



## **GDC / AFIS**

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### **Messaging Services**

Utilizing a variety of VHF and satellite datalink communications networks, the Global Data Center (GDC) acts as a communications hub to facilitate thousands of air-to-ground and ground-to-air messages daily. Accessed directly from the aircraft's Flight Management System (FMS), convenient datalink messaging enables flight crews to keep in touch with the ground during all phases of flight.

Through the GDC's flexible message handling system, flight crews may send updated arrival times to nearly any location worldwide, including Customs, FBOs, and the home office. Further, datalink messaging enables crews to stay in control of events on the ground even while airborne. Among other applications, flight crews often use datalink messaging to confirm fuel, catering, and transportation arrangements.

Flight crews can send messages to an e-mail address, fax machine, pager, telephone, and any ARINC/SITA or AFTN address - including other datalink equipped aircraft which subscribe to GDC services. Customized message addresses may also be set up to deliver your message to multiple recipients. All of your time-critical communications receive priority handling from the GDC. For detailed instructions regarding how to send datalink messages, refer to the appropriate Reference Guide.

**ACARS** Aircraft Communications Addressing and Reporting System or DataLink

**AFIS** Airborne Flight Information Systems

To send a message to an aircraft that is registered through GDC, type the full registration number in the address field. This will automatically send a message to that aircraft. For example, to send a message to N\_\_\_\_\_, type '*N\_\_\_\_\_*' in the address field. Common error is to leave out either the "N" or the last two letters of the registration.



The image shows a black terminal-style interface for sending a message. At the top center, it says "SEND MESSAGE" in white, with "1 / 2" in the top right corner. Below this are three fields: "FROM :", "TO :", and "ADDRESS :". The "ADDRESS :" field contains the text "N675QS" in green. At the bottom, there are two white navigation buttons: "◀ AFIS INDEX" on the left and "TRANSMIT ▶" on the right. Dashed green lines separate the fields.

## Common Errors

If the code is not spelled out exactly, the message will go to GDC Ops and they will then manually forward it onto your Ops/dispatch, assuming they can figure out who the intended recipient is. These are often miss-typed. It is usually not a big deal to GDC Ops operationally to forward these on. It can however increase the amount of time it takes the message to be delivered since it requires a manual input from them to forward these.

For messages that they forward to FBOs concerning rental cars, the only information they want is whose name the car is under. Pilots' often send GDC the reservation number but FBOs usually only reference the passengers' name.