To Traffic Handlers and NCS Ops new and old,

   The following is a knowledge test that each Local level net net manager and net control station should take to evaluate their skill level.

   The primary source of standards and procedures used for this test is the ARRL's NTS Methods and Practices Guidelines manual which is available for download from the ARRL web site, NTS pages.

   Answers and explanations are attached at the end. Don't cheat, take the test first! Send me your results.

   Thank you in advance for taking the test.

Dave Bogner, W7EES, ARRL, Oregon Section Traffic Manager

Oregon Local Level Traffic Net Control, Qualification Test

1. Traffic net cycle 4 serves what purpose?

        a. To service incoming traffic from cycle 3.
        b. To service outbound traffic to the Section net.
        c. To service outbound traffic to the Region net.
        d. To service outbound traffic to the Area net.

2. By the book, a routine message addressed to Vancouver WA listed on the
   evening session Oregon Local level net should be routed to:

        a. The local net representative.
        b. The incoming cycle 3 liaison.
        c. Directly to a Vancouver WA station.
        d. The outbound cycle 4 liaison.

3. At the Section level, message traffic is routed by:

        a. Region, State and City.
        b. Region, State and county.
        c. County and City.
        d. Zip code and City.

4. Area and Region nets are voluntarily managed by:

        a. Radio Relay International (R.R.I.)
        b. The ARRL.
        c. The NTS.
        d. The Area net council.

5. Section and Local nets are voluntarily managed by:

        a. The NTS.
        b. Radio Relay International (R.R.I.)
        c. The ARRL.
        d. The Section net council.

6. The Digital Traffic Network operates:

        a. During cycle 1 & 3.
        b. During cycle 2 & 3.
        c. Continuously.
        d. During cycle 2 & 4.

7. Traffic flows Between Areas via:

        a. The Area net council.
        b. The NTS.
        c. Region nets.
        d. The R.R.I. Inter-Area Traffic Network.

8. Emergency traffic is handled:

        a. After roll call.
        b. After mobile/portable stations.
        c. After the cycle 3 liaison checks in.
        d. Immediately.

9. Routine traffic should be handled:

        a. After roll call.
        b. After mobile/portable stations.
        c. After the cycle 4 liaison checks in.
        d. At the discretion of The Liaison Station.

10. On a voice circuit, the proper way to request acknowledgment is to say:

        a. QSL?
        b. Roger-Roger?
        c. Please Acknowledge.
        d. Is that correct?

11. On a voice circuit, the proper way to respond to a yes-no question is:

        a. Yes/No.
        b. Roger/No.
        c. Affirmative/Negative.
        d. Yep/Nah.

12. On a voice circuit, the proper way to request the repeat of a
    transmission is to say:

    a. I didn't copy that. Can you repeat your last transmission?
    b. Say again.
    c. Repeat.
    d. What did you say?

13. At the end of each transmission requiring a response, say:

    a. Over.
    b. Come now.
    c. Roger?
    d. What say you?

14. When delivering a Radiogram message, the figures 73 in the signature
    text are spoken how?

    a. Seven Three.
    b. 73's.
    c. Best regards.
    d. Seventythree.

15. In a Radiogram message, Email addresses are formatted how?

    a. recipient@emailserver.com
    b. recipient @ emailserver.com
    c. recipient atsign emailserver dot com
    d. recipient atsign emailserver.com

16. The correct phonetics for the letters A, B, C, D are:

    a. Adam, Baker, Charles, David.
    b. Alpha, Bravo, Charley, Delta.
    c. Apple, Boy, Charlett, Douglas
    d. Aron, Bill, Carroll, Douglas

17. What is the message check?

    a. The number of groups in the message text.
    b. The number of figures in the message text.
    c. The number of the checksum of the message text.
    d. the number of spaces in the message text.

18. The letters RRC followed by numbers in the Radiogram header signify
what?

    a. The end point routing zone.
    b. The radio relay cycle number.
    c. The rapid response designation.
    d. The RRI abbreviated text notification.
End of Test

The answers are:

1. b. From the Local level evening net, outbound message traffic is routed to the cycle 4 Section net by the Section net liaison.

2. d. Inter-Section traffic is to be handled through the Region net, even though the destination is immediately across the river. This is always a contested rule, but procedures insure network uniformity and should be followed at all times. Exception is for Emergency traffic only. Outbound traffic is always routed via the Section net liaison station.

3. d. At the Section level and below, traffic is routed using zip code and city name. Traffic is not routed by county. Rosters should list zip codes for each member to aid in routing incoming traffic for delivery.

4. a. Area and Region nets are managed by R.R.I. and the Western Relay Network (WRN.)

5. c. Section and Local nets are managed by the ARRL.

6. c. The DTN is not constrained to the manual network cycles. This is an automated digital system that is capable of large volumes of message traffic and it operates 24 hours a day. Automatic unattended operation is provided by FCC 97.221. It functions under strict supervision for end to end accountability and traceability of all traffic in the network. Rules are similar to routing rules in the manual network.

7. d. The Inter-Area Traffic Network, IATN, is largely a manual function. The DTN bypasses the manual nets, but only due to the different modes of operation. CW is the primary mode for the manual network which is staffed by the highest level, experienced operators. The IATN is an R.R.I./WRN managed network.

8. d. Right now.

9. d. Depending on traffic volume, traffic takes priority. Ideally, it should be handled before other activities. Liaison stations are on tight schedules and may need to be released quickly. The Liaison station will determine priority.

10. c. One or two plain language words are better understood than buzz words, lengthy dialog and cryptic acronyms. Use recommended pro-words.

11. c. Again, keep it simple and use words that are standard phrases.

12. b. See 10.

13. a. This is the most important of the single phrase pro-words in radio. A single word that gets the job done every time and signals the other station, the channel is clear for them to transmit. Imagine a world without doubling.

14. c. Unless the message is addressed to another ham radio operator, 73 is just a number. 73 is the abbreviation for Best Regards. If the message was addressed to a non-ham, the originator should say the words not the numbers.

15. c. Email addresses contain punctuation characters that don't translate well in the manual network, so they are spelled out as separate words. 'Atsign' and 'Dot' take the place of the @ symbol and the period.

16. b. The Amateur Radio Service uses the International Telecommunications Union Phonetic Alphabet.

17. a. The Check field in the Radiogram header signifies the group count in the message text.

18. d. The letters RRC in the Radiogram Check field signify that RRI abbreviated message text is used in the body of the message. The numbers following the letters signify the word count of the message body, not including the translated text. The delivering operator translates the abbreviated text upon delivery.

Scoring

Answering all questions correctly - "A" Grade.
Missing 2 questions - "B" Grade.
Missing 3 questions - "C" Grade.
Missing 4 or more questions - "D" Grade.

A "C" grade is the minimum to qualify for NCS duty on a Local level traffic net.

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