability, enhanced public welfare messaging, and administrative alerting and traffic handling, for all those we serve. Known as the "Updated MPG Chapter 6", those guidelines are currently posted on the internet outside of the ARRL web server resources. Although the Winlink 2000 network is used very effectively as part of this strategy, it is not intended to be identified as the standard network or sponsored by the ARRL.

This conceptual proposal deals with 1) the need to modernize the structure of our Field Organization to take advantage of this modern networking capability; and 2) the need to make changes in our League documentation to facilitate education, and operational guidance and training for this capability.

ARES(r) STRUCTURAL CONCEPTUAL PROPOSAL

To foster closer cooperation between ARES(r), NTS, and the NTS Digital (NTSD), it is proposed that ARES(r) be restructured to provide for coordinating the sharing of the common communications Radio-email Layer. This involves a joint effort in which ARES(r) provides for stations deployed at served agency sites throughout their Sections as needed, each capable of accessing the Radio-email Layer. In so doing, those ARES(r) deployed stations permit served agencies to exchange messaging in the Radio-email format with similar stations, as well as with NTS and NTSD stations, anywhere in the country. It also permits ARES(r) stations deployed at shelters to provide Radio-email service to victims, including an interface with the public internet, as well as Radiogram service transported via Radio-email to stations in the NTS/NTSD

anywhere. This all may be accomplished without the need for intermediate relaying manpower or nets. ARESMAT would also be trained and equipped to go into disaster areas and provide connections to the Radio-email Layer as needed.

Since Radio-email technology requires known addressees on a network, the proposal includes the concept of a dynamic database of registered Target Stations on the Radio-email Layer - including Section ARES(r) and NTS stations, and NTS, and NTSD stations above Section level, nation-wide.

This restructuring proposal does not significantly change Section ARES management. Rather it provides for Regional, Area, and Headquarters liaison and coordination for all Sections, the NTS, and the NTSD. This provides for proper extension of the Radio-email Layer connections beyond Section borders in support of ICS/NIMS disaster management (a borderless concept), execution of Sectional MOUs, and bridging to the NTS/NTSD services. This is what served agencies want these days, particularly with respect to modern IT email-formatted and automated messaging.

The ARES(r) Conceptual Proposal is attached to this document as Appendix A.

NTS/NTSD STRUCTURAL CONCEPTUAL PROPOSAL
Many stations in the NTS and NTSD operating today have already added Radio-email Layer capabilities. They are prepared in Section NTS nets, and those above Section level, to access the Radio-email Layer network, to send and receive Radio-email, coordinate the movement of Radio-email on manual nets, and to use Radio-email to transport Radiogram messaging across the country. Through the use of Radio-email, they may also directly exchange Radio-email and Radiogram traffic with ARES(r) stations anywhere, provided those stations are operating on the Radio-email Layer or can make direct radio connections with NTS/NTSD stations. In addition, the primary hub stations of the NTSD, already equipped for long-haul PacTor messaging, provide for the movement of Radio-email coast-to-coast, radio-all-the-way, independent of the infrastructure or other Radio-email Layer servers.

The operating guidance for NTS/NTSD use of the Radio-email Layer and direct radio connections is provided for in the "Updated MPG Chapter 6".

DOCUMENT REVISION CONCEPTUAL PROPOSAL
The current edition of the ARRL PSCM consists of presentations of the structure of ARES(r), the NTS, and NTSD, in a number of sections which could now benefit from updates to reflect operations in this decade. In addition, it contains Appendix A, the model *Terms of Reference* for the NTS area staffs, and Appendix B dealing with the *Methods and Practices* for both the NTS and the NTSD (the current Chapter 6 having been replaced by the "Updated Chapter 6" posted elsewhere).

To modernize the PSCM the following revisions are proposed:
  1. Adopt the proposed structural management changes to facilitate national

coordination of ARES(r), NTS, and NTSD; including the utilization of modern Radio-email networking to achieve total agency interoperability. See the conceptual proposal in Exhibit A to this document.

2. Establish a team of experienced ARES(r) and NTS leadership to revise the sections of the PSCM to reflect the current structure and guidance for ARES(r), the NTS, and the NTSD, as proposed. Some details are attached in Exhibit B to this document.

3. Revise the PSCM Appendix A to include the "model" Terms of Reference for the NTS, the NTSD, and ARES(r) (none currently exists). These models are to be general guidance for organizational purpose and management positions which the respective Area Chairs may customize (with ARRL staff concurrence) in certain respects for their Areas.

4. Revise the PSCM Appendix B to include MPG guidance for the NTS, and for the NTSD, with various respective supporting detailed documents (this includes the current chapters 1 through 9 with the Radio-email section of Chapter 6 removed); and add an MPG section for ARES(r) as such guidance is provided by ARES(r) management. Certain of the pages of the current MPG posted at arrl.org will have to be revised or deleted. Stipulate that the authorship for the MPG contents to reside with the respective organizational Area Chairs leadership, with HQ approval prior to publishing, for future changes.

5. Move the MPG Radio-email Layer guidance and supporting documents to a new PSCM Appendix C.

6. Resolve the PDF creation issues with the HQ IT staff and publish the new PSCM and its appendices at ARRL.ORG.

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