

THE BALLISTIC MET MESSAGE IS ENCODED AS FOLLOWS

1. The ballistic met message is arranged to be conveniently transmitted by radio or teletypewriter in groups of six digits or letters.

2. Information data: The first four letters denote that the message is a ballistic met message. The next letter denotes the type of ballistic met message - 2 for surface-to-air trajectories or 3 for surface-to-surface trajectories. The sixth digit is the Q code of the global octant location of the met station, and the following six digits denote the location of the met station in degrees and tenths of degrees. When 9 of the Q code is used, the following six digits denote the clear or coded location of the met station. The third group of six digits denotes the day of the observation, time of commencement of validity in hours and tenths of hours (Greenwich mean time), and duration of validity in hours from 1 to 8; code figure 9 indicates 12 hours. (Note: US forces will always use Q, since period of validity is not predicted.). The fourth group of six digits denotes the station height and the station pressure expressed in percent of standard ICAO pressure. All succeeding groups of six are ballistic data.

3. The following specimen message was transmitted by radio:

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METB31 625468 290250 025001
000701 860163
015510 863162
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EXPLANATION:

- Group 1 Met message for surface-to-surface fire, type 3 message. The met station located in global octant 1.
- Group 2 Center of the area of applicability of the message (station location) 62°30'N; 146°48'W.
- Group 3 29th day of the month. Valid time commences at 0230 hours GMT. Period of validity is not predicted by US units.
- Group 4 Met station is 250 meters above mean sea level. Station pressure is 100.1% of standard ICAO pressure.
- Group 5 For line 00 (surface), the ballistic wind direction is 700 mils and wind speed is 1 knot.
- Group 6 For line 00, the ballistic temperature is 86.0% of standard and the ballistic density is 116.3% of standard.
- Group 7 For line 01 (0-200 meters), ballistic wind direction is 5,500 mils and wind speed is 10 knots.
- Group 8 For line 01, the ballistic temperature is 86.3% of standard and ballistic density is 116.2% of standard.

Q CODE FOR OCTANT OF GLOBE

0 – North latitude	0 – 90 west longitude
1 – " "	90 – 180 west "
2 – " "	180 – 90 east "
3 – " "	90 – 0 east "
4 – Not used	

5 – South latitude	0 – 90 west longitude
6 – " "	90 – 180 west "
7 – " "	180 – 90 east "
8 – " "	90 – 0 east "
9 –	