

NEW MILLENIUM MORSE  
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ABSTRACT

This covers aftereffects of 5 WPM Morse on Computer Assisted Communication (CAC) system proposed in the 17th ARRL and TAPR Proceedings. A prototype in ARRL's Library is indexed C-135-1. R & D on this began in 1989.

KEY PHRASES

Encrypted message benefits, Digital Shorthand messages, improved Q-code system, international CAC system standards

CAC SYSTEM AND 5 WPM MORSE CAN OFFER HAMS BIG BENEFITS

Many hams wonder why they need Morse anymore, at what rate of sending that it should be exchanged, etc. Such talk preceded FCC's 5 WPM CW test ruling. Controversial arguments alleged Morse had become obsolete! We disagree. Modern definitions of word "code" remind about code's typical benefits. Webster's Encyclopedic Unabridged Dictionary (copr. 1996) offers this definition:

17. a. the system of rules shared by participants in an act of communication, making possible the transmission and interpretation of messages; b. (in socialistic theory) one of two distinct styles of language use that differ in explicitness and are sometimes thought to be correlated with differences in social class.

Hams do enjoy a "class distinction" bestowed by governments. To enjoy this, they must pass license tests and specify their station's locations precisely. Hams often send short Q-codes for "explicit communications." These codes are also very useful for foreign contacts. Actually, hams didn't invent Q-codes...they adopted many from those used by maritime services. We presumed this after reading old codes in ARRL's 1940 pre-WWII handbook. Three examples are as follows:

QTI What is your true course?

QTJ What is your speed?

QUJ Will you indicate the true course for me to follow,  
with no wind, to make for you?

Code QUJ is a classic example of "encoded explicitness" which could also be sent instead as "123." in digital form (with far less dots & dashes)!

Modern technologies expand the text and graphics which can be stored and downloaded via remote-control type digital systems. Our question now is: Can digital systems be kept updated periodically despite rapidly advancing technologies? FCC forbids encryptions presently, but proposed encryptions would be in the public domain. Another important question we ask is: Can digital systems be made for aiding hams who have disabilities like hearing loss or blindness?

To keep future system's costs low, we presume publishers (especially ARRL) would be permitted to include advertizer type information in software, manuals, etc. for digital cross-referencing. That would benefit hams by allowing them to show pictures of their equipment or discussing various technical features, etc.

We are deeply indebted to the mariners who appreciated and invented the construct of encrypted messages. Those lent practical ways to communicate during normal times and times of emergencies. Rather than abandoning useful encoded systems, hams should seek to modernize them to enjoy the benefits they can offer us!