



International Amateur Radio Union Region 1

**2017 General Conference - Landshut, Germany
16 - 23 September 2017**



Subject:	Minutes of the Emergency Communications Meeting		
Society	IARU	Country:	Emcom
Committee	Emergency Communications	Paper Number:	LA17_C
Author:	Greg Mossop G0DUB		

1. Opening by the Emergency Communications Co-Ordinator

Greg Mossop G0DUB the IARU Region 1 Emergency Communications Co-Ordinator welcomed the 29 representatives from other IARU-R1 committees and 20 Member Societies. He pointed out that there was not a formal Working Group for Emergency Communications, however he was a Co-Ordinator with fixed terms of reference. Much of the work was carried out through a mailing list with various representatives from the member countries, however few were present at Landshut.

With this in mind he had previously proposed that the meeting should be a presentation and discussion session so that Member Societies were familiar with Emergency Communications Work.

2. Presentation

A Powerpoint presentation was made which discussed the following;

- What was an emergency? How was this definition changing to move beyond Natural Disasters to include Economic and technology failures. A subject Turkey particularly were working on.
- ITU Recommendations. M1042-3 which encouraged the Amateur Service to set up resilient networks independent of other services and ITU-D 13.1 which encouraged Administrations to support Amateur networks.
- How Radio Amateurs could help and how the IARU tries to support this work, keeping specialised independent groups involved if possible.
- Each of the current Terms of Reference for the Emergency Communications Co-Ordinator were then explored.
- The difficulties of Administrations having different definitions of what is Third Party traffic were explored in the context of recent events in Region 2.
- The need to develop trust, between emergency communicators and with our Users was emphasised.
- The presentation concluded with some questions about what the next steps should be and whether the Member Societies wanted any changes.

The presentation is appended to this report.

3. Discussion

There was an active discussion for ~60 minutes where the following topics were raised.

- a) There was an interest in more exercises to be organised by Region 1. A paper to formalise this is already with committee C3.
- b) Methods of assisting with training were discussed. There was a preference for 'face to face' training but electronic methods were not discounted.
- c) There was a comment that for a Country interested in setting up Emergency Communications, the current IARU Emergency Telecommunications Guide (produced by the AC) was too large and a smaller document was needed.
- d) There was a discussion on the best method of passing information to Member groups. A WhatsApp group had been set up but was now quiet. GODUB pointed out that he felt there was no difference between the time taken for some Groups to read an email and a WhatsApp message. Neither guaranteed immediate response from all people. Adjusting the methods to suit individual preferences needs to be considered.
- e) It was felt that we need to be flexible to meet the needs of our users. This was a very active topic of conversation and it is important that each Country identifies what their Administrations think is important and works to deliver that need. Amateur Radio has a wide 'toolbox' of modes and while High Speed Multimedia communications is a requirement of some countries, this is not the case in others. All we can do is emphasise that as long as the ITU recommendations are met and information is shared freely between countries then we should be able to adapt to the needs of the users.
- f) The question was posed, how do we involve Youth in Emergency Communications. This again is difficult to answer due to the different approaches between countries to Child Protection issues.
- g) There was little knowledge of the MoU signed between IARU and the IFRC in 2008. This document was meant to promote positive working between the two groups. However the experience in some countries was that the IFRC were becoming increasingly independent for the communications needs, feeling that they did not need Amateur Radio anymore. GODUB pointed out that we should be emphasising our skills as communicators and that many people joined IFRC to deliver their First Aid skills to the public and not run radio systems. The MoU is not well publicised either in IARU or IFRC and a copy was to be circulated to Emergency Communications Co-Ordinators and interested parties again.
- h) There was further discussion on Third Party traffic.

- i) The HF Centre of Activity frequencies were discussed. There remains confusion that these are not discrete frequencies but that operations could extend several kHz either side. Some countries may have educated their Users that the frequencies are specific.
- j) It was emphasised by OeVSV that many Users had grown up with Smartphones and this was the User Interface they expected to use for emergency communications. This is not impossible to achieve and applications of both software and hardware are being developed to do this.

4. Conclusions

The meeting was constructive and there were a number of items for the Emergency Communications Co-Ordinator to consider in future work. We have as much to do educating our own Service as our Administrations.

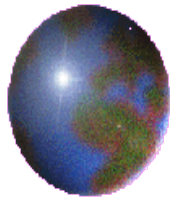
G0DUB did point out that he had offered to stand again as Co-Ordinator. There were no other candidates offered in this meeting.

The meeting was extremely useful and actions will be carried onto the Emergency Communications Co-Ordinators mailing list.

No additional comments/requests were required to be fed through to committee C3.

Societies Represented

NRRL, FRR, UBA, SRAL, CRC, URA, USKA, RSGB, OeVSV, MARL, SARL, REF, DARC, ZRS, PZK, LRAA, VERON, SARA, KARS, ERASD



The Amateur Radio Service and Emergency Communications

**Greg Mossop
IARU Region 1 Emergency
Communications Co-Ordinator
September 2017**





What is an Emergency?

⊕ The definition is not easy...

“A sudden event, such as an accident or a natural catastrophe, that causes great damage or loss of life”

or....



What is an Emergency?

“A serious disruption of the functioning of a community or a society involving widespread human, material, **economic** or environmental losses and impacts, which exceeds the ability of the affected community or society to cope using its own resources.”



ITU Recommendations

- ✦ Application of Amateur and Amateur-Satellite Services (Rec. M1042-3)
 - ✦ Encourages the development of robust, flexible and independent amateur services

- ✦ Rec. ITU-D 13.1
 - ✦ Effective utilization of the Amateur Services in Disaster Mitigation and Relief Operations



How do Amateurs help ?

- ✚ They provide a **trained** pool of volunteer radio operators, technicians and engineers who can use their considerable skills to augment disaster communication facilities
- ✚ They are able to make do with limited resources, as their equipment and networks are self-owned



The IARU...

- ✚ Provides a forum to allow National Emergency Co-Ordinators to share information.
- ✚ This allows countries with shared problems to work together.
- ✚ Develops procedures to allow messages to pass between countries.
- ✚ Organises exercises to practice message handling across national and language barriers.



The Role of the Emergency Communications Co-Ordinator...

To prepare and keep updated an inventory
of emergency communication services
provided by IARU Region 1 Societies



How big is the network?

- ✚ I have records for 42 Countries
 - Not all are active anymore
 - Probably other countries who do not get involved
 - Still a large group of Radio Amateurs !
- ✚ Many operate independent of their National Societies
- ✚ Different styles of operation
 - Public Service
 - Emergency/Disaster Communications
 - Business Continuity



The Role of the Emergency Communications Co-Ordinator...

To act as a focal point on amateur radio emergency communications services with IARU Region 1 to international bodies and user services (e.g. the International Red Cross)



External relations

It has been a long time...

Responded to European Commission Consultation about Emergency Mechanism.

Discovered a new contact in the EU who is also a Radio Amateur.





External relations

- ✦ Possible UK Government Funding Opportunity.
 - Collaboration with UK University
 - Very short notice request

- ✦ Needed a lot of support from other parts of IARU
- ✦ Sadly we couldn't help this time...
 - Needed months of peoples time to support
 - Would have been a 3 year programme
 - Based in West and East Africa



The Role of the Emergency Communications Co-Ordinator...

To liaise on emergency matters with IARU
Regions 2 and 3



Liaison with other regions.

- ✦ Still good links with Cesar Pio Santos and Jim Linton in Regions 2 & 3 respectively.
- ✦ Unable to attend IARU Region 2 Emergency Communications Workshop.
- ✦ Countries affected by disaster do not report everytime they activate.
- ✦ Some countries do not report because of language difficulties.



The Role of the Emergency Communications Co-Ordinator...

To circulate and publicise information on emergency events in which the Amateur Radio Service has been involved.



Publicity.

- ❖ The ease of modifying the Region 1 website makes us the first point of call.
- ❖ Information circulated within Region 1 by a dedicated mailing list.
- ❖ Able to get some information to syndicated news sites with little effort.
- ❖ Difficult to keep up to date with what is happening in some countries who use social media.



The Role of the Emergency Communications Co-Ordinator...

To arrange meetings, when deemed necessary, to discuss principle and actual matters on amateur radio emergency communication. Such meetings shall only be arranged after approval of and in consultation with the EC.



Meetings.

- ✦ No meeting had been requested under this term until Varna Conference.
- ✦ Two meetings now held at Friedrichshafen.
- ✦ 2016 – 20 attendees from 10 Countries.
- ✦ 2017 - 15 Attendees from 10 Countries.



The Role of the Emergency Communications Co-Ordinator...

To prepare a common guideline on amateur
radio emergency procedures.



HF CoA frequencies?

Region 1	Region 2	Region 3
3760	3750 or 3985	3600
7110	7060, 7240 or 7275	7110
14300	14300	14300
18160	18160	18160
21360	21360	21360

Remember these are centres of activity – not the only frequencies we can use...



HF CoA frequencies?

- ⊕ Should we have more regular nets on the CoA ?
- ⊕ How do we make these Centres the place to go ?
- ⊕ Or do we want to use fixed data stations instead ?
- ⊕ Whatever we do it needs to be tested frequently.

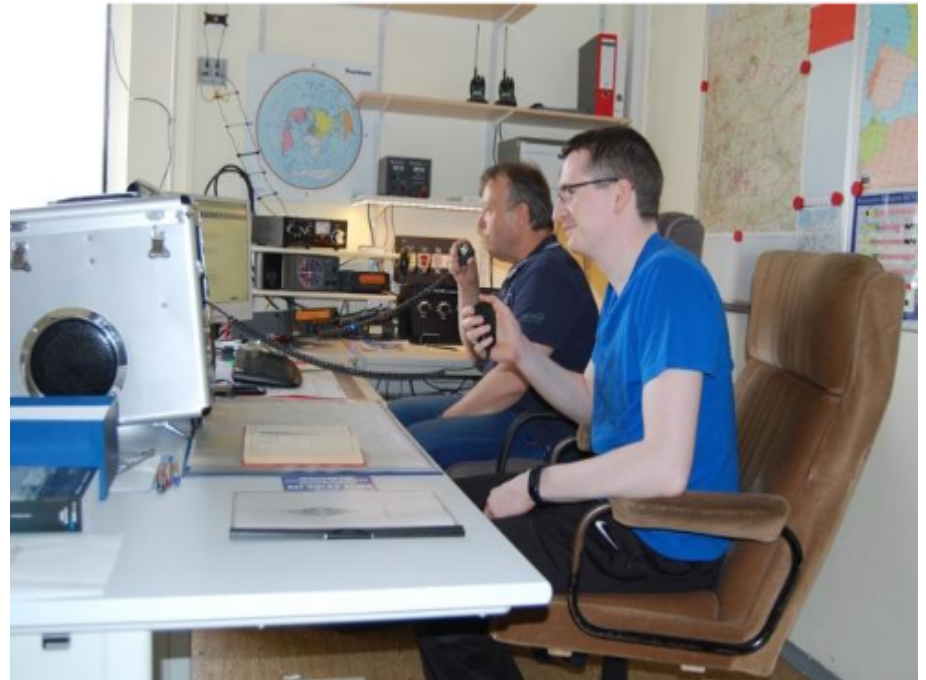


A new example

Germany/Poland Exercise

Common message format
not recognised by Poland

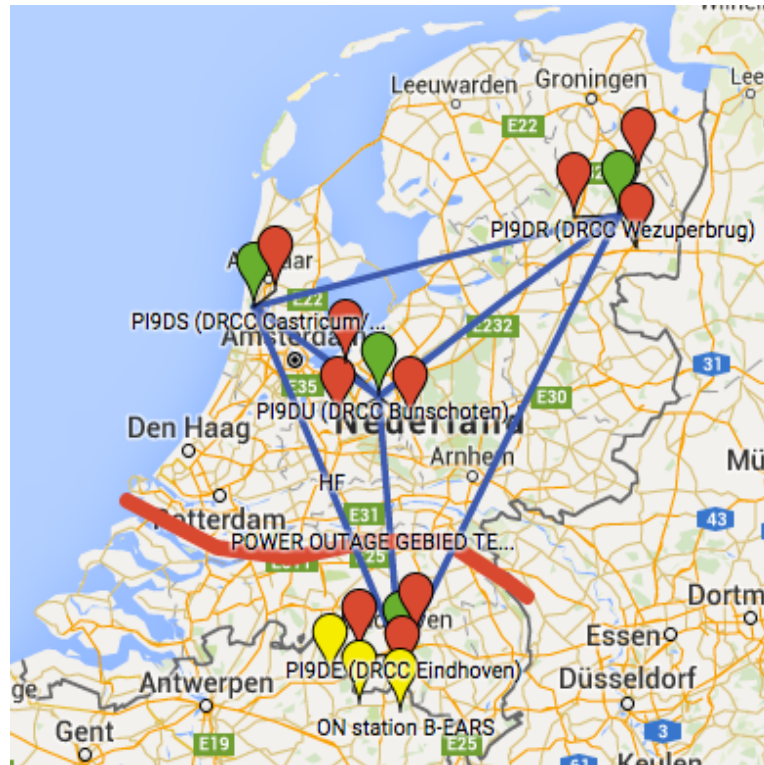
Good work though in
organising an international
exercise.





Cross border testing

- ⊕ Power Failure Exercise – Netherlands/Belgium.





Dependencies...



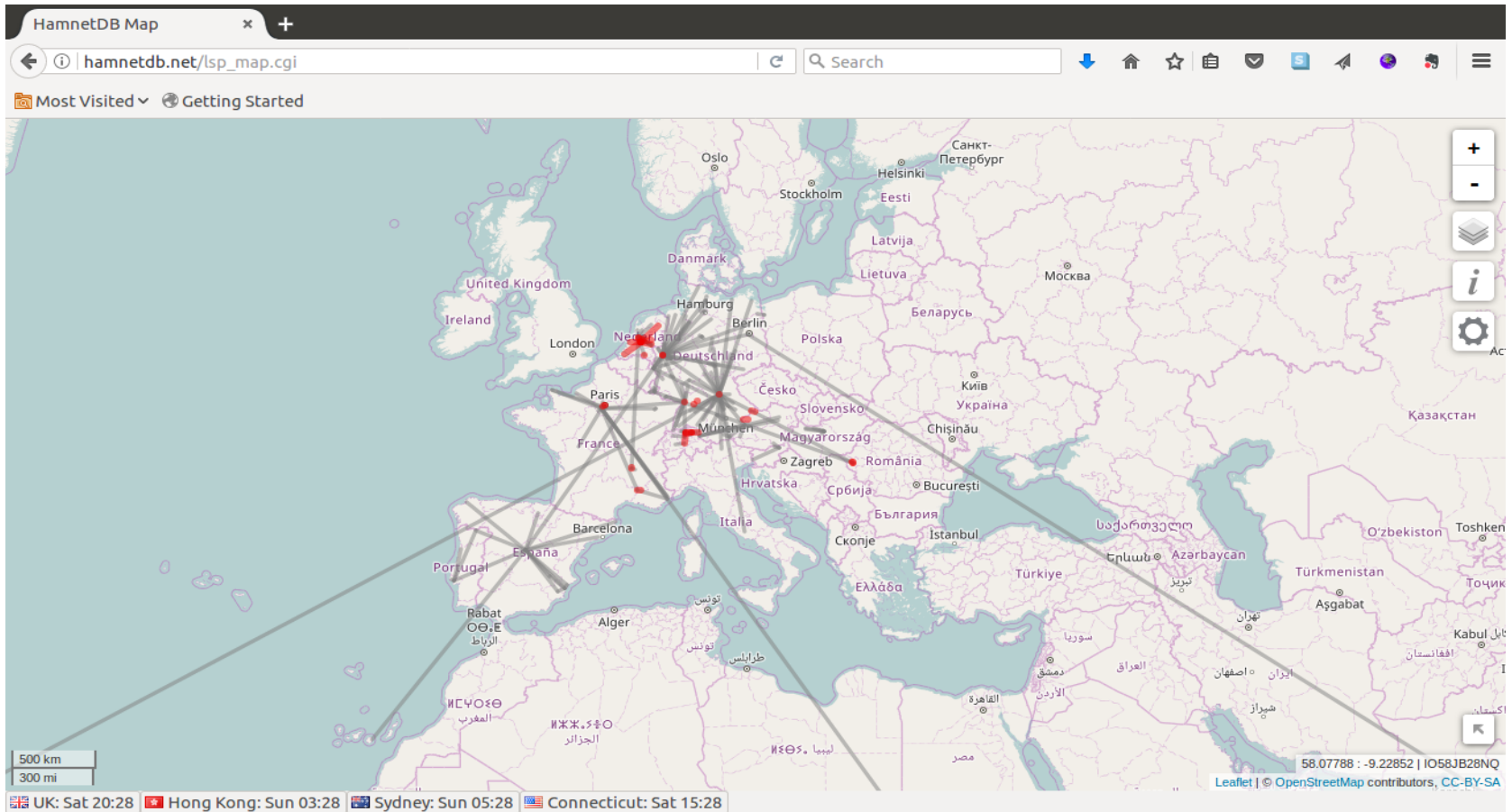


We don't need to go back to 1860.





But they had some good ideas..





Radio Regulations

- Article 25.3 Amateur stations may be used for transmitting international communications on behalf of third parties only in the case of an emergency or disaster relief. An administration may determine the applicability of this provision to amateur stations under its jurisdiction.



Radio Regulations

- ⊕ But just who is a 'Third Party'?
- ⊕ A Government Department?
- ⊕ Another Radio Amateur?
- ⊕ A member of the public?



How does this work in practice?

The Wireless Telegraphy (Amateur Radio Operator Licencing) Regulations 2004 requires proper application and licencing per the regulations before operating in the Turks & Caicos Islands. No reciprocal agreements are honored and no operation is permitted without compliance.



How does this work in practice?

THIRD PARTY TRAFFIC

No third party messages are permitted including those that are spoken, written, keystroked, keyed, photographed or otherwise originated by or for a third party (other than the licensee) and transmitted by amateur radio, live or delayed. A third party may also be a non-licensed person who is allowed by the licensee to participate in amateur radio communications. This is not permitted. No bypass communications by amateur radio are permitted.



How does this work in practice?

EMERGENCY OPERATIONS

In times of emergencies, disaster relief operations, during a hurricane or the threat of a hurricane or other national or global emergencies, licenced amateur radio stations are authorized to send and receive messages as requested by the Red Cross Society or the local Police Force. During hurricanes, normally the Hurricane Watch Net at 14.325 Mhz becomes active with stations from the Turks & Caicos Islands participating.



Amateur Radio can

- ✚ Provide disaster relief communications
- ✚ Take non-urgent messages off priority networks preventing overload.

... with appropriate support
and planning.



Trust.

- ✚ Through regular exercises we build trust that messages will get to their destination.
- ✚ We become used to the small differences that exist between countries.
- ✚ We have confidence that we can get the message sent on the most appropriate route.



What next?

- ❖ Terms of reference modified to allow the Co-Ordinator to organise exercises.
- ❖ Be more proactive in engaging co-ordinators who do not report.
- ❖ Try and find a way of managing the information from Social Media.



But what do you want?

- ⊕ A more formal Working Group?
- ⊕ More guidance?
- ⊕ Support with regulators?
- ⊕ Or even a new Co-Ordinator...



Thank you!



The International Amateur Radio Union

Since 1925, the Federation of National Amateur Radio Societies
Representing the Interests of Two-Way Amateur Radio Communication
