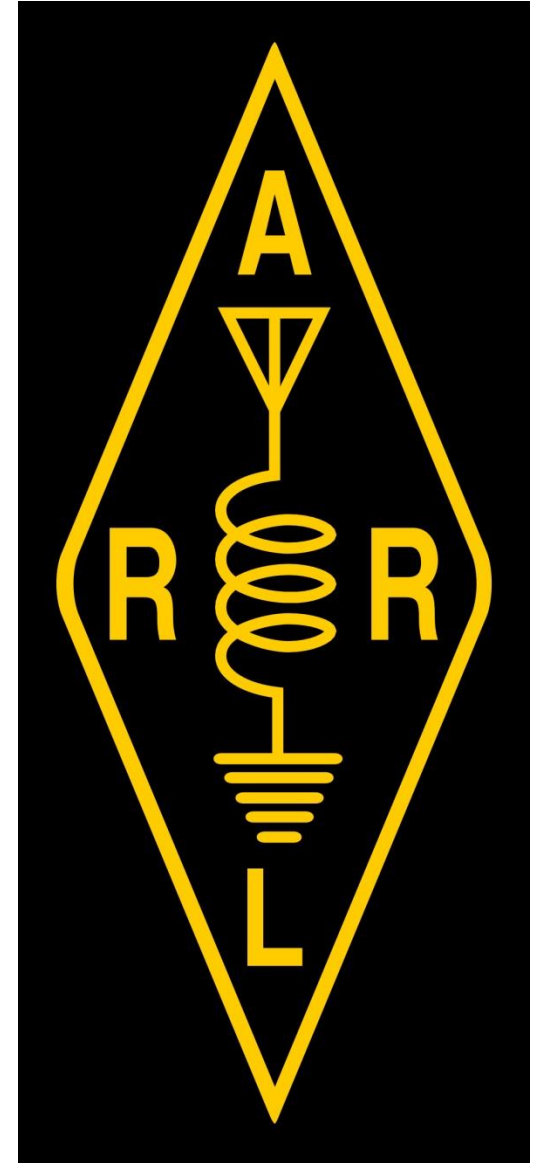


# NTS Traffic Handling

By Jeff Stahl, K4BH

EC, Broward ARES



# What is the NTS

- System of nets designed to efficiently move formal messages (radiograms) from origin to destination
  - Voice
  - CW
  - Digital
- Components
  - Local nets
  - Section nets
  - Region nets
  - Area nets

# Radiogram Format

- Preamble
- Destination Address
- Body
- Signature
- Optional “op notes”

# Radiogram Form



ARRL — the national association for Amateur Radio™



## RADIOGRAM

NUMBER	PRECEDENCE	HX	STATION OF ORIGIN	CHECK	PLACE OF ORIGIN	TIME FILED	DATE
TO			THIS RADIO MESSAGE WAS RECEIVED AT				
PHONE NUMBER			AMATEUR STATION _____		PHONE _____		
E-MAIL			NAME _____		E-MAIL _____		
STREET _____			CITY, STATE, ZIP _____				
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

FROM	DATE	TIME	TO	DATE	TIME
REC'D			SENT		

This message was handled at no charge by a licensed Amateur Radio operator, whose address is shown in the box at right above. No compensation can be accepted by a "ham" operator. A return message may be filed with the "ham" delivering this message to you. Further information on Amateur Radio may be obtained from ARRL Headquarters, 225 Main Street, Newington, CT 06111 or [www.arrl.org](http://www.arrl.org).

The ARRL is the national association for Amateur Radio and the publisher of *QST* magazine. One of its functions is promotion of public service communication among Amateur Radio operators. To that end, the ARRL has organized the National Traffic System for daily nationwide message handling.

# Radiogram Preamble

- **Message #**
- **Precedence**
  - EMERGENCY (always spelled out)
  - Priority (P)
  - Welfare (W)
  - Routine (R)
- **Handling Instructions (HX)**

NUMBER	PRECEDENCE	HX	STATION OF ORIGIN	CHECK	PLACE OF ORIGIN	TIME FILED	DATE



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  - Priority (P)
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NUMBER	PRECEDENCE	HX	STATION OF ORIGIN	CHECK	PLACE OF ORIGIN	TIME FILED	DATE



# Radiogram Preamble

- **Originating station callsign**
- Check (# of words in body)
- Originating location
- Time and Date of filing (include zone)

NUMBER	PRECEDENCE	HX	STATION OF ORIGIN	CHECK	PLACE OF ORIGIN	TIME FILED	DATE





# Radiogram Preamble

- Originating station callsign
- **Check** (# of words in body)
- Originating location
- Time and Date of filing (include zone)

NUMBER	PRECEDENCE	HX	STATION OF ORIGIN	CHECK	PLACE OF ORIGIN	TIME FILED	DATE



# Radiogram Preamble

- Originating station callsign
- Check (# of words in body)
- **Originating location**
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NUMBER	PRECEDENCE	HX	STATION OF ORIGIN	CHECK	PLACE OF ORIGIN	TIME FILED	DATE



# Radiogram Preamble

- Originating station callsign
- Check (# of words in body)
- Originating location
- **Time and Date of filing** (include zone)

NUMBER	PRECEDENCE	HX	STATION OF ORIGIN	CHECK	PLACE OF ORIGIN	TIME FILED	DATE



# Message Number

- Assigned by originating station
  - Numeric
  - No leading zeros
  - Start over every year
  - Digital system assigns this for digital traffic

# Originating Station & Location

- Callsign of Station filing traffic in NTS
- City and state of party for whom message is being filed
  - Not necessarily location of originating station
  - Used to service replies

# Time and Date Filed

- Time used only for emergency or priority traffic
- Time may be local or UTC (include time zone)
- Date is mandatory (Month, Day)

# Destination Address

- Full mailing address of destination
  - May include callsign, if appropriate
  - MUST include zip code
  - MUST include phone number
  - Include e-mail address if available

# Message Body

- Maximum 25 words or word groups
- Only “X-Ray”, “Query” allowed for punctuation
- Slash allowed in words



# Message Body Contents

- Words
  - Spell items that may be misunderstood or confused (e.g. names)
- Number groups
- Mixed groups
- Letter groups
- Figure/Initial
- 10 digit phone number is 3 words
- Each number/letter/mixed group is one word

# Numbered Radiograms

- Shortened versions of common messages or phrases
- Check prepends “ARL”
- Sent as words NOT digits, always spelled out
- Blanks are filled in following the numbered radiogram number in the message body

# Numbered Radiogram Example

- ARL forty six – greetings on your birthday and best wishes for many more to come
- Condenses 12 words to three!

# Signature & Op Notes

- Signature of originator
- May include amateur callsign or title
- Op notes are communications to stations handling the message
  - Clarify handling issues
  - Clarify address details
  - Anything originating operator needs to convey to ensure proper message or reply delivery

# Book traffic

- Same message sent to multiple recipients
- Send common parts first
  - Omit message #
  - Omit destination address
- Send message #'s and addresses for each message after common parts are acknowledged

# For More Info

- [www.arrl.org/nts](http://www.arrl.org/nts)
- [www.seftn.net/traffic.html](http://www.seftn.net/traffic.html)
- Check into the SEFTN
  - Every night at 1800 local time
  - 146.61 MHz Repeater (110.9 Hz PL)
  - Training net

# Questions

- Wake up – it's over!
- Answers are worth what you paid for them!
- 73 & hope to hear you on SEFTN