NARS SITREP APPLICATION

OPERATOR'S MANUAL



NARS COMMUNICATIONS SITREP

OPERATOR MANUAL | VERSION 2.2 | Windows and macOS

This guide describes Version 2.2 of the Navy-style NARS Communications SITREP application. The application records station communications status, saves local reports, and prepares a message for direct pasting into a communications module. The official NARS logo appears in the header.

1. Starting and sizing the application

The dashboard automatically adapts to available display space. On large screens it shows three panels; on smaller windows the panels reorganize into two or one column. Resize by dragging a window edge. Scroll vertically to reach fields not currently visible. The application remembers the preferred window size when possible.

2. Entering station and operator information

Section 1: Select Name of Station (NARS.00 through NARS.100). **Section 2:** Enter Station Call Sign(s). **Section 3:** Enter City, State, ZIP, and optional six-character Grid Square. Enter the operator's **Last Name** and **First Name** in the separate boxes above Section 4; the screen displays a comma between the two fields.

Section 4: Brief Summary of Communications Capability. **Section 5:** Force Protection Condition (FPCON). **Section 6:** Reporting Method to NARS. **Section 7:** Communications: Radio, Computer, Phone, Video, Satphone, Cell (Y/N/NA). **Section 8:** Infrastructure: Power, Water, Food (Y/N/NA). **Section 9:** Requests for Support. **Section 10:** Main Recovery Inabilities. **Section 11:** Nearest Naval Base(s).

3. Narrative numbering in Sections 4, 9, 10, and 11

Use a lettered main entry for each subject and a numbered subentry for supporting detail. The MESSAGE output retains this structure and indentation. In the narrative editor, Tab on a new line creates a numbered subentry. Example:

```
4. BRIEF SUMMARY OF COMMUNICATIONS CAPABILITY:

   a. HF

      (1) Very good across US and into AK

   b. VHF/UHF

      (1) Limited as a result of being behind a hill
```

4. Creating the MESSAGE

Click **MESSAGE** to open a separate white window with black text. The message begins immediately with **1. NAME OF STATION**; there is no application title, separator, operator header, or updated timestamp in the message body. Review or edit the text in this window before sending.

Use **Save to a File** to write a text file, **Save to Clipboard** to copy the entire message for direct pasting, and **Close** to exit the message window. Changes made only in the message window are not automatically written back into the main report fields.

5. Section 12 transmission line

Section 12 is **one continuous slash-separated line**: Call Sign(s) / First Name / City, State / Nearest Naval Base(s) / Reporting Method. Multiple naval bases are combined in the same field with an ampersand; do not create separate a./b. entries for Section 12.

```
12. AD7XL/NNA0LY/Terry/Henderson, NV/NAS Fallon & San Diego Naval base/HF
```

6. Spell checking and personal dictionary

In the MESSAGE window, click **Check Spelling**. Potential misspellings appear in a review dialog. Select an entry to see an editable suggestion, then use **Replace Selected**, **Save Word**, or **Ignore / Close**. Spelling corrections modify the message window text; review before copying or saving.

To permanently accept a radio term such as UHF or VHF, select it in the spelling review and click **Save Word**. Alternatively, highlight a single word in the MESSAGE text and click **Add to Dictionary**. Saved words are recognized in later checks and future sessions on the same computer. Radio call signs and identifiers may be excluded from automatic checking; always proofread operational content.

The spell checker uses the **pyspellchecker** package and its dictionary. The Windows and Mac build scripts install the required package. If spell checking is unavailable, rebuild with the supplied script and review its installation messages.

7. Saving and managing SITREP history

Use the main dashboard's Save control to store a report. The HISTORY table shows four saved records at a time with a scrollbar. Select a row and click **LOAD SELECTED** to restore it, or **DELETE SELECTED** to remove it after confirmation. Saved history and application preferences are local to each computer.

8. Local data and backups

The application stores its records in **~/DegradedCommunicationsSITREP/sitrep_records.json**, settings in **last_station_location.json**, and accepted spellings in **custom_spelling_dictionary.json** in the same folder. Back up these files before changing computers. The files are not encrypted; do not enter classified or otherwise unauthorized sensitive information.

9. Windows installation

Extract the Windows Version 2.2 ZIP into a folder. Run **BUILD_WINDOWS_EXE.bat** on a Windows computer with Python and internet access for required packages. After a successful build, launch the executable from the **dist** folder. Keep the prior working version until the new build is tested.

10. macOS installation

Extract the Version 2.2 macOS ZIP on a Mac with Python 3 and Tkinter installed. Open Terminal, change into the extracted folder, run **chmod +x BUILD_MAC_APP.command**, then **./BUILD_MAC_APP.command**. The script creates **dist/NARSCommunicationsSITREP.app** using PyInstaller. A Mac is required to build the app; the ZIP does not contain a precompiled or notarized app. See README_MAC.txt for security and troubleshooting notes.

11. Quick troubleshooting

Oversized interface: resize the window and use scrolling; check the operating system display scaling. **Spelling check reports no errors:** test with a known typo such as "reslt"; confirm the spellchecker package was installed. **Saved radio word still flagged:** verify it was added using Save Word or Add to Dictionary on the same computer. **Mac app will not start:** check Tkinter availability and the build output; use the provided Terminal instructions.

12. Force Protection Condition (FPCON) Reference

The U.S. Navy uses Force Protection Conditions (FPCON) to communicate the level of terrorist threat and associated protective security measures. The standard conditions are NORMAL, ALPHA, BRAVO, CHARLIE, and DELTA.

FPCON	Definition
NORMAL	General global threat of terrorist activity; routine protective measures apply.
ALPHA (A)	Increased general threat of possible terrorist activity; nature and extent are unpredictable.
BRAVO (B)	Increased or more predictable threat of terrorist activity; additional protective measures apply.
CHARLIE (C)	An incident has occurred or intelligence indicates terrorist action is likely.
DELTA (D)	A terrorist attack has occurred, or intelligence indicates an attack against a specific location or person is imminent.

Important: FPCON is a terrorism-related security condition, not a general disaster or emergency severity rating. Operators should enter the officially established condition; they should not independently assign or raise an FPCON level.

Using FPCON in the SITREP: In Section 5, select the current official condition from NORMAL, ALPHA, BRAVO, CHARLIE, or DELTA. If the condition is unknown, verify it through the appropriate command or installation authority before reporting.

13. Communications and Infrastructure Reference

Use these definitions when completing **Section 7: Communications** and **Section 8: Infrastructure Available**. Report the current operational capability at the station, not merely whether equipment exists.

Section 7 — Communications

Item	Operational definition
Radio	Ability to transmit and receive using station radio equipment and usable radio paths (such as HF, VHF, or UHF).
Computer	A working computer system available for station reporting, logging, or digital communications; assess whether it can perform the required task.
Phone	Ability to make and receive calls using a working telephone service, such as a landline or VoIP phone.
Video	Ability to conduct required video communications or conferencing with working equipment and connectivity.
Satphone	Ability to place and receive calls through an operational satellite telephone and its service.
Cell	Availability of usable cellular service for voice calls and/or text or data communications, as required for the station.

Section 8 — Infrastructure Available

Item	Operational definition
Power	Usable electrical power for station operations, whether from utility service, generator, battery, or another approved source.
Water	Usable water supply for station personnel and essential operations.
Food	Available food provisions sufficient to support personnel for the station’s current operational needs.

How to mark Y / N / NA

Y — Yes: The item is available and operational for its intended station use. **N — No:** The item is unavailable, failed, or not usable for the intended task. **NA — Not Applicable:** The item is not required or does not apply to this station or reporting situation.

Reporting guidance: If an item is only partially functional, select the status that accurately reflects the required capability and describe the limitation in Section 4 or Section 9. Do not use NA merely because an item has failed; use N when it is required but unavailable. These are practical SITREP reporting definitions, not formal Navy equipment-readiness classifications.