

PRO Words, Brevity, Best Practices

South County ARES



August 20 2026

Ryan Herbst N6AMQ

Robert Lombaerde WB6WGM

Getting the Message Across

South County ARES



- **Clear - Unambiguous**
- **Brief – Compose before TX**
- **Concise – Who, What, When**
- **Use PRO words**

Phonetic Alphabet

South County ARES



A Alpha	I India	Q Quebec	Y Yankee
B Bravo	J Juliet	R Romeo	Z Zulu
C Charlie	K Kilo	S Sierra	
D Delta	L Lima	T Tango	
E Echo	M Mike	U Uniform	
F Foxtrot	N November	V Victor	
G Golf	O Oscar	W Whiskey	
H Hotel	P Papa	X X-Ray	

Numbers

South County ARES



1 Wun

2 Too

3 Tree or Thu-ree

4 Fo-wer

5 Fife

6 Six

7 Seven

8 Ate

9 Niner

0 Zero



Pro words

ACKNOWLEDGE*	An instruction to the receiver that the transmission must be acknowledged.
AFFIRMATIVE*	Yes
ALL AFTER*	Reference all of a transmission after the word or phrase given.
ALL BEFORE*	Reference all of a transmission before the word or phrase given.
BREAK**	I have higher priority traffic. (Used with care)
CHARLIE**	Correct.
CLEAR**	Done using this frequency.
CORRECT*	What you have transmitted is correct.



Pro words

CORRECT* What you have transmitted is correct.

CORRECTION* I have made an error and the
correct information follows.

FIGURES** Numerals or numbers follow.

INITIALS Letter or letters follow.

I SAY AGAIN* I repeat my last transmission.

I SPELL * The next word will be spelled out
phonetically.

INTERROGATIVE* Question.

NEGATIVE* No



Pro words

OUT**	This is the end of the transmission, no reply is expected.
OVER**	This is the end of my transmission at this time, your reply is necessary.
ROGER**	I have received your transmission satisfactorily.
SAY AGAIN*	Repeat the last transmission.
SYMBOL FOR*	Used primarily for punctuation, as in SYMBOL FOR Comma.
THIS IS	This transmission is from the station whose call sign immediately follows.



What should you have said ?

"Over and out"

"Repeat"

"Roger" meaning "I'll do it"

"Roger wilco"

"10-4" / "copy that"

"Break" used to check in

"Break break"

"Say that again"

"That's a yes"

"What's your 20"

"Come back"

"We're clear"

Spelling with no warning

Numbers run together

"Nancy Ocean Kilowatt"



Net Control

- Read the script and follow it
- Acknowledge check-ins
- ID every 10 minutes and end of net
- Include breaks in TX for priority traffic or Relay
- Don't key-up on top of another user, allow repeater controller to reset (90 sec timeout)
- Get the correct Call Signs for guests (relay)
- Allow stations to end with their call sign

Tactical Call Signs



- Typically identifies station location
- May be used by several operators at location
- Tactical name stays same with shift change
- Helps net control operator identify station
- Say FCC callsign at end of transmission



Brevity

- Think of what you want to say – long transmissions don't allow stations to break in with priority traffic.
- Use PROwords
- Don't over explain answers to questions
- Keep it simple

Questions

- ?

South County ARES

