**1-8-19 Training – The Rule of 3’s**

***Use of Pro-Words***

When learning how to originate, send, and receive Radiograms, one of the most challenging aspects is the “CHECK” sum… that is, determining or checking the number of “words” in a message, and what constitutes a “word”. By now everyone who has been checking into our Wayne-Pike ARES Net had been able to get a pretty good handle on the “CHECK” sum. So it’s time to look at the next most challenging aspect of Radiograms, and that is the proper use of “PRO-WORDS”… like “FIGURE(s)”, “INITIAL(s)”, NUMBER & LETTER GROUPS, etc.

As an aid to this challenge, remember “THE RULE OF 3’s” !!!!

The difference between using “FiGURES” for numbers and “NUMBER GROUPS” is “3”… up to 3 numbers, use “FIGURES”… more than 3 numbers, use “NUMBER GROUP”.

* For examples of the use of “FIGURE, say “FIGURE THREE” or “FIGURES FIFE NINER” or “FIGURES SIX SEVEN EIGHT”.
* For examples of the use of “NUMBER GROUP”, say “NUMBER GROUP TWO ZERO ONE NINER” or “NUMBER GROUP ONE EIGHT FOUR THREE EIGHT”.
* One exception is telephone numbers…
  + When talking about telephone numbers in the ADDRESS SECTION of the Radiogram, say “PHONE NUMBER FIGURES FIFE SEVEN ZERO THREE NINER ZERO FOUR TWO ONE FIFE”
  + When talking about telephone numbers in the text of the message, the number would stretch out to three words… 1st word = “FIGURES FIFE SEVEN ZERO, 2nd word = FIGURES THREE NINER ZERO, 3rd word also uses “FIGURES as “FIGURES FOUR TWO ONE FIFE” even though it’s 4 digits.

Similarly for letters use “INITIALS” for up to 3 letters, and “LETTER GROUP” for more than 3 letters.

* For examples of the use of “INITIALS”, say “INITIAL ALPHA” for the letter “A” or “INITIALS KILO CHARLIE” for “KC” or “INITIALS ALPHA ROMEO LIMA” for “ARL.
* For examples of the use of “LETTER GROUPS”, say “LETTER GROUP ALPHA ROMEO ROMEO LIMA” for “ARRL”, or “LETTER GROUP FOXTROT ECHO MIKE ALPHA” for “FMEA” or “LETTER GROUP FOXTROT UNIFORM BRAVO ALPHA ROMEO” FOR “FUBAR” or “FOULED UP BEYOND ALL RECOGNITION”.

Finally, there’s the PRO-WORD “MIXED GROUP”, which is any combination of letters and numbers. Examples of “MIXED GROUPS” are “ALPHA ROMEO LIMA TWO FIFE” for “ARL25” or “TWO TWO ZERO NINER ZULU” for “2209Z”.

* The one exception to this would be Amateur Call Letters which “technically” would be “WORD GROUPS”, but instead say “AMATEUR CALL WHISKY ALPHA TWO CHARLIE CHARLIE NOVEMBER” for “WA2CCN”.

That it !!! Hope this helps. Again, when I began originating Radiograms, I wrote it out and put little initials… “I” for INITIAL(s), “L” for LETTER GROUPS, “F” for “FIGURE(s), and “N” for NUMBER GROUPS by each “word” in the Radiogram to remind me of which pro-word to use. Eventually you’ll get the hang of it and recognize where and which pro-noun to use.

This is easy to practice – any time you’re reading something, think of “…how would I send this in a Radiogram?” and just mentally try it out.