



Radio Relay International Training Exercise March 24 and 25, 2020

During the COVID-19 pandemic, many of our public service communications volunteers are engaging in self-isolation or are at home due to travel restrictions. This creates an excellent opportunity to conduct an emergency communications exercise that provides both meaningful training and a useful activity for our volunteers.

This exercise will concentrate on two basic message formats defined in the Radio Relay International National Communications Emergency Response Plan (NCERP):

- Operational Readiness Report
- Situational Awareness Report

Purpose of Reports:

Operational Readiness Report:

The OPRED report is designed to facilitate the overall network management process. These reports are used to create a database of active radio operators and key stations connected to the traffic system.

- They associate the reporting radio operator or key station with a geographical location.
- Specify the local/state networks with which the operator has connectivity.
- Identify those served agencies with which the operator can effect delivery of important message traffic.
- Expedite the timely routing of messages under emergency conditions.
- Answer questions from served agencies such as “can you get a message to _____ at _____?”

Whereas individual traffic operators will typically originate their own OPRED message, key stations staffed by more than one operator, such as an EOC, shelter, or command post need only originate one OPRED message for the facility’s communications team.

For the purposes of this exercise, every participating operator is asked to originate one OPRED report.

Situational Awareness Report:

The SITREP report is designed to accumulate “ground-truth” intelligence. In the event of a major disaster, SITREPs would be transmitted to a liaison station assigned to collect this data. This key station

would route this intelligence data to served agencies using appropriate tools such as input to the data stream at the National Response Coordination Center, delivery to an EOC message router, or similar process. The standard radiogram format combined with a predictable sequence facilitates the rapid “harvesting” of data from a disaster area and it can be used at any level, local, state or national.

Under actual emergency conditions, sources for SITREP data may include:

- Input from the *National SOS Radio Network* or *Neighborhood Hamwatch* programs.
- Data obtained from local government officials (with authorization to release).
- Data obtained from NGOs and VOADS (with authorization to release).

SITREP data should be based on verified information whenever possible.

For the purposes of this exercise, we will use publicly available COVID-19 data published for your county or municipality. This is typically released daily by each State Government. If you have information about cases within your municipality, this may be used instead of the county data.

Message Formats:

Reference: National Communications Emergency Response Plan – Appendix A, Examples 2 and 3 (pages 27 and 28)

Example of OPRED Message:

1 TP W7ABC 24 GLENN'S FERRY ID 1623Z MAR 24
W6RRI
BUCHANAN MI 49107
833 377 0722 X 700
INFO ATSIGN RADIO HYPHEN RELAY DOT ORG
BT
EXERCISE OPRED 1/IATN 7115 14115 KHZ DTN WINLINK 2/IMN PRI
3572 SEC 7043 3/ELMORE COUNTY ARES AND REACT 4/COUNTY EMA
RED CROSS 5/INDEFINITE 6/NONE
BT
DALE PAPE W7ABC

Example of SITREP Message:

2 TP W7ABC 22 GLENN'S FERRY ID 2230Z MAR 24
W6RRI
BUCHANAN MI 49107
833 377 0722 X 700
INFO ATSIGN RADIO HYPHEN RELAY DOT ORG
BT

EXERCISE SITREP 1/ELMORE COUNTY 2/PANDEMIC 3/ENTIRE COUNTY 4/NEW INFECTIONS 12
EVENT TOTAL 43 RECOVERED 8 DEATHS 1 5/IN PLACE SHELTER
ORDERED 6/VERIFIED
BT
DALE PAPE W7ABC

Note: In the case of the SITREP messages, even though this is an exercise and the messages are designated as such, do NOT make up numbers. Instead, procure accurate data at either the state or local level.

Origination and Routing Methods:

Messages may be originated at any time between 240001Z and 252359Z Mar 2020 using any one of the following methods:

1. Origination via local/state section traffic net or ARES net with liaison to the traffic system
2. Origination via Digital Traffic Network
3. Origination via REACT traffic system
4. Origination via Winlink-RRI Radiogram Template

W6RRI will be available to receive OPRED and SITREP messages directly on the following schedule:

- QSX IATN 7115 kHz CW top of the hour at:
 - 241300Z, 241500Z, 242200Z,
 - 251300Z, 252200Z
- Via normal RRI/NTS routings to the Michigan QMN Net 3563 kHz 2330Z and 0300Z

Note: This is NOT a timed exercise. The primary purpose of the exercise is to familiarize volunteers with the OPRED and SITREP message formats.

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