

Outpost

packet message manager

Packet Radio and
Emergency Communications

Sacramento Valley ARES Conference
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Jim Oberhofer KN6PE



Topics

1. Introduction

2. Overview

3. Feature Alignment to...

- The environment
- Operational policies
- Our mission

4. Where to find more information

5. Questions



Introduction

Outpost Packet Message Manager

The Situation...

- Santa Clara County Operational Area uses packet messaging as a backup to California's internet-based Response Information Management System (RIMS) for collecting city status.
- For Cupertino ARES (CARES), we have very little packet expertise because...
 - the TNC/BBS command learning curve is too great,
 - the frequency of use (drills or hobby) is too infrequent, and
 - the interest in packet radio by CARES members is too low
- Other cities within the county said they had the same problem.



Introduction

Outpost Packet Message Manager

Overall Design Goals...

1. Hide the native packet environment complexity; shorten the learning curve
2. Provide an MS Windows-based packet messaging client
3. Automate the packet message handling environment
4. Create a program that behaves like your work or home email client...
...create, send, receive, read, delete, reply to, or forward messages
5. Support the response efforts and requirements of our local municipalities and served agencies



Introduction

Outpost Packet Message Manager

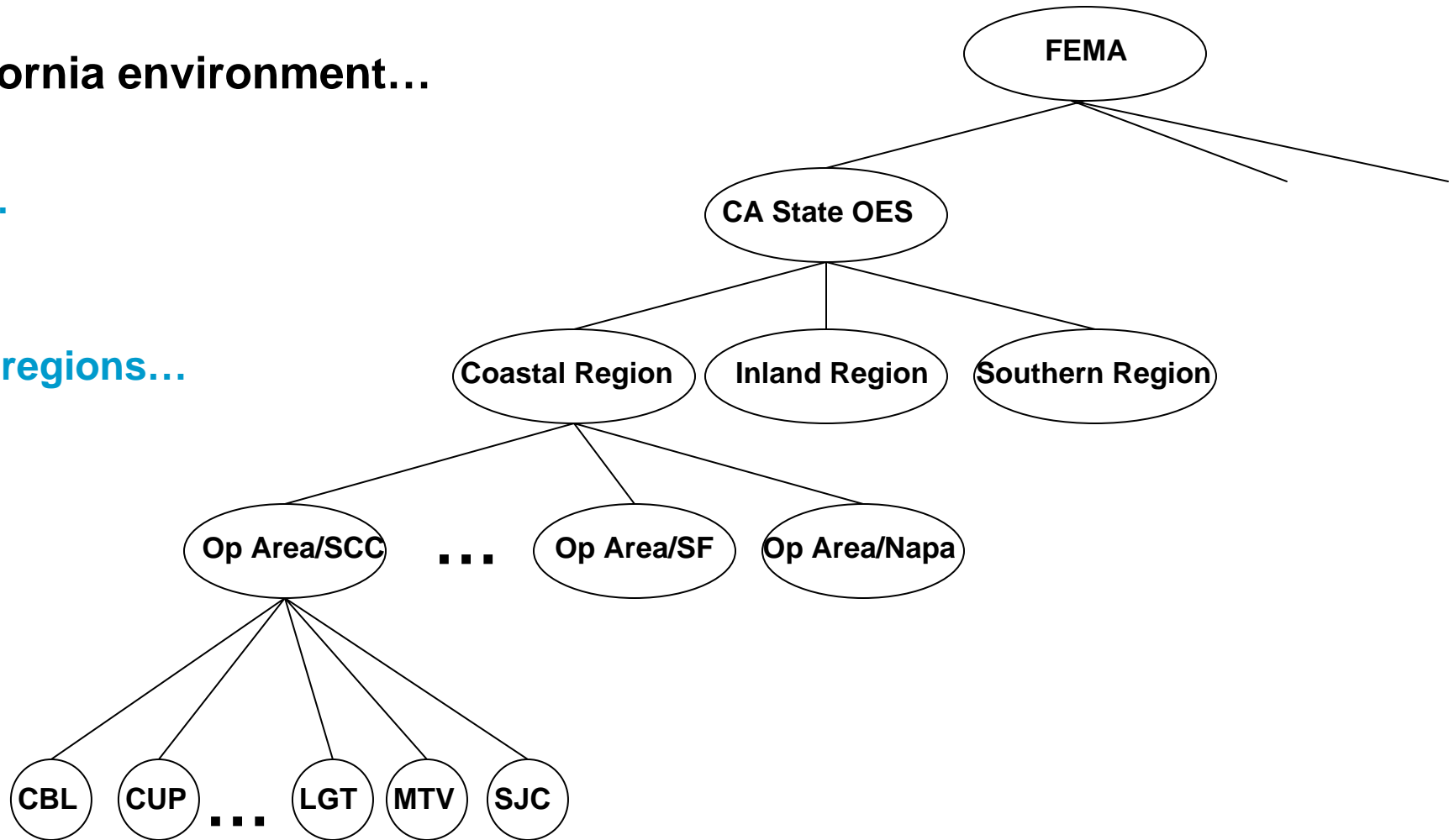
The California environment...

State OES...

Three state regions...

Counties...

Local Level
towns and
cities



Overview

Outpost Packet Message Manager

What is Outpost?

- A Windows-based packet messaging client
- Supports ARES, RACES, and other amateur radio emergency response teams and their need to pass digital traffic
- Helps automate the packet message handling environment
- Manages all message-handling between you and the BBS
- Lets you read, delete, create, reply to, or forward messages back to the BBS



Overview

Outpost Packet Message Manager

Why use Outpost?

- **Leverages your existing packet hardware and BBS infrastructure**
 - Uses your existing TNC and packet radio equipment
 - Compatible with many existing BBSs and TNC PBBSs
 - Only your packet client (end-user program) changes
- **Hides the complexity of the packet operating environment**
 - Similar look and feel to contemporary email programs
 - Shorter learning curve for packet operations
 - Allows users to... *“focus on the message, not the medium”*
- **Implements most local emergency management policies for digital communications**



Overview

Outpost Packet Message Manager

Feature highlights

- **Message support**
 - supports Private, NTS, and Bulletin messages
 - text formatting in a free-form message window
 - NTS Message Maker with an ARL message wizard
 - On-line report builder
- **Send/Receive Session (connection) control**
 - supports Serial, AGWPE, and Telnet access to over 20 PBBS and BBSs
 - controls connecting, sending messages to and retrieving messages from the BBS
- **Configurations and Setups**
 - BBS, TNC, and Interface configurations
 - message type and retrieval options
 - supports 3 ways for automatically initiating send/receive sessions



Overview

Outpost Packet Message Manager

Mission

The Outpost *Packet Message Manager* program supports the Emergency Communications community with a contemporary amateur radio packet messaging client that allows users to focus on the message, and not on the medium.

Goal

Help get local ARES/RACES teams on the air with digital messaging using their existing hardware and BBS infrastructure.



Overview

Outpost Packet Message Manager

History

- Commenced Development... November 2002
- v0.95; Beta Release... May 2003
- v1.0; First Release... October 2003
- v1.1; enhanced look and feel... March 2004
- v1.2; on-line reports, MSYS BBS support... May 2004
- v1.3; collaborative messaging... December 2004
- v2.0; AGWPE and telnet support... June 2005
- v2.0.4; NTS extensions, other enhancements... February 2006
- v2.1; Tactical Calls, NetRom/KA-Nodes... October 2006
- v2.2; Telpac/WL2K, enhanced BBS support... April 2007
- v2.2.1; more BBSs, error handling... February 2008

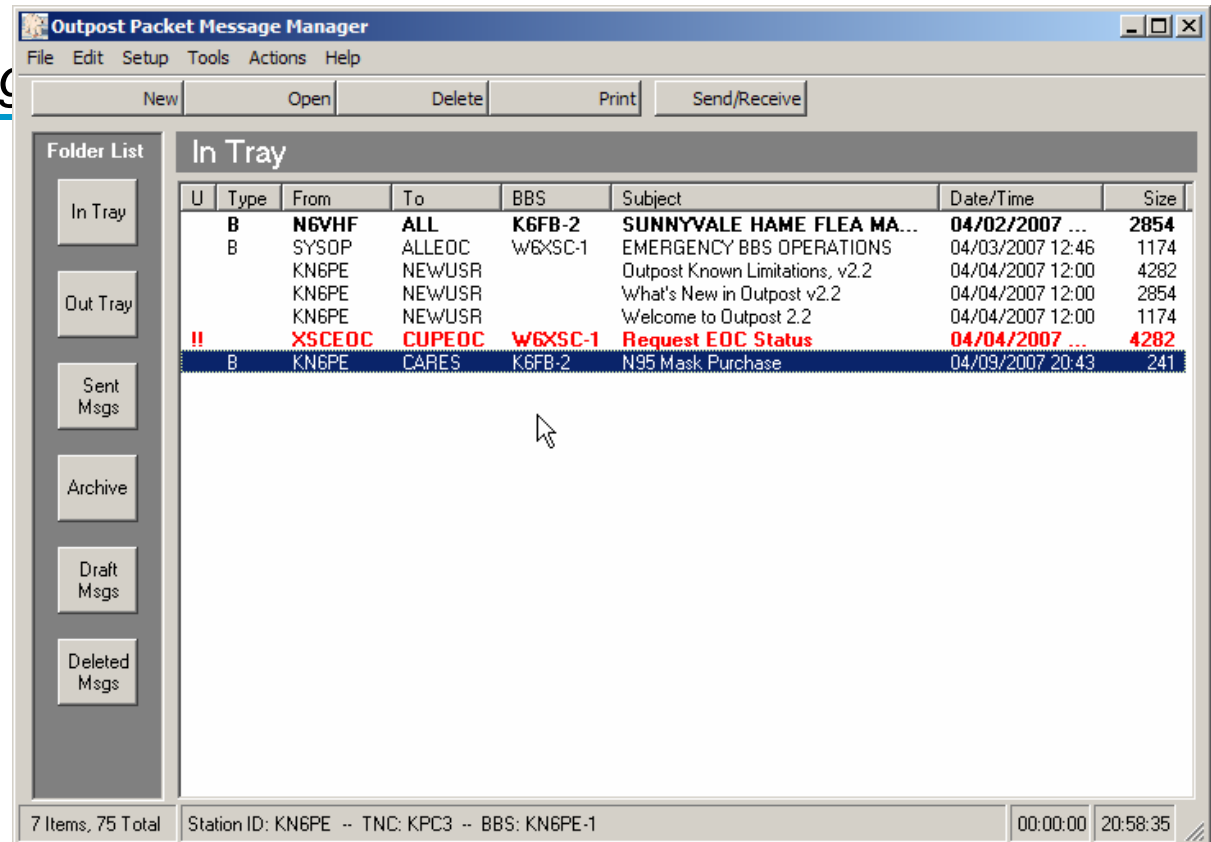


Overview

Outpost Packet Message Manager

Message support

- Familiar email-app look & feel
- Separate folders for message storage
- Clear message identification (unread=**BOLD**, urgent=**Red**)
- Formal message workflow
- BBS and interface setups
- Additional settings control how Outpost behaves



Overview

Outpost Packet Message Manager

Creating Messages

- Supports Private, Bulletin, and NTS message types
- Message formatting before sending
- Set messages to **Urgent**
- Request delivery or read receipts
- Different ways for originating messages
- NTS Message Maker

The screenshot displays two windows from the Outpost Packet Message Manager software. The top window, titled "Outpost Packet Message Manager", shows a menu bar with "File", "Edit", "Setup", "Tools", "Actions", and "Help". Below the menu is a toolbar with buttons for "New", "Open", "Delete", "Print", and "Send/Receive". A "Folder List" on the left contains "In Tray" and "Out Tray". The main area shows a table of messages in the "In Tray".

U	Type	From	To	BBS	Subject	Date/Time	Size
B	NGVHF	ALL	K6FB-2	SUNNYVALE HAME FLEA MA...	04/02/2007 ...	2854	
B	SYSOP	ALLEOC	W6XSC-1	EMERGENCY BBS OPERATIONS	04/03/2007 12:46	1174	
	KN6PE	NEWUSR		Outpost Known Limitations, v2.2	04/04/2007 12:00	4282	
	KN6PE	NEWUSR		What's New in Outpost v2.2	04/04/2007 12:00	2854	
	KN6PE	NEWUSR		Welcome to Outpost 2.2	04/04/2007 12:00	1174	
!!	XSCEDC	CUPEOC	W6XSC-1	Request EOC Status	04/04/2007 ...	4282	
B	KN6PE	CARES	K6FB-2	N95 Mask Purchase	04/09/2007 20:43	241	

The bottom window, titled "Cupertino Streams - Packet Message", shows a message composition form. It includes a menu bar with "File", "Edit", "Actions", and "Help", and a toolbar with "Print", "Send", "Save", "Close", and buttons for "Urg", "Pvt", "Bul", and "NTS". The form is labeled "Private Message" and contains the following fields:

- Bbs: K6FB-2
- From: KN6PE
- To: KR6CO
- Subject: Cupertino Streams

The message body contains the following text:

```
Ken,  
Marsha is working with the Santa Clara Water district on getting high water  
height markers on all critical waterways throughout the City. This should be  
done sometime this spring.  
  
73, Jim KN6PE
```



Overview

Outpost Packet Message Manager

Viewing messages

- Supports viewing, printing, deleting or saving a message to a local file
- Reply and Forward message formatting

The screenshot shows the Outpost Packet Message Manager interface. The 'In Tray' folder is selected, displaying a list of messages. The 'Open' button in the menu bar is circled, and an arrow points to the selected message in the list. Below, the 'N95 Mask Purchase - Packet Message' window is open, showing the message details and content.

U	Type	From	To	BBS	Subject	Date/Time	Size
B	NGVHF	ALL	K6FB-2	SUNNYVALE HAME FLEA MA...	04/02/2007 ...	2854	
B	SYSOP	ALLEOC	W6XSC-1	EMERGENCY BBS OPERATIONS	04/03/2007 12:46	1174	
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B	KN6PE	CARES	K6FB-2	N95 Mask Purchase	04/09/2007 20:43	241	

N95 Mask Purchase - Packet Message

File Edit View Actions Windows Help

Print Reply Reply to All Forward Delete Close Expire

Bulletin Message

Bbs: K6FB-2 Sent: 04/09/2007 20:43

From: KN6PE

To: CARES

Subject: N95 Mask Purchase

All Packet-enabled CARES members,

Those CARES members interested in purchasing N95 masks as described by Marsha, please let me know. We will be doing a bulk purchase at a cost of \$1 per mask for CARES members.

Regards,
Jim KN6PE



Overview

Outpost Packet Message Manager

Talking to the BBS

- What you would manually type to talk to a TNC or BBS, Outpost does it for you.
- You tell Outpost about the interface, the BBS, and the path.
- Outpost then...
 - sets up the interface
 - Connects to and talks to the BBS (BBS Commands).
 - Interprets what the BBS sends back and acts on the BBS reply.

The image shows two overlapping windows from the Outpost Packet Message Manager software. The top window, titled "Outpost Packet Message Manager", has a menu bar (File, Edit, Setup, Tools, Actions, Help) and a toolbar with buttons for New, Open, Delete, Print, and Send/Receive. The "Send/Receive" button is circled in red. Below the toolbar is a "Folder List" with buttons for "In Tray", "Out Tray", and "Sent Messages". The main area displays a table of messages in the "In Tray".

U	Type	From	To	BBS	Subject	Date/Time	Size
B		NGVHF	ALL	K6FB-2	SUNNYVALE HOME FLEA MA...	04/02/2007 ...	2854
B		SYSOP	ALLEOC	W6XSC-1	EMERGENCY BBS OPERATIONS	04/03/2007 12:46	1174
		KN6PE	NEWUSR		Outpost Known Limitations, v2.2	04/04/2007 12:00	4282
		KN6PE	NEWUSR		What's New in Outpost v2.2	04/04/2007 12:00	2854
		KN6PE	NEWUSR		Welcome to Outpost 2.2	04/04/2007 12:00	1174
!!		XSCEDC	CUPEOC	W6XSC-1	Request EOC Status	04/04/2007 ...	4282
B		KN6PE	CARES	K6FB-2	N95 Mask Purchase	04/09/2007 20:43	241

The bottom window, titled "TNC Session Manager", has an "Abort Session" button and a text area showing a terminal session:

```
ECHO was ON
cmd:my KN6PE
cmd:Mon off
MONITOR was OFF
cmd:daytime 040220105032
cmd:connect K6FB-2
cmd:*** CONNECTED to K6FB-2
[KPC3-5.1-HM$]
91200 BYTES AVAILABLE
THERE ARE 13 MESSAGES NUMBERED 24-675
Welcome to the LCARC packet mailbox.
ENTER COMMAND: B,J,K,L,R,S, or Help >
LM
```

At the bottom of the TNC Session Manager window, there is a checkbox labeled "Always show this window during a Send/Receive session" which is checked. The status bar at the bottom of the window shows "Retrieving Message List.." and a timer "00:00:04".

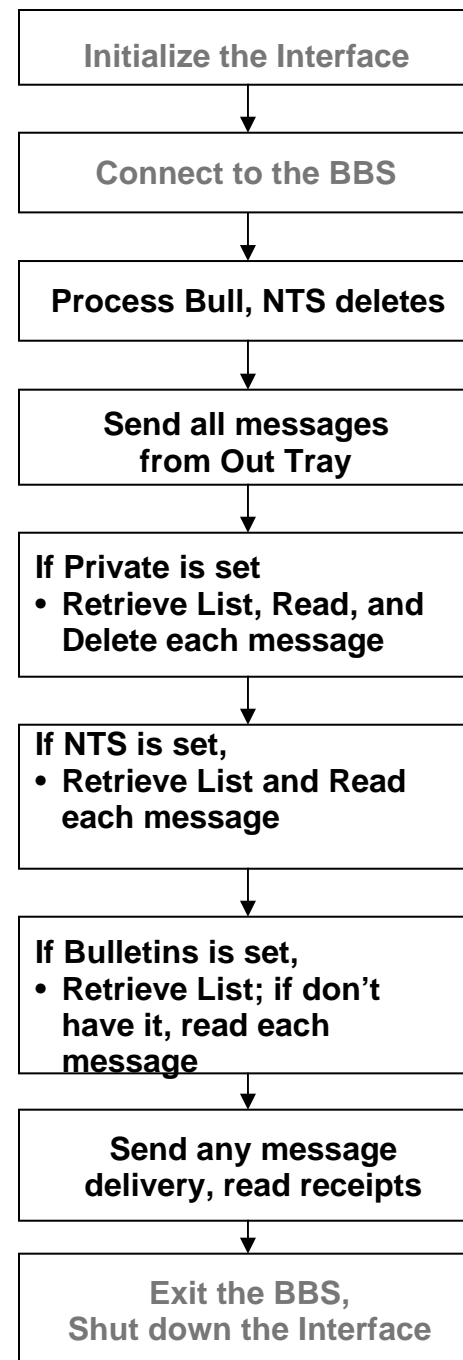


Overview

Outpost Packet Message Manager

Talking to the BBS

- **Influenced by...**
 - Send/Receive Settings
- **Sending Messages**
 - Only sent from the **Out Tray** to this BBS
 - Messages must be “Sent” not “Saved”
 - Messages moved to **Sent Folder** when sent
- **Retrieving Messages**
 - Depends on the Retrieve settings; if none are selected, none are retrieved
 - Depends on the “Keep on BBS” setting
 - Bulletins are never deleted
 - New messages are stored in the **In Tray**
- **Sending Receipts**
 - Send any pending Delivery and Read Receipts



Feature Alignment

Outpost Packet Message Manager

Environment: *Definition:* the situation in which we find ourselves.
Each situation is different... how do we adapt our tools to our environment?

Policy: *Definition:* Organizational rules for governing resources, practices, and procedures.
In a community of packet users, what policies do we adopt to ensure order, consistency, and efficiency in what we do?

Mission: *Definition:* the task with which we are charged.
How do we support our served agencies in their efforts to minimize loss of life and property, and speed the recovery?



The environment

Outpost Packet Message Manager

- What BBSs do we use to pass messages among ourselves?
- How far away is the BBS?
- What interface methods can I use to get to the BBS?



Supported BBSs

Outpost Packet Message Manager

PBBSs (Firmware-based, TNC resident)	BBSs (Software-based)	Support requested and pending
KPC2, KPC3, KPC3+ KPC9612 KAM4, KAM, KAM-XL, KAM-98, KAM Plus Data Engine (Kantronics) PK-88, PK-232 DSP-232 MFJ-1270x MFJ-1278	AA4RE F6FBB JNOS MSYS N0ARY DXNET Telpac/Winlink W0RLI	KPC3 5.1 MFJ-1274 OpenBCM TNOS SNOS

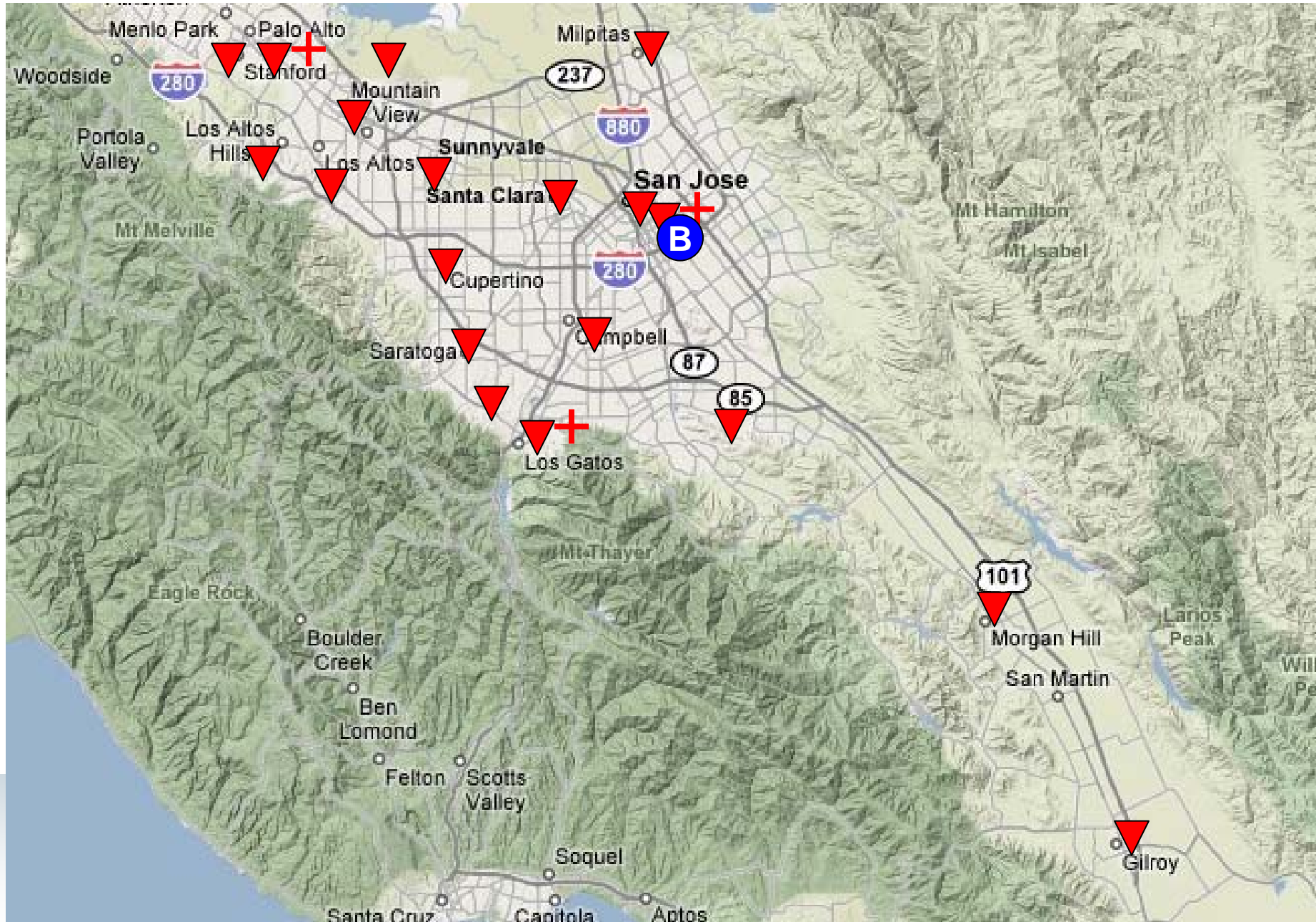
See <http://www.outpostpm.org/bbs/> for...

- Updates to the list of supported BBSs
- Instructions on how to get your BBS supported



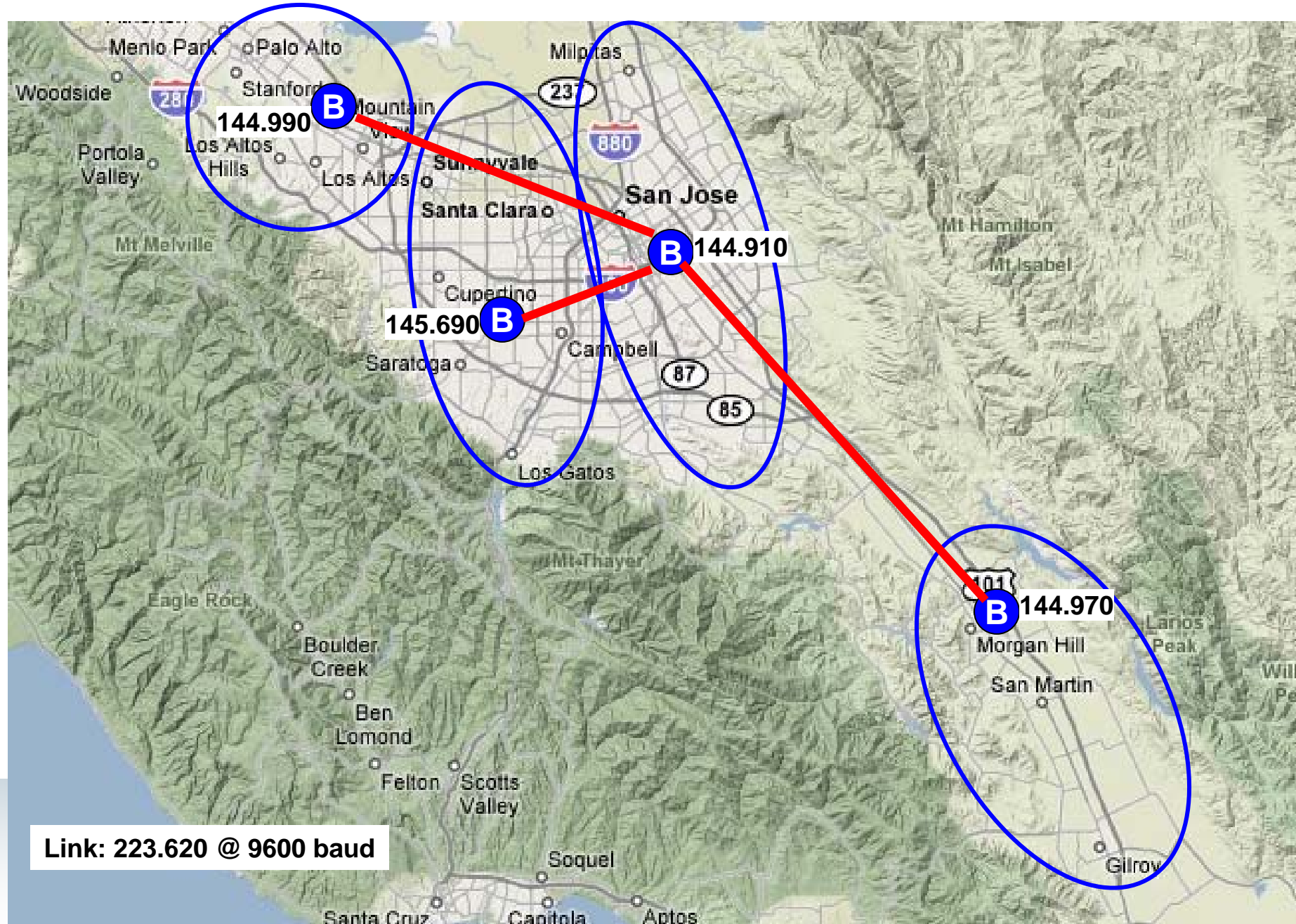
SCC's Packet Infrastructure – today

Outpost Packet Message Manager



SCC's Packet Infrastructure – planned

Outpost Packet Message Manager



Elements of a packet operating policy

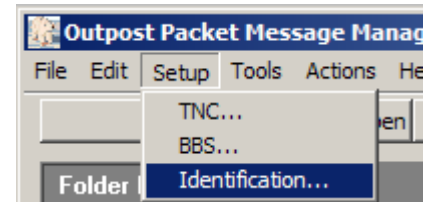
Outpost Packet Message Manager

1. All stations will identify with a tactical call sign
2. All messages are sent as private messages
3. All messages are uniquely identified
4. All messages are as short as possible
5. All stations will poll the BBS periodically for traffic
6. All stations will poll for specific message types
7. All message traffic becomes part of the official event documentation package



Policy #1: Tactical Calls

Outpost Packet Message Manager



Definition: a call sign that identifies a tactical location; is operator-neutral allowing the operators to change, without having the assignment name change.

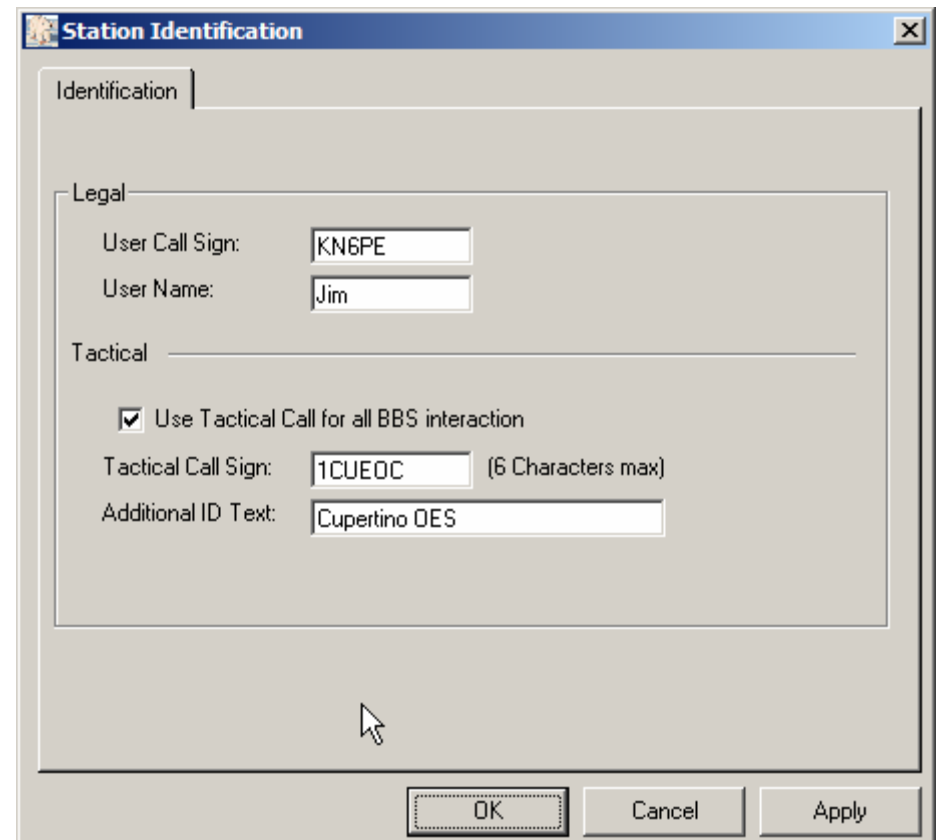
Implementation

No readily available and supported BBS offers native support for tactical calls.

The Outpost approach supports most BBSs; connect with the Tactical Call; Outpost manages the legal identifier.

For the Santa Clara County Hospital System, hospitals are assigned Tactical Calls such as:

- 1MVECH Mountain View El Camino Hospital
- 1PASMCM Palo Alto Stanford Medical Center
- 1SJVCMC San Jose Valley Medical Center
- 1SJGSH San Jose Good Samaritan Hospital



Policy #1: Tactical Calls

Outpost Packet Message Manager

Definition: a call sign that identifies a tactical location; is operator-neutral allowing the operators to change, without having the assignment name change.

Is it legal?... YES!

- AX.25 extended address field contains source and destination call sign.
- Outpost uses the TNC's "mycall" command to set the Tactical Call as the station identifier.
- The selected Tactical Call needs to be a sufficiently valid call sign to "fool" the BBS's call sign checking logic.
- Outpost sends a "Legal Identifier String" that satisfies FCC Part 97.119.

```
1CUEOC>W6SJC-1: <<C>>:
W6SJC-1>1CUEOC: <<UA>>:
W6SJC-1>1CUEOC: <<I00>>:
[FBB-7.04j-AB1FHMRX$]

Hello Jim,
Welcome to The San Jose EOC Mailbox

W6SJC >

1CUEOC>W6SJC-1: <<I01>>:
LM

W6SJC-1>1CUEOC: <<I11>>:
*** : Nothing found
*** : TO Field Filter is set to:- [ * ]

W6SJC >

1CUEOC>W6SJC-1: <<I12>>:
B

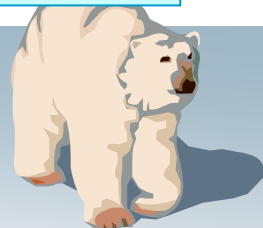
W6SJC-1>1CUEOC: <<I22>>:
73 Jim,

W6SJC-1>1CUEOC: <<D>>:
1CUEOC>W6SJC-1: <<I23>>:
StationID=KN6PE, TacCall=1CUEOC, Cupertino OES

1CUEOC>W6SJC-1: <<I33>>:

1CUEOC>W6SJC-1: <<I43>>:

1CUEOC>W6SJC-1: <<UA>>:
```



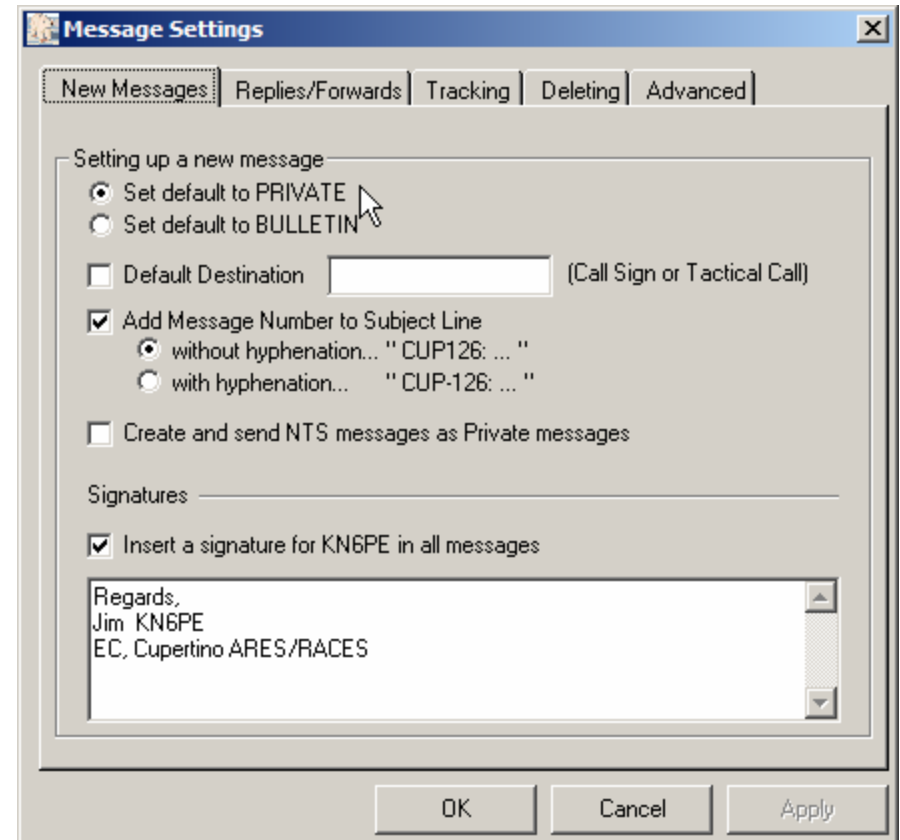
Policy #2: Send Private Messages

Outpost Packet Message Manager

Policy: Private messages are addressed to a specific station and retrievable only by that station. Private messages should be sent when the message is intended for one other station.

Implementation:

- A Private message policy contributes to lower channel traffic by ensuring only the intended station retrieves the message.
- Option to set the default message type to either private or bulletin (public).
- Option can be overridden at message create time.



Policy #3: Unique Message Identification

Outpost Packet Message Manager

Policy: Each packet message sent within the operational area must be uniquely identified. Replies to messages must reference the message identifier.

Implementation:

- Unique identifiers are generated by each Outpost station based on the entered Report Settings
- When enabled, the next “Message Number” or “Tactical_ID + Message Number” is placed in the subject line
- Subject line can be appended to or overwritten at message create time.

The image displays three overlapping windows from the Outpost Packet Message Manager software:

- Message Settings:** Shows options for setting up a new message. The "Add Message Number to Subject Line" checkbox is checked, with the option "without hyphenation... " CUP126: ... " selected. A red arrow points to this checkbox.
- Report Settings:** Shows report variables. The "Next Message Number" field is set to 190 and circled in red. The "Tactical ID (3 char)" field is set to CUP and also circled in red. Other fields include Organization (Cupertino OES), City (Cupertino), County (Santa Clara), State/Prov (CA), Tactical Location (Cupertino EOC Radio Room), and Tactical TX Text (Cupertino OES).
- New Packet Message:** Shows a message being created. The subject line is "CUP190: Availability of N95 Masks". The "From" field is KN6PE and the "Bbs" field is K6SJC-1. Arrows point from the circled "190" and "CUP" in the Report Settings window to the "190" and "CUP" in the subject line of the New Packet Message window.

A small cartoon bear is visible in the bottom right corner of the image.

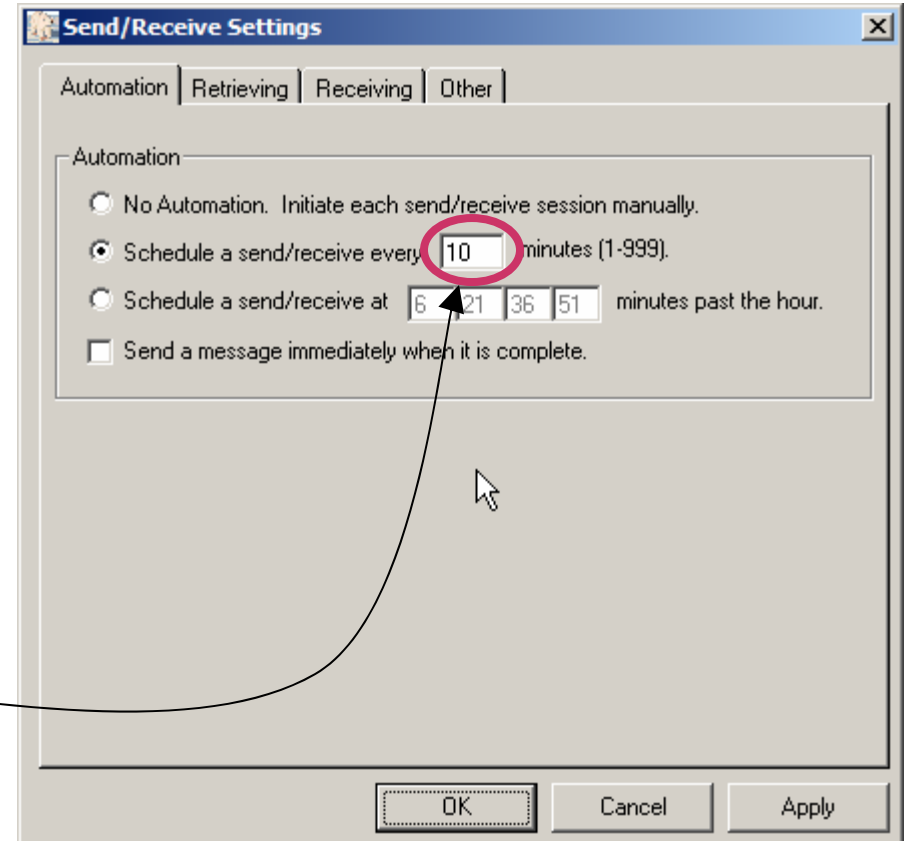
Policy #5: BBS polling period

Outpost Packet Message Manager

Policy: Each packet station should poll the BBS at a rate sufficient for timely message retrieval without creating excessive channel congestion.

Implementation #1:

- *Example:* Santa Clara County has about 15 stations and 3 BBS access frequencies.
- Set up Periodic polling every “X” minutes to allow for unattended operation.
- Consideration should be given to...
 - the number of stations requiring access to the BBS on a given frequency, and
 - the phase of the emergency (for instance: heavy traffic: longer period... light traffic, shorter period).



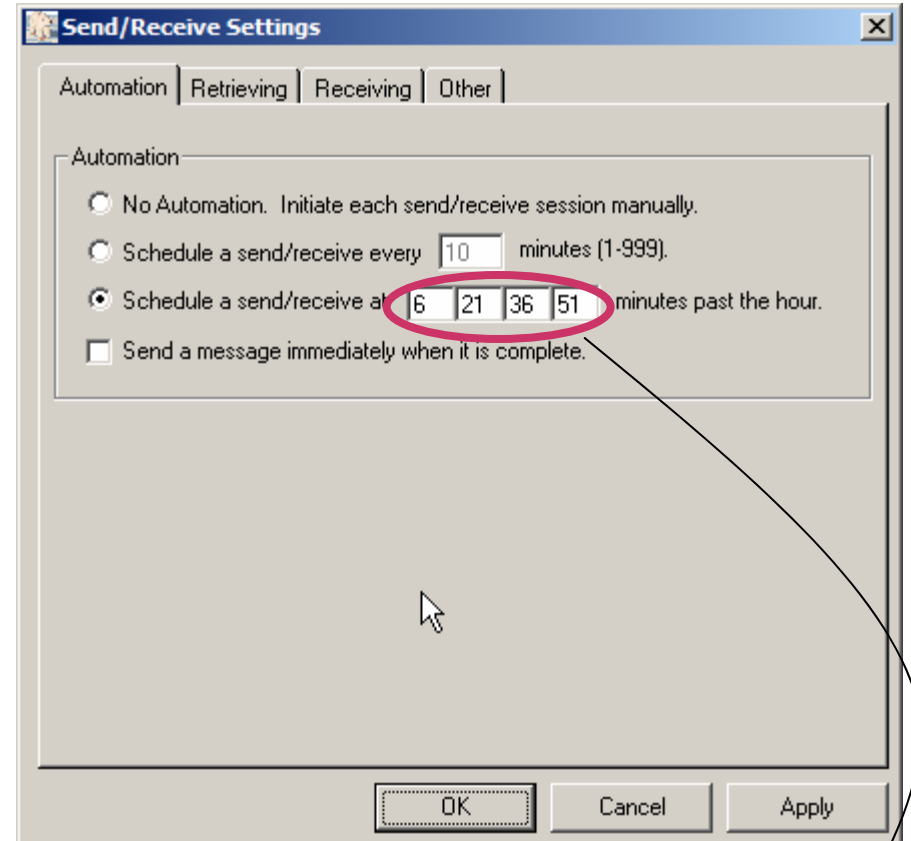
Policy #5: BBS polling period

Outpost Packet Message Manager

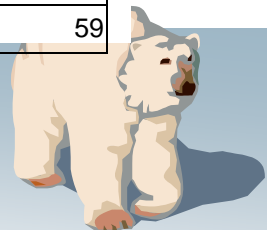
Policy: Each packet station should poll the BBS at a rate sufficient for timely message retrieval without creating excessive channel congestion.

Implementation #2:

- *Example:* Santa Clara County Hospital has 14 regional hospitals and 1 BBS access frequency.
- One or more specific polling slots (minutes within an hour) are assigned to each hospital packet station.
- Considerations...
 - all PC clocks need to be set to the same time (voice net coordination).
 - Quality of the connection (extent of retries)



Station	minutes past the hour			
1MVECH	0	15	30	45
1PASMV	1	16	31	46
1SJVMC	6	21	36	51
:				
1SJGSH	14	29	44	59



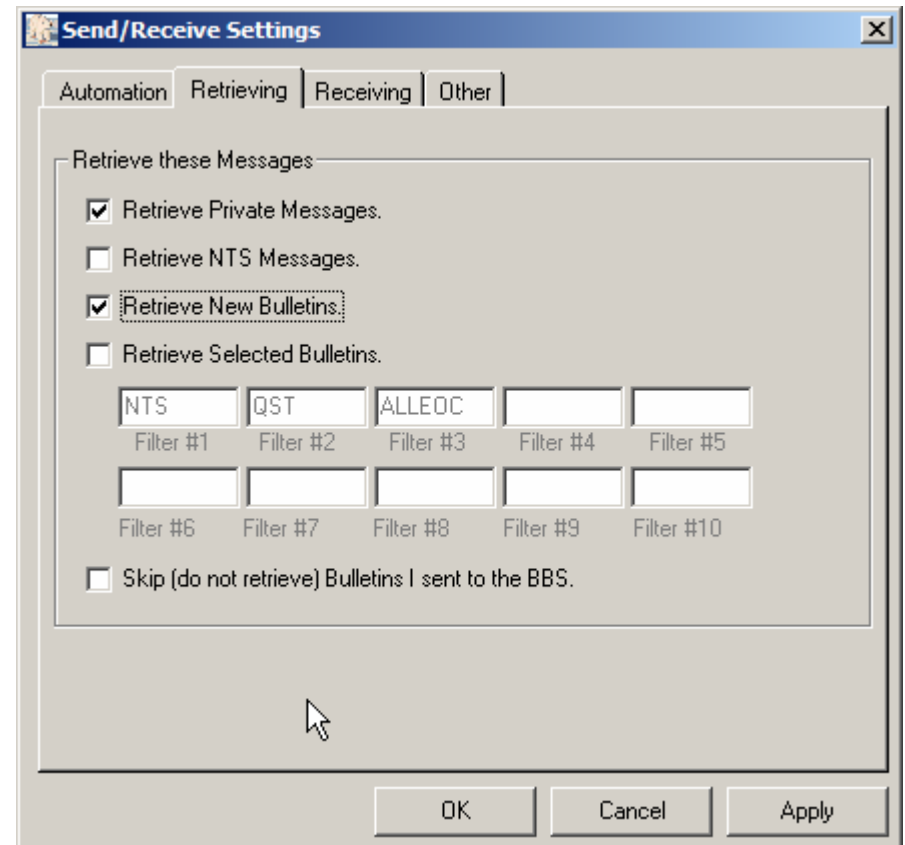
Policy #6: Poll for message types

Outpost Packet Message Manager

Policy: All stations will poll for specific message types. This approach also reduces channel congestion.

Implementation:

- Select the message types that will be sent within your operational area
 - Private messages: between 2 stations
 - NTS messages: standard ARRL protocol
 - Bulletins: all broadcast messages
 - Selected Bulletins: specific messages found on a public bulletin board



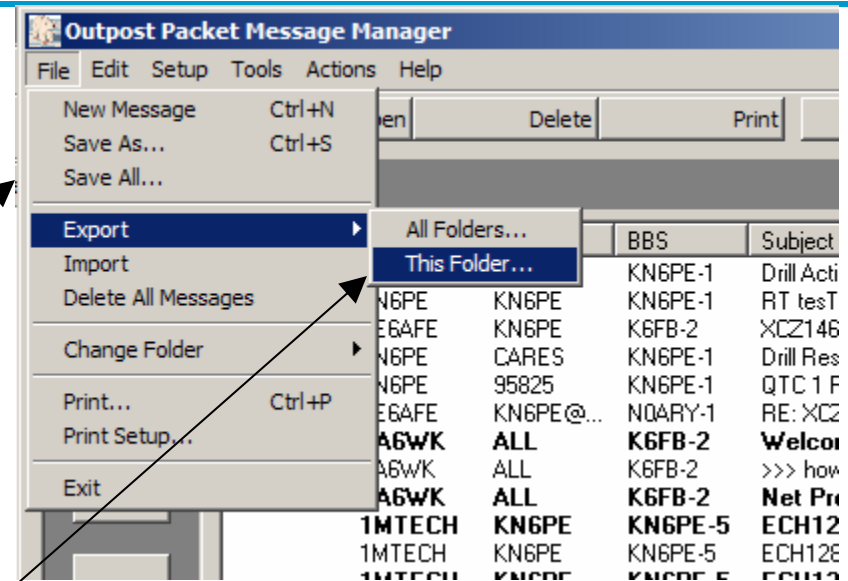
Policy #7: Documentation

Outpost Packet Message Manager

Policy: All message traffic becomes part of the official event documentation package.

Implementation:

- Message archiving...
 - Save All: writes a single text file of all messages, with embedded Form Feeds
 - Export: writes one or more folders to an Outpost archive file. Can be re-imported later if required
- Message audit report (pending)



Mission Support

Outpost Packet Message Manager

- Understanding the mission and purpose of the agencies we serve.
- Ensure our mission aligns with the needs of our served agencies.
- What our served agencies need from us...
 - Pass message traffic
 - Documentation
 - Audit trail



Mission Support: Pass message traffic

Outpost Packet Message Manager

Requirement: Originate messages based on the content and format of our served agencies.

Implementation #1:

- **Direct entry** with cntl-Tab formatting
- Copy-and-paste from other apps
- NTS Message Maker
- On-line report builder
- Import text from a file

New Packet Message

File Edit Actions Help

Print Send Save Close Urg Pvt Bul NTS

Private Message; Delivery Receipt Requested

Bbs: W6XSC-1

From: CUPEOC

To: XSCEOC

Subject: Status of Cupertino EOC

The following operating positions are staffing at the EOC:

Director Emergency Services	Dave Knapp	777-1234
Planning/Intel Section	Bob Knight	777-2345
Logistics Section	Ken Smith	777-3456
Operations Section	Bill Wright	777-4567
Finance Section	Trudy Collins	777-5678

All phone numbers are in the 408 area code.

Jim O KN6PE



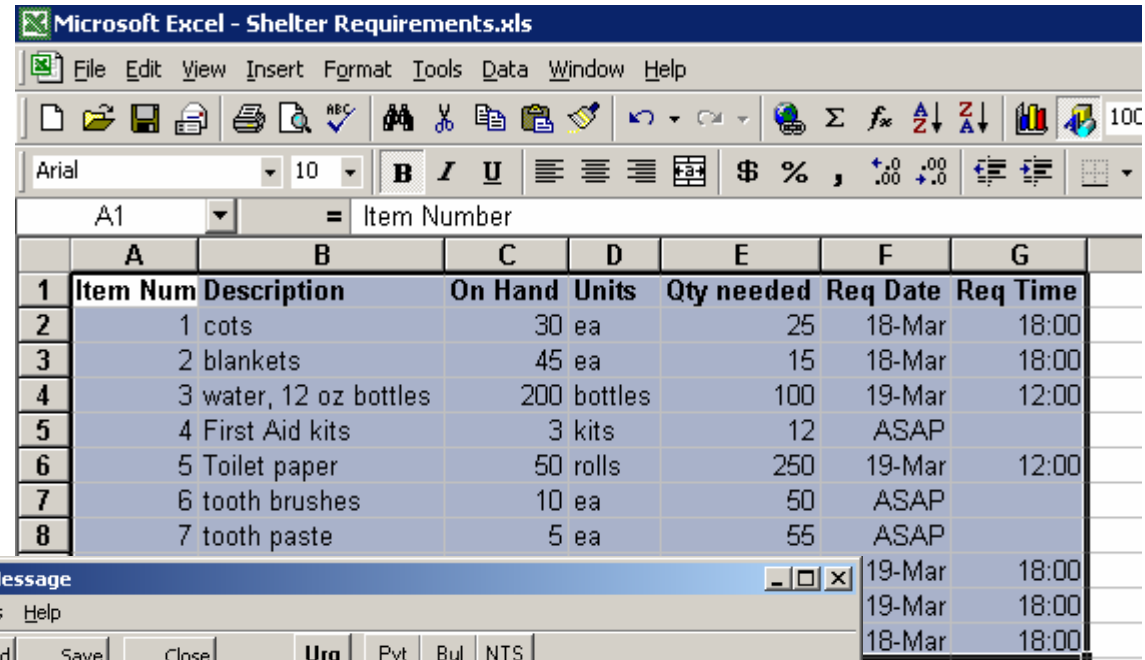
Mission Support: Pass message traffic

Outpost Packet Message Manager

Requirement: Originate messages based on the content and format of our served agencies.

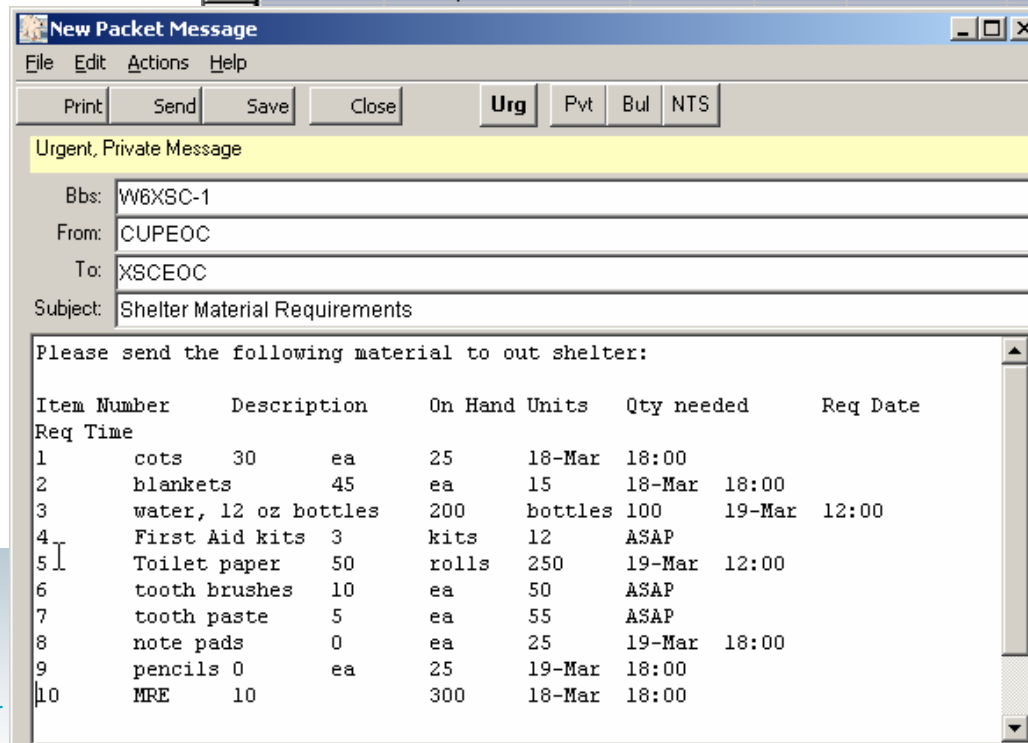
Implementation #2:

- Direct entry (with cntl-Tab formatting)
- **Copy-and-paste** from other apps
- NTS Message Maker
- On-line report builder
- Import text from a file



Microsoft Excel - Shelter Requirements.xls

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
1	Item Num	Description	On Hand	Units	Qty needed	Req Date	Req Time
2	1	cots	30	ea	25	18-Mar	18:00
3	2	blankets	45	ea	15	18-Mar	18:00
4	3	water, 12 oz bottles	200	bottles	100	19-Mar	12:00
5	4	First Aid kits	3	kits	12	ASAP	
6	5	Toilet paper	50	rolls	250	19-Mar	12:00
7	6	tooth brushes	10	ea	50	ASAP	
8	7	tooth paste	5	ea	55	ASAP	
						19-Mar	18:00
						19-Mar	18:00
						18-Mar	18:00



New Packet Message

File Edit Actions Help

Print Send Save Close Urg Pvt Bul NTS

Urgent, Private Message

Bbs: W6XSC-1

From: CUPEOC

To: XSCEOC

Subject: Shelter Material Requirements

Please send the following material to out shelter:

Item Number	Description	On Hand	Units	Qty needed	Req Date	Req Time
1	cots	30	ea	25	18-Mar	18:00
2	blankets	45	ea	15	18-Mar	18:00
3	water, 12 oz bottles	200	bottles	100	19-Mar	12:00
4	First Aid kits	3	kits	12	ASAP	
5	Toilet paper	50	rolls	250	19-Mar	12:00
6	tooth brushes	10	ea	50	ASAP	
7	tooth paste	5	ea	55	ASAP	
8	note pads	0	ea	25	19-Mar	18:00
9	pencils	0	ea	25	19-Mar	18:00
10	MRE	10	300	18-Mar	18:00	



Mission Support: Pass message traffic

Outpost Packet Message Manager

Requirement: Originate messages based on the content and format of our served agencies.

Implementation #3:

- Direct entry (with cntl-Tab formatting)
- Copy-and-paste from other apps
- **NTS Message Maker**
 - Create...
- On-line report builder
- Import text from a file

The screenshot shows the 'NTS Message Maker' application window. It has a menu bar with 'File' and 'Edit'. Below the menu bar are buttons for 'ARL Msg', 'Check', 'Save', 'Clear Msg', and 'Cancel'. The main interface is divided into several sections:

- Preamble:** Contains fields for 'Msg No:' (183), 'Precedence:' (R, with '(R, W, P, E)' next to it), 'Handling Instr: HX', 'Station of Origin:' (KN6PE), 'ARL Message:' (checkbox), 'Check:' (checkbox), 'Place of Origin:' (Cupertino, CA), 'Time of Origin:' (22:13), and 'Date of Origin:' (Feb 06).
- Destination Address:** Contains fields for 'Name:' (Dave Larson), 'Call Sign:', 'Address:' (5304 East Ranch Road), 'City:' (SACRAMENTO), 'State/Prov:' (CA), 'Zip/Postal:' (95825), and 'Phone No:' (916, 555, 1212).
- Message:** A text area containing the message: "Cannot attend the meeting this week. All airports are closed. Please advise the repeater committee that the project is almost complete."
- Signature:** A text field containing "Jim KN6PE".

At the bottom of the window, it says "Ready for NTS message entry".



Mission Support: Pass message traffic

Outpost Packet Message Manager

Requirement: Originate messages based on the content and format of our served agencies.

Implementation #3:

- Direct entry (with cntl-Tab formatting)
- Copy-and-paste from other apps
- **NTS Message Maker**
 - **Create... Check...**
- On-line report builder
- Import text from a file

NTS Message Maker

File Edit

ARL Msg **Check** Save Clear Msg Cancel

Preamble

Msg No: 183

Precedence: R (R, W, P, E)

Handling Instr: HX

Station of Origin: KN6PE

ARL Message:

Check: 23

Place of Origin: Cupertino, CA

Time of Origin: 22:13

Date of Origin: Feb 06

Destination Address

Name: Dave Larson

Call Sign:

Address: 5304 East Ranch Road

City: SACRAMENTO

State/Prov: CA Zip/Postal: 95825

Phone No: 916 555 1212

Message

Cannot attend the meeting this week X All airports are closed X Please advise the repeater committee that the project

Signature

Jim KN6PE

Message looks good!



Mission Support: Pass message traffic

Outpost Packet Message Manager

Requirement: Originate messages based on the content and format of our served agencies.

Implementation #3:

- Direct entry (with cntl-Tab formatting)
- Copy-and-paste from other apps
- **NTS Message Maker**
 - **Create... Check... Save**
- On-line report builder
- Import text from a file

The image shows two overlapping windows from the Outpost Packet Message Manager software. The top window is titled "NTS Message Maker" and contains a form for creating a message. The "Check" button is circled in red. The bottom window is titled "New Packet Message" and displays the message details and a preview of the message text.

NTS Message Maker

File Edit

ARL Msg **Check** Save Clear Msg Cancel

Preamble

Msg No: 183

Precedence: R (R, W, P, E)

Handling Instr: HX

Station of Origin: KN6PE

ARL Message:

Check: 23

Place of Origin: Cupertino, CA

Time of Origin: 22:13

Destination Address

Name: Dave Larson

Call Sign:

Address: 5304 East Ranch Road

City: SACRAMENTO

State/Prov: CA Zip/Postal: 95825

Phone No: 916 555 1212

New Packet Message

File Edit Actions Help

Print Send Save Delete Close Urg Pvt Bul NTS

NTS Message

Bbs: KN6PE-1

From: KN6PE

To: 95825@NTSCA

Subject: QTC 1 R SACRAMENTO CA (916-555)

Nr 183 R KN6PE 23 Cupertino, CA 22:13 Feb 06

BT

Dave Larson

5304 East Ranch Road

SACRAMENTO, CA 95825

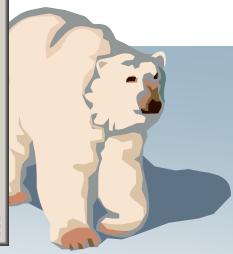
(916) 555-1212

BT

Cannot attend the meeting this week X All airports are closed X Please advise the repeater committee that the project is almost complete.

BT

Jim KN6PE



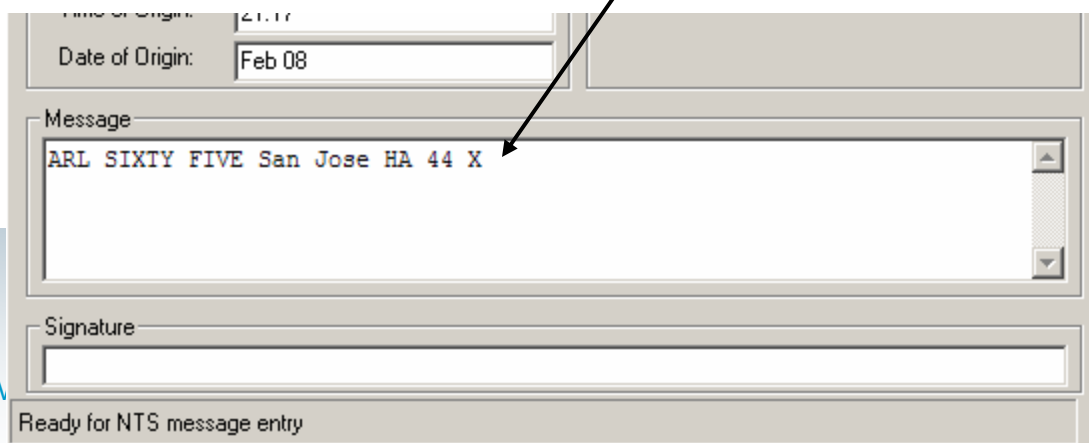
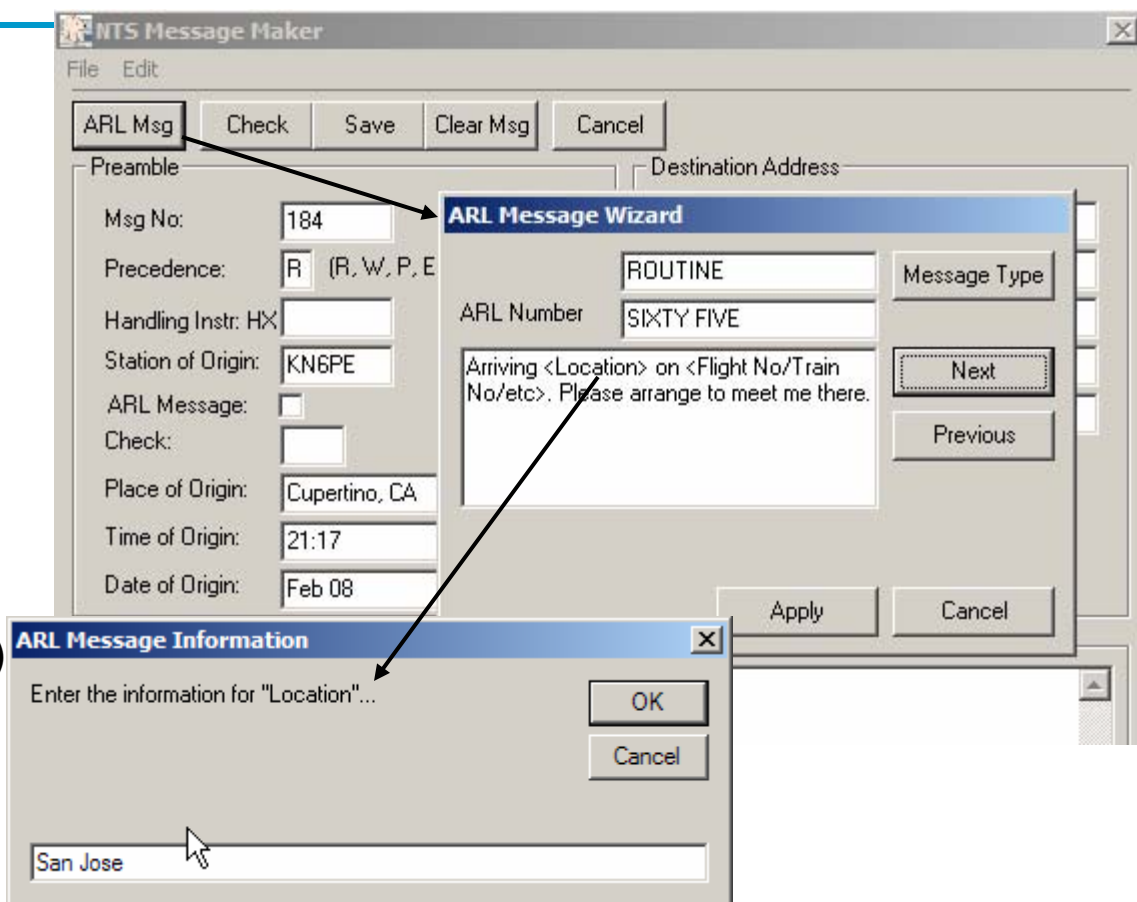
Mission Support: Pass message traffic

Outpost Packet Message Manager

Requirement: Originate messages based on the content and format of our served agencies.

Implementation #3:

- Direct entry (with cntl-Tab formatting)
- Copy-and-paste from other apps
- **NTS Message Maker (ARL support)**
- On-line report builder
- Import text from a file



Mission Support: Pass message traffic

Outpost Packet Message Manager

Requirement: Originate messages based on the content and format of our served agencies.

Implementation #4:

- Direct entry (with cntl-Tab formatting)
- Copy-and-paste from other apps
- NTS Message Maker
- **On-line report builder**
 - **Reports...**
- Import text from a file

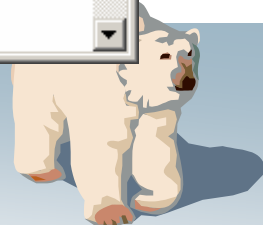
```
DamageAssesment 3.txt - Notepad
File Edit Format View Help
/*****
/ Author:      Jim Oberhofer KN6PE
/ Rev Date:    29-May-2004
/*****
<subj>ARC DSR 5972
/
DAMAGE ASSESSMENT REPORT:  <org>
-----
DATE/TIME: <D>, <T>  Message Number: <tacid><msg#>

TOWN: <city>
ADDRESS OR LOT NUMBER: =
SUBDIVISION: =
PROPERTY TYPE: =
DAMAGE->(DESTROYED, MAJOR, MINOR, AFFECTED): =
DAMAGE DESCRIPTION:
=

OWNER INFORMATION:
NAME: =
PHONE NUMBER: =
NUMBER OF PEOPLE AFFECTED: =
    ADULTS: =      CHILDREN: =
    HANDICAP: =    ELDERLY: =

NUMBER OF CONFIRMED INJURIES: =
NUMBER OF CONFIRMED DEATHS: =

OPERATOR: <name> <C>
STATION TACTICAL: <tacloc>
AR
----- End of message -----
```



Mission Support: Pass message traffic

Outpost Packet Message Manager

Requirement: Originate messages based on the content and format of our served agencies.

Implementation #4:

- Direct entry (with cntl-Tab formatting)
- Copy-and-paste from other apps
- NTS Message Maker
- **On-line report builder**
 - **Reports... Tags...**
- Import text from a file

Tag	Description
<D>, <date1>	mm/dd/yy (5/21/04).
<date2>	dd-mmm-yyyy (21-May-2004)
<T>, <time>	hh:mm (22:45)
<M>, <msg#>	Message Number; from Report Settings
<C>, <call>	Call, as entered at the Station ID form
<name>	Name, as entered at the Station ID form
<bbs>	BBS name; current BBS
<subj>text	Places "text" on subject line
<org>	Organization; from Report Settings
<city>	City name; from Report Settings
<county>	County name; from Report Settings
<state>	
<province>	
<tacloc>	
<tacid>	
<text1, 2, 3>	
=	
/ comment	

Report Settings

Report Variables

Next Message Number:

Organization:

City:

County:

State/Prov (2 char):

Tactical Location:

Tactical ID (3 char):

Text Variable #1:

Text Variable #2:

Text Variable #3:

OK Cancel

Mission Support: Pass message traffic

Outpost Packet Message Manager

Requirement: Originate messages based on the content and format of our served agencies.

Implementation #4:

- Direct entry (with cntl-Tab formatting)
- Copy-and-paste from other apps
- NTS Message Maker
- **On-line report builder**
 - **Reports... Tags... Processing**
- Import text from a file

New Packet Message

File Edit Actions Help

Print Send Save Close Urg Pvt Bul NTS

Private Message

Bbs: W6XSC-1

From: CUPEOC

To:

Subject: ARC DSR 5972

DAMAGE ASSESSMENT REPORT: CARES

DATE/TIME: 12/26/04, 11:40 Message Number: CMV211

TOWN: Cupertino

ADDRESS OR LOT NUMBER: =

SUBDIVISION: =

PROPERTY TYPE: =

DAMAGE->(DESTROYED, MAJOR, MINOR, AFFECTED): =

DAMAGE DESCRIPTION: =

OWNER INFORMATION:

NAME: =

PHONE NUMBER: =



Mission Support: Pass message traffic

Outpost Packet Message Manager

Message Alerts

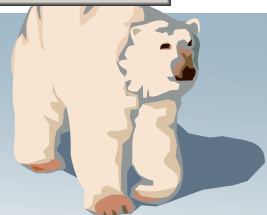
Requirement: Prioritize traffic according to the needs of our served agencies. Identify priority traffic on its arrival.

Implementation:

- Set outgoing message priorities
- Identify incoming urgent messages

The screenshot shows two windows from the Outpost Packet Message Manager software. The top window, titled "Cupertino Streams - Packet Message", displays a "Private Message" form with fields for "Bbs:", "From:", and "To:". The "Urg" button in the toolbar is circled in red. The bottom window, titled "Outpost TNC Message Manager", shows a message list in the "In Tray" folder. A message with the subject "Request EOC Status" is highlighted in red, indicating it is urgent. The message list includes columns for "U", "Type", "From", "To", "BBS", "Subject", "Date/Time", and "Size".

U	Type	From	To	BBS	Subject	Date/Time	Size
B	SYSOP	ALLEOC	W6XS...	EMERGENCY BBS OPER...	02/16/04 16:54	51...	
B	NOVFH	ALL	K6FB-2	SUNNYVALE HAM FLEAMAR...	08/13/04 12:39	2770	
B	KN6PE	CARES	K6FB-2	N95 Mask Purchase	12/21/04 11:41	329	
!!	XSCFOC	CUPEO...	W6XS...	Request EOC Status	12/21/04 23:49	249	
	KN6PE	NEWUSR	K6FB-2	Welcome to Outpost 1.3	None	1443	
	KN6PE	NEWUSR	K6FB-2	What's New in Outpost 1.3	None	4108	
	KN6PE	NEWUSR	K6FB-2	WHAT'S NEW!! Requesting ...	None	1670	
	KN6PE	NEWUSR	K6FB-2	WHAT'S NEW!! Automatically...	None	2674	
	KN6PE	NEWUSR	K6FB-2	WHAT'S NEW!! Message An...	None	1445	



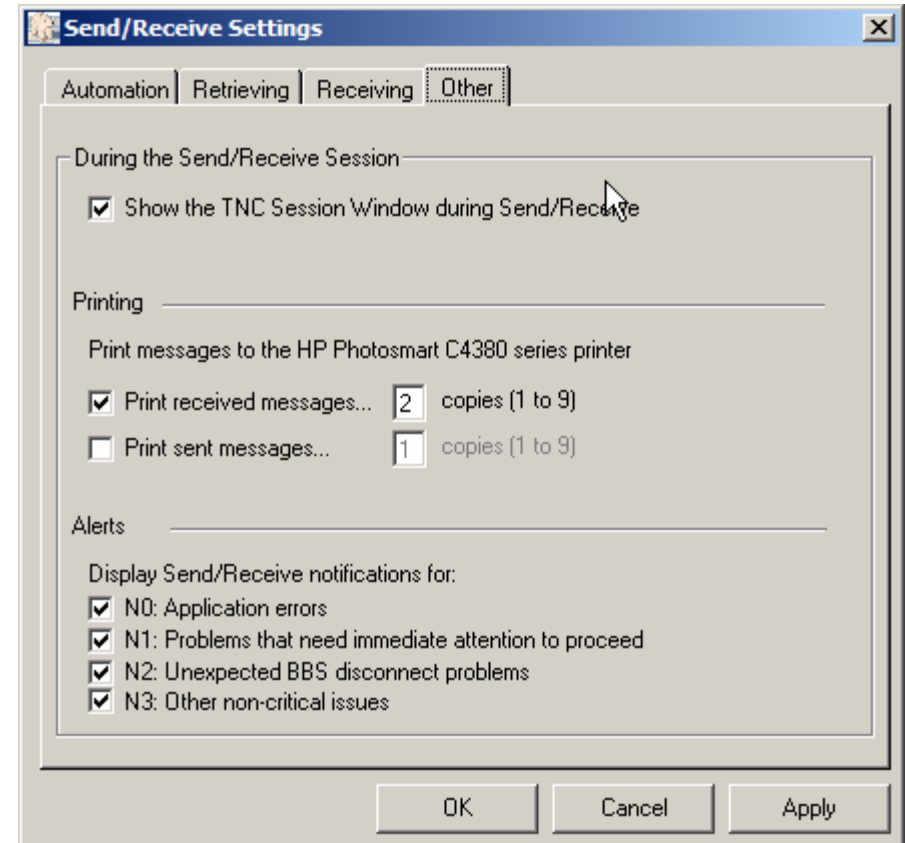
Mission Support: Documentation

Outpost Packet Message Manager

Requirement: All packet message traffic must be submitted to the EOC for disposition.

Implementation:

- Incoming message distribution
- Outgoing message printing record keeping, specify # copies



For more information...

Outpost Packet Message Manager

- User Guide... <http://www.outpostpm.org#documentation>
 - A complete description of all features, forms, fields, and controls in Outpost
- HOW-TO pages... <http://www.outpostpm.org/howto.html>
 - Specific How-To's for the most common tasks performed
- Application Notes... <http://www.outpostpm.org#documentation>
 - Write-ups with more details on a specific topic.
- Troubleshooting page...
<http://www.outpostpm.org/troubleshooting.html>
- Users group... <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/outpostpacket/>





Outpost Packet Message Manager HOW-TOs

Outpost How-To's

The Outpost program does not include any online help. Instead, a series of HOW-TO files are provided with the application and are available on-line here. See the [Outpost Users Guide](#) for other details.

1. Acknowledge Read, send automatically
2. Create a message
3. Forwarding/Replying to a message
4. KA-Node/Netrom (BPQ) Access
5. Message annunciation
6. Message numbering
7. Message receipts
8. Online reports
9. Printing messages automatically
10. Retrieving messages automatically
11. Retrieving selected bulletins
12. Sending a text file
13. Setting up a BBS
14. Setting up a BBS, Santa Clara County RACES
15. Setting up a TNC
16. Setting up AGWPE
17. Setting up Telnet access
18. Signature, adding to a message
19. Tactical Calls



Questions?

Outpost Packet Message Manager

