RTC-TH EmComm Time Reporting Standard

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Introduction

This is the RTC-TH EmComm standard practice to report time for emergency voice radio transmissions. The standard is to reduce ambiguity and improve message clarity. The basis for this standard in the NATO alphabetic time zone identification system.

Clear, concise communication is required in emergencies. Brevity on the air also means conserving battery power. (Remember, standard amateur radio practice is to use the minimum power necessary to achieve communication.)
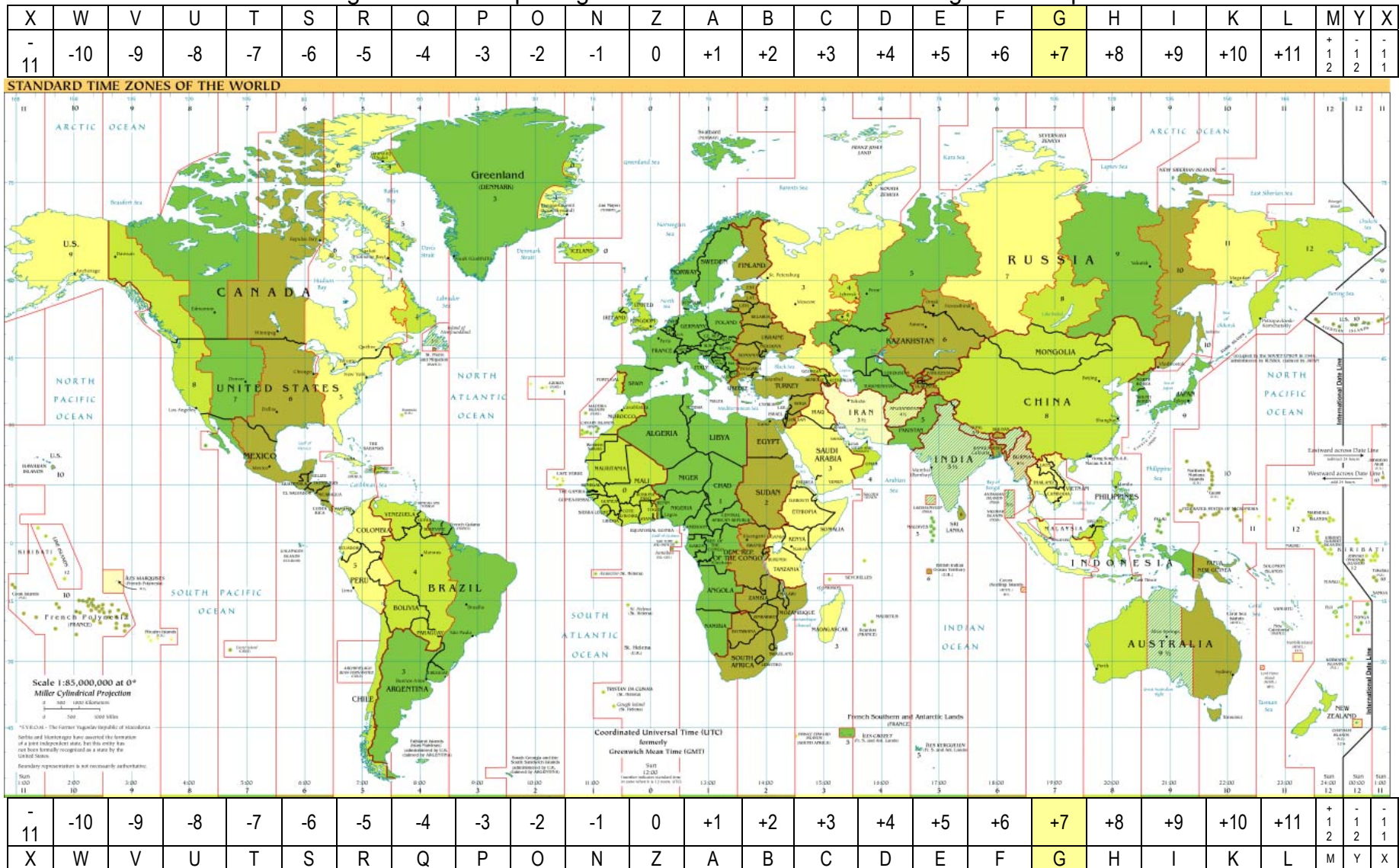
Time / Date Format: Any mention of time in an emergency message must give the following information:

- **Time** using the 24-hour format. The RTC-TH also conforms to the NATO 24-hour time format to report the hours / minutes as a 4 digit set of numerals. Midnight can be reported as 2400 hrs (two-four-zero-zero hours). This is the end of a day and the start of a new day. The time 0001 (zero-zero-zero-one) is the first minute of the new day. [Note: To conform to the 4-digit time format, a leading zero is used for single number hours (e.g. 0100 is zero-one-zero-zero meaning the first full hour after midnight). Using the 24-hour format avoids any confusion between the designation of AM or PM. (See the NATO pronunciation guide on page 3.)

- **Time Zone Identifier** using the appropriate NATO Alphabetic Time Zone letter (see Map on the page 2). For Thailand, standard time zone identifier letter is "G" (Golf). This system assigns a single letter to each standard time zone.

Time zone name	Letter	UTC|UT|UT1 offset	Time zone name	Letter	UTC|UT|UT1 offset
Yankee Time Zone	Y	UT1−12	Mike Time Zone	M	UT1+12
X-ray Time Zone	X	UT1−11	Lima Time Zone	L	UT1+11
Whiskey Time Zone	W	UT1−10	Kilo Time Zone	K	UT1+10
Victor Time Zone	V	UT1−09	India Time Zone	I	UT1+09
Uniform Time Zone	U	UT1−08	Hotel Time Zone	H	UT1+08
Tango Time Zone	T	UT1−07	Golf Time Zone	G	UT1+07
Sierra Time Zone	S	UT1−06	Foxtrot Time Zone	F	UT1+06
Romeo Time Zone	R	UT1−05	Echo Time Zone	E	UT1+05
Quebec Time Zone	Q	UT1−04	Delta Time Zone	D	UT1+04
Papa Time Zone	P	UT1−03	Charlie Time Zone	C	UT1+03
Oscar Time Zone	O	UT1−02	Bravo Time Zone	B	UT1+02
November Time Zone	N	UT1−01	Alfa Time Zone	A	UT1+01
Zulu Time Zone	Z	UT1±00	Note: "J" Juliet is NOT used for a standard time zone.		

NATO Alphabetic World Time Zone Identification

For unambiguous verbal reporting the standard time zones are assigned a unique letter.

X	W	V	U	T	S	R	Q	P	O	N	Z	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	K	L	M	Y	X
-11	-10	-9	-8	-7	-6	-5	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3	+4	+5	+6	+7	+8	+9	+10	+11	+12	-12	-11

STANDARD TIME ZONES OF THE WORLD

X	W	V	U	T	S	R	Q	P	O	N	Z	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	K	L	M	Y	X
-11	-10	-9	-8	-7	-6	-5	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3	+4	+5	+6	+7	+8	+9	+10	+11	+12	-12	-11
X	W	V	U	T	S	R	Q	P	O	N	Z	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	K	L	M	Y	X

The system defines the Greenwich / UTC time zone as "Z" (Zulu). Going to the East begins with "A" (Alpha) and goes to "M" (Mike) for the portion of the time zone west of the International Date Line (IDL). The exception is the +10 hr time zone which is labeled "K" (Kilo). "J" (Juliet) in not assigned to a specific standard time zone. West of "Z" the lettering begins with "N" and goes to "Y" for the portion east of the time zone centered on the IDL.

[**Note:** "J" (Juliet) is used to indicate the radio operator's local time. The RTC-TH EmComm practice is to avoid reporting "Juliet" time. You don't know who might receive your transmission. They may not know your time zone so "Juliet" time carries no significance. If you report the time using the NATO time zone format (e.g. 1900 hrs Golf), the receiving station knows your time zone in a very brief, clear, effective manner.] The standard NATO pronunciation for the alphabet and numbers is given in an table on the right.

CHARACTER	MORSE CODE	TELEPHONY	PHONIC (PRONUNCIATION)
A	● —	Alfa	AL-FAH
B	— ● ● ●	Bravo	BRAH-VOH
C	— ● — ●	Charlie	CHAR-LEE or SHAR-LEE
D	— ● ●	Delta	DELL-TAH
E	●	Echo	ECK-OH
F	● ● — ●	Foxtrot	FOKS-TROT
G	— — ●	Golf	GOLF
H	● ● ● ●	Hotel	HOH-TEL
I	● ●	India	IN-DEE-AH
J	● — — —	Juliet	JEW-LEE-ETT
K	— ● —	Kilo	KEY-LOH
L	● — ● ●	Lima	LEE-MAH
M	— —	Mike	MIKE
N	— ●	November	NO-VEM-BER
O	— — —	Oscar	OSS-CAH
P	● — — ●	Papa	PAH-PAH
Q	— — ● —	Quebec	KEH-BECK
R	● — ●	Romeo	ROW-ME-OH
S	● ● ●	Sierra	SEE-AIR-RAH
T	—	Tango	TANG-GO
U	● ● —	Uniform	YOU-NEE-FORM or OO-NEE-FORM
V	● ● ● —	Victor	VIK-TAH
W	● — —	Whiskey	WISS-KEY
X	— ● ● —	Xray	ECKS-RAY
Y	— ● — —	Yankee	YANG-KEY
Z	— — ● ●	Zulu	ZOO-LOO
1	● — — — —	One	WUN
2	● ● — — —	Two	TOO
3	● ● ● — —	Three	TREE
4	● ● ● ● —	Four	FOW-ER
5	● ● ● ● ●	Five	FIFE
6	— ● ● ● ●	Six	SIX
7	— — ● ● ●	Seven	SEV-EN
8	— — — ● ●	Eight	AIT
9	— — — — ●	Nine	NIN-ER
0	— — — — —	Zero	ZEE-RO

- **Date:** Report the date by saying the numbers for the calendar date and the name of the month. Example: 4 June would be spoken as "zero-four June". This avoids confusion over an all numerical date format where 4/6/2012 could mean April 6 to Americans or 4 June to Europeans.

Examples (for time / dates reported in Thailand):
- 2300 hrs, 20 January: "Two-three-zero-zero hours Golf, two-zero January"
- 0530 hrs, 4 June: "Zero-five-three-zero hours Golf, zero-four June"
- 2400 hrs (midnight, end of the day) for 3 July: "Two-four-zero-zero hours Golf, zero-three July"
- 2400 hrs (midnight, start of the day) for 4 July: "Zero-zero-zero-zero hours Golf, zero-four" July.

Additional Discussion about Juliet Time: The RTC-TH EmComm policy is to NOT use Juliet time in radio messages. When in doubt, always report the time / date using the NATO alphabetic letter "G" (Golf) for the +7 hour standard time zone. This way it is very clear what the time / date are at your station. You avoid making mistakes in time conversions. You transmitted message is brief and clear.

QSL Cards: Time / Date format for QSL cards will use "Z" (Zulu) time as these are not considered EmComm situations.