

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN THE
ARKANSAS, LOUISIANA, MISSISSIPPI AND TENNESSEE SECTIONS
IN THE DELTA DIVISION
OF
THE AMERICAN RADIO RELAY LEAGUE**

23 August 2017

Purpose: Recognizing that the south-central region of the United States is subject to large scale disaster events and that Amateur Radio operators are frequently asked to assist with emergency communications during such events, this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has been prepared to establish a framework for cooperation between the Arkansas (AR), Louisiana (LA), Mississippi (MS) and Tennessee (TN) Sections in the Delta Division of the American Radio Relay League (ARRL).

During natural and man-made disaster events, amateur radio operators in an impacted area often cannot participate in emergency operations at the Section level because they must attend to family and local problem areas. Thus, the availability of emergency coordinators, experienced net control stations, traffic handlers, etc., can be at a premium in a given Section.

In order to mitigate this potential problem and take advantage of the expertise of nearby amateurs not in the impacted area, the AR, LA, MS and TN Sections agree through approval of their respective Section Managers (SMs) to the following:

- (a) The SM of the Section that is anticipated to be the first and most impacted by the disaster event will be the SM Coordinator for the event. The selection of the SM Coordinator shall be by mutual agreement of the four Section Managers. The SM Coordinator may request that the Delta ARES Emergency Net Manager organize and staff an HF Emergency/Tactical phone net should the event warrant moving net control outside to the initially effected Section (see note 3 and Addendum). Once the Net is activated, only the SM Coordinator/Communications Group Leader can order it to stand down with the understanding and acceptance of the other three Section Managers. The coordination of this Net will be by the designated Delta ARES Emergency Net Manager (see note 3). **Net frequencies shall be 7246 / ALT 7280 kHz (daytime) and 3890 / ALT 3923.5 kHz (nighttime).** The Delta ARES Emergency Net Manager will inform ARRL Headquarters (see note 1) of the Emergency/Tactical Net's activation. The actual start time of the Net shall be determined by mutual consent of the four Section Managers based upon available information. In the event that the SM Coordinator becomes unavailable, the applicable Section Emergency Coordinator or other person designated by the SM Coordinator will assume coordination duties.
- (b) If the emergency traffic within a given section is very heavy during the disaster event, the SM Coordinator may request that an HF phone net in that section also

be activated to handle the overload with appropriate liaison between the nets (see Addendum for section emergency operation frequencies). It is understood that Command and Control nets are considered local in nature and shall be established by the appropriate EC, DEC, SEC or SM as established by local procedure.

- (c) In wide area storm events (such as hurricanes or ice storms), organizing and staffing the Emergency/Tactical Net must start well in advance of the storm's arrival. Since many disasters can occur with little or no warning, each section will establish and periodically update rosters of Net control station volunteers, rapid response teams and individual deployment volunteers. Intersection deployment of teams or individual volunteers shall be strictly controlled by Delta Division SMs or SECs, if so delegated by an SM.
- (d) The SM Coordinator shall contact the Net Managers of RN5 and DRN5 to make arrangements for handling Health and Welfare (H/W) traffic, if deemed necessary, and to ensure that an NTS Liaison will monitor the Emergency/Tactical Net to move H/W traffic off frequency for handling as necessary. The managers of independent traffic nets may also be contacted for assistance, if the anticipated traffic load warrants. The SM Coordinator may declare a moratorium on **inbound** H/W traffic contingent upon capability to deliver messages in a timely manner to the addresses in the impacted area. When conditions improve such that messages can be delivered, the moratorium shall be lifted.
- (e) Operational decisions made by the SM Coordinator relating to Amateur participation in the emergency event shall be made in consultation with other SMs as necessary.
- (f) The SMs of the remaining lesser impacted Sections shall coordinate with their SECs and STMs to render assistance as needed.
- (g) This MOU shall survive changes in Delta Division SMs and shall remain in affect until modified by consent and approval of the current SMs of the AR, LA, MS and TN Sections.

Notes:

1. The recommended contact persons at ARRL HQ are Mike Corey at (860) 594-0222, KI1U@arrl.org and/or Steve Ewald at (860) 594-0265, WV1X@arrl.org.
2. Traffic handlers (NTS or independent) not directly involved in emergency communications are encouraged to solicit H/W traffic by visiting shelters in the affected areas of their Section.
3. Delta Emergency Net Manager is Ed Hudgens, WB4RHQ in Nashville, TN – ebhudgens@comcast.net. His phone number is 615-630-2753.
4. Delta Assistant Emergency Net Manager is Gary Stratton, K5GLS in Shreveport, Louisiana - GaryStratton@TeamStratton.com. His phone number is (318) 309-0023.

Approved by Section Managers:

<u>Section</u>	<u>Manager</u>	<u>Date</u>
Arkansas	<small>DocuSigned by:</small> <i>James D. Ferguson Jr.</i> <small>CFCDD317028D487...</small>	8/25/2017 11:03 AM CDT
Louisiana	<small>DocuSigned by:</small> <i>Scott Wren</i> <small>0BD75AD497C1451...</small>	8/27/2017
Mississippi	<small>DocuSigned by:</small> <i>Malcolm Brown</i> <small>0008620778X4CA...</small>	8/24/2017 3:39 PM CDT
Tennessee	<small>DocuSigned by:</small> <i>Keith Miller Sr</i> <small>20CD306D660F42D...</small>	8/24/2017

ADDENDUM

DELTA ARES EMERGENCY NET PROTOCOL & Section Net Control Operators

WHEN FIRST STARTING NET OPERATIONS

Calling the Delta Division ARES Emergency Net (repeat). This net has been activated to provide emergency communications in response to (name of disaster event at/in location of event). This net respectfully requests the frequency be kept clear for net business and traffic. This is (call sign) in (QTH) net control for the next two-hours.

Stations with emergency or priority traffic **ONLY** call now with callsign and traffic list (if no response, ask for any relays)

Stations with emergency or priority traffic **ONLY** may break the net with EMERGENCY followed by call sign

EVERY HOUR

This is a directed net for liaison stations from emergency response agencies, stations with high priority traffic, or stations in the affected area with information. Please transmit only when requested to do so. After checking into the net, inform NCS if you need to leave the net (pause)

This net will handle emergency and priority traffic ONLY. All health and welfare and routine traffic should be routed via the National Traffic System or local or regional digital nets as available. Note only outbound Health/Welfare traffic will be handled if there is a moratorium on inbound traffic. During periods when the Net not busy, please keep the frequency clear.

Alternate NCS call now.

National Weather Service stations or stations with weather related traffic or information call now with callsign and traffic list (if no response, ask for any relays)

Stations from State, city, county, or parish EOCs call now with location, callsign and traffic list (if no response, ask for any relays)

Other Responding Agency stations call now with agency, callsign and traffic list (if no response, ask for any relays)

Stations in the affected storm event area with information or inquiries call now with callsign (if no response, ask for any relays)

NTS Liaison Station call now with net, callsign and traffic list (if no response, ask for any relays)
(If no Liaison is on frequency, refer queries to active section or H/W nets)

Stations that have checked in may call net with call sign or Tactical Call (ex. Caddo Parish EOC) and traffic list.

(Continue to monitor frequency after all traffic has been passed)
(Periodically announce Net and call for traffic)

This is (call sign) Net control for the Delta Division ARES Emergency Net. This Net will handle emergency and priority traffic only. All health and welfare and routine traffic should be routed via the National Traffic System.

Stations wishing to check in from EOCs, NWS, NTS or other emergency response agencies call now with agency, callsign, and traffic list. (If no response, ask for any relays) (Repeat every 5 min)

Contact information for Section Managers: Consult your latest issue of QST or <http://www.arri.org/sections>. Direct contact information for all Section Managers is listed in these two locations. This information is not included here so that the MOU does not require revision each time there is a change in SMs.

Section Emergency Operating Frequencies:

Note: Net frequencies may change over time. Also check the Section web page for the latest list of net frequencies in each Section.

ARKANSAS – 3987.5 (SSB), 7260 (SSB), 146.52 (VHF)

LOUISIANA – 3910 (SSB), 7255 (SSB), 3573 (CW), 3596 (DIG)

MISSISSIPPI – 3862 (SSB), 7238 (SSB), 3594.3 (DIG)

TENNESSEE – 3980 (SSB), 7238 (SSB), 3562 (CW)

Adjoining Section Emergency Operating Frequencies:

ALABAMA – 3965 (SSB), 7243 (SSB), 7110 (DIG)

OKLAHOMA – 3903 (SSB), 7260 (SSB)

TEXAS – 3873 (SSB), 3935 (SSB), 7285 (SSB), 7290 (SSB)