



A Few of Our Achievements Over the Past Five Years

For more than four decades, the traffic system was left largely on its own. Like a well-made mechanical clock, it continued to function due to the efforts of many volunteers, but without vision and leadership, the result was a slow decay and degraded operation due to disuse atrophy that threatened the system's very existence.

Thanks to the creation of *Radio Relay International*, traffic handling is not only being renewed and re-invigorated in the United States, but it has started to expand Internationally to Europe, Oceania, Asia and more.

This is a list of just a few of the accomplishments of *Radio Relay International*. This work was done entirely by volunteers who provided professional-quality services at no cost to the organization. Furthermore, all of this was accomplished by an organization that does not charge dues but rather, operates only on donations!



2015-2016:

- At the invitation of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and in response to FEMA requirements, Charter RRI personnel, then affiliated with NTS, developed a prototype National Response Plan, which was tested during the "Cascadia Rising" Disaster Exercise.
- These volunteers developed a complex disaster exercise methodology that was realistic, attainable, and measurable. This methodology resulted in an analytical, unbiased measure of traffic system performance conveying simulated five-letter cipher group messages from Alaska, Idaho, Northern California, Oregon and Washington State to the National Response Coordination Center in Washington, D.C during the Cascadia Rising exercise.
- The innovative methodology has since been adopted by defense contractors and others as a model for a professionally designed disaster telecommunications exercise and has been featured in presentations at state and local interoperability and emergency management conferences.

- During Cascadia Rising, a core cadre of volunteers, many with backgrounds in military and commercial telecommunications, proved the efficacy of a properly designed national response plan and network management practices, in one case RRI networks scored an accuracy rate of 99.998 percent accuracy against 10,220 data points in messages relayed over a transcontinental, all-RF circuit to the National Response Coordination Center in Washington, D.C.
- After an overwrought and highly politicized response from the legacy organization, RRI formally takes over management of many of the abrogated National Traffic System assets and begins the process of rebuilding the traffic system as a viable and relevant operating activity and emergency communications resource.
- RRI is chartered and takes over sponsorship of the “QNI Newsletter,” published since 2012 as a journal for traffic operators and develops its formal business structure and fundamental policies.

2017:

- Radio Relay International is incorporated as a public benefit NGO and achieves IRS 501(c)(3) nonprofit status.
- International connections are established with affiliated nets in Europe, Oceania and Asia. New standards are developed to automate traffic flow between foreign networks.
- RRI personnel develop new reference materials including a revised set of “Methods and Practices Guidelines,” a standardized training manual (TR-001), a field manual (FM-001), peer-reviewed power-point presentations and a preliminary series of training classes.
- The “RRI Registered Radio Operator” appointment is created, recognizing radiomen who agree to exercise the highest levels of decorum, courtesy, and good operating practice.
- RRI begins working with REACT international to improve cooperation between the two organizations. ARES and AUXCOM groups rediscover the traffic system and numerous ARRL Section Traffic Managers, Section Emergency Coordinators, Emergency Coordinators, and rank-and-file EmComm members register with RRI in recognition of the value of RRI improvements to the traffic system.
- RRI begins its first cycle of quarterly emergency communications exercises simulating both widespread disaster operations and specialized response scenarios.
- As part of its core outreach and service mission, RRI adopts the *National SOS Radio Network* and *Neighborhood Hamwatch Program*. A “Local Programs Committee” is formed to develop these concepts and prototype programs serving both urban and rural areas are created.

- RRI operators respond to Hurricanes Harvey and Maria, handling emergency traffic from the disaster areas. Thousands of messages are processed in the early days immediately after Hurricane Maria.

2018:

- RRI develops its first formal *National Emergency Communications Response Plan* and officially creates the position of Emergency Management Director. An innovative response methodology is introduced, which recognizes two primary configurations of the traffic system, one of which is a “routine” configuration and the other of which is an “emergency” configuration.
- Several standardized message formats are adopted to convey *operational readiness reports, situational awareness reports, weather observation reports* and similar data of value to served agencies.
- RRI begins introducing the new standardized reporting methods in a variety of specialized emergency exercises, thereby providing meaningful message traffic while offering a high-value training opportunity.
- RRI collaborates with the Winlink Development Team to develop a standardized *RRI Radiogram Template*. This template, and its associated software, ensure that non-traditional traffic operators and others unfamiliar with net procedures can format an operationally correct radiogram.
- RRI collaborates with the Winlink Development team to implement a gateway process between Winlink and RRI Region Nets. This system is first tested during a US Navy Medical Exercise during which excellent results are obtained.
- RRI implements policies to govern the origination of bulk messages. An additional e-mail reflector is established to coordinate such activities and policies are promulgated to prevent abusive practices and to ensure that overall system performance and volunteer resources are not abused.
- RRI begins issuing “welcome packages” containing certificates, reference materials and other useful content to all new registered radio operators.
- RRI’s innovation and promotion reinvigorates the traffic system. Many local emergency communications groups begin incorporating the traffic system into their exercises and emergency plans.
- RRI requests sample forms submissions from throughout the United States. These submissions are subjected to peer review and they are then used to develop standardized, fillable PDF radiogram and radiogram-ICS213 forms for use by traffic and EmComm operators.

- RRI introduces the first practical and interoperable methods to facilitate the transmission of radiogram-ICS213 messages via the traffic system.

2019:

- RRI expands its training curriculum to include additional classes on topics such as “Portable Emergency Communications,” “National SOS Radio Network and Neighborhood Hamwatch Training,” and other topics.
- Emphasis is placed on continued emergency exercises and drills. Considerable staff hours are invested in the management of the RRI *Digital Traffic Net* and RRI manual mode nets to ensure a continuing trend toward efficient operation.
- The RRI Mentorship program is implemented, thereby ensuring that good operating practices are inculcated in new radio operators as they become active in the system.

2020:

- The RRI Training program is standardized at nine classroom training programs and five standard reference documents.
- RRI conducts numerous training classes during the First and Second Quarter of the year while many are sequestered at home due to the Coronavirus Pandemic.
- RRI issues a revised edition of the *National Emergency Communications Response Guidelines* incorporating changes made in response to exercise evaluations over the prior two years.
- Three emergency exercises are conducted featuring Situational Awareness Reporting, Operational Readiness Reporting and Weather Observation Reporting in conformance with the RRI national response plan.
- RRI works with the Winlink Development Team to create a “Radiogram-ICS213” template for use in the EMA environment. Development is accelerated to accommodate Army MARS test messages transmitted via the traffic system.
- RRI works extensively with Army MARS to facilitate an interoperability exercise during the month of October, 2020.

.....AND THESE ARE JUST A FEW EXAMPLES OF WHAT RRI HAS ACCOMPLISHED. MUCH MORE IS YET TO COME! PLEASE SUPPORT THE FUTURE.....SUPPORT RADIO RELAY INTERNATIONAL