

Phonetic Alphabet & Associated Prowords

SF Auxiliary Communications Service

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Problem statement

- Ambient noise
- Low signal-to-noise ratio (SNR) from either weak signal or high RF noise
- Atypical spelling
- Rare, complicated, or technical words or terms
- Brand names
- Sequences of numbers and letters (such as lot numbers or other identifiers)
- Homophones (same pronunciation, different spelling)

Phonetic/spelling alphabets

- NATO Phonetic Alphabet / International Radiotelephony Spelling Alphabet
- Older variants (Able, Baker, Fox, Kilowatt, Norway, United, Victoria)
- Other languages

See USCG Radiotelephone Handbook sections 3.c, 3.d, 3.e, 3.f

https://www.cisa.gov/sites/default/files/publications/CGTTP_6-01_1B_Radiotelephone_Handbook.pdf

Prowords

- (3.f, g, h) I SPELL – say it, spell it, say it again
- (3.g, i) FIGURES
- (3.i) TIME
- (3.j) INITIALS
- (3.k) ROMAN NUMERALS

See USCG Radiotelephone Handbook sections 3.f through 3.k

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Skills to practice

- Use of prowords
- Transmitting letters as phonetics
- Receiving phonetics as letters

Practice

- Blank piece of paper & pen
- Groups of 2-3 in Zoom breakout groups
- Get one old ACS agenda (either Jul '19, Jan '19, or Jul '18)
 - <https://sfdem.org/sites/default/files/July%202019%20General%20Meeting%20Agenda.pdf>
 - <https://sfdem.org/sites/default/files/January%202019%20General%20Meeting%20Agenda.pdf>
 - <https://sfdem.org/sites/default/files/July%202018%20General%20Meeting%20Agenda.pdf>
- Take turns sending 3 rows at a time (over Zoom)
- Record others' transmissions on paper