

## **EWA Digital Data Operations: Why a Standard Operating Procedure?**

The use of the Winlink 2000 system (WL2K) enables ARES/RACES stations to send and receive email messages when a radio path is necessary to connect to the internet. However the "bandwidth" of WL2K is VERY LOW, compared to normal methods used to send and receive emails.

- During an "emergency situation", information OUT of the affected area takes priority over information IN to the area. This applies to whether voice or digital modes are used to transfer the information.
- Without special instructions, other persons may send emails to a ARES/RACES digital station which are too large to download in a reasonable amount of time. This can have serious negative effects on the ability of the ARES/RACES station to function.
- ARES/RACES stations corresponding with others via WL2K email need to educate those parties, concerning the capabilities and limitations of their station.

The following Standard Operating Procedure is recommended to be used by all Eastern Washington ARES/RACES digital stations when beginning a callout or operating event.

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Inform all other stations participating in the event about your station purpose, capabilities and limitations. This should also be sent to the Net Control Station, Winlink Command, and other "external" email addresses which might have need to contact you during the event. Update this information as necessary.

This is done by sending a message (edit as appropriate) to multiple addresses containing:

- a. Your Station Name, Location, Purpose
- c. Station Tactical Name and callsign (voice)
- b. Station Chief Operator name and callsign
- c. Number of Operators
- d. Station Capability (modes and bands)
- e. Digital Data direct "peer to peer" capability description.
- f. Station email address
- g. Can you accept Attachments?    Yes, for AirMail and Paclink;  
    No, for Keyboarding.

h. What is the largest (compressed) message size that you can reasonably expect to download? This is VERY IMPORTANT to prevent your downloading process from stalling. The following guidelines can be used, which will download a message in less than 3 minutes, given good band conditions (compressed bytes):

- |                   |        |
|-------------------|--------|
| (1) Pactor 1      | 2000   |
| (2) Packet (1200) | 5000   |
| (3) Pactor 3      | 20000  |
| (4) Telnet        | 120000 |

Send a message to the WL2K System to change your message size limit, if necessary. See the Winlink FAQ 620 or 7650 for instructions.

i. Statement regarding not sending embedded Emotions or Backgrounds. It is also best for them to send "plain text" emails, not "html" emails.

j. Station Red Phone (alternate means to contact your station...landline, cell, HF frequency, VHF frequency, pager, etc)

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