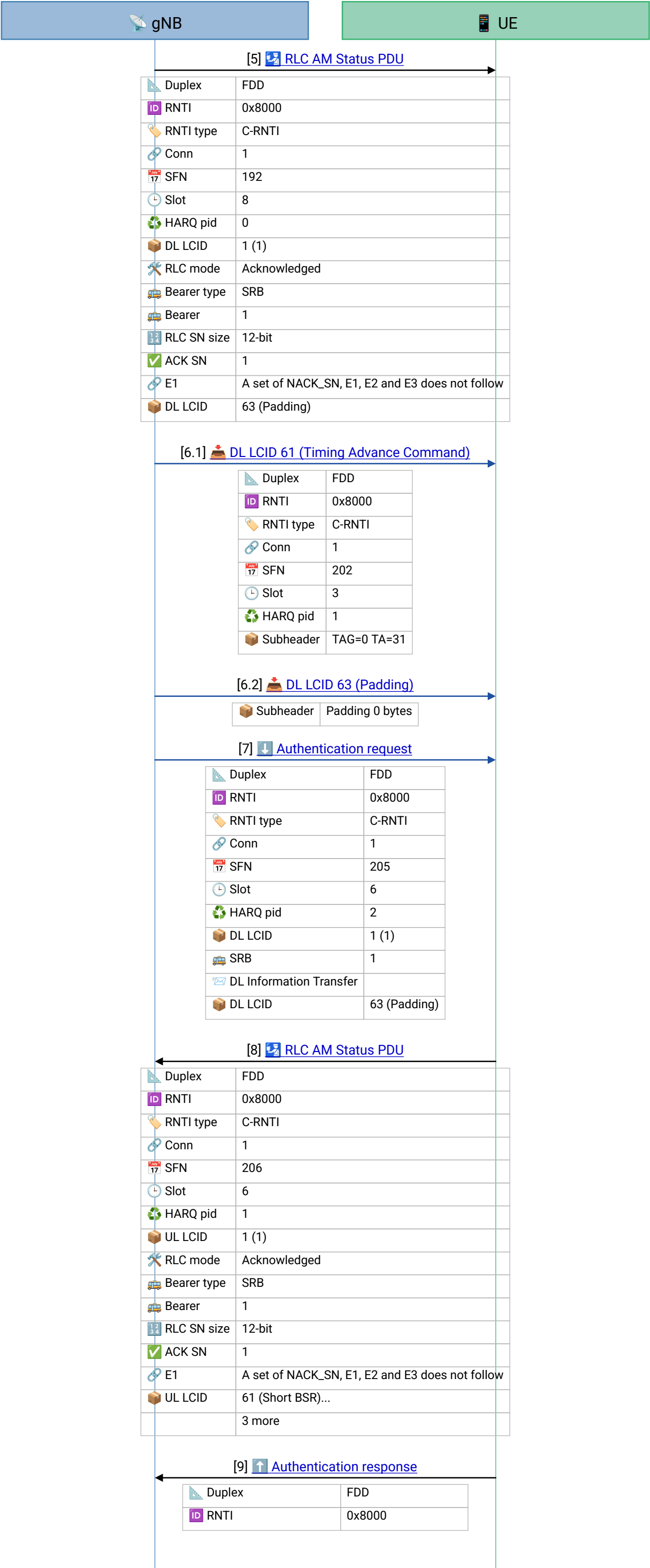
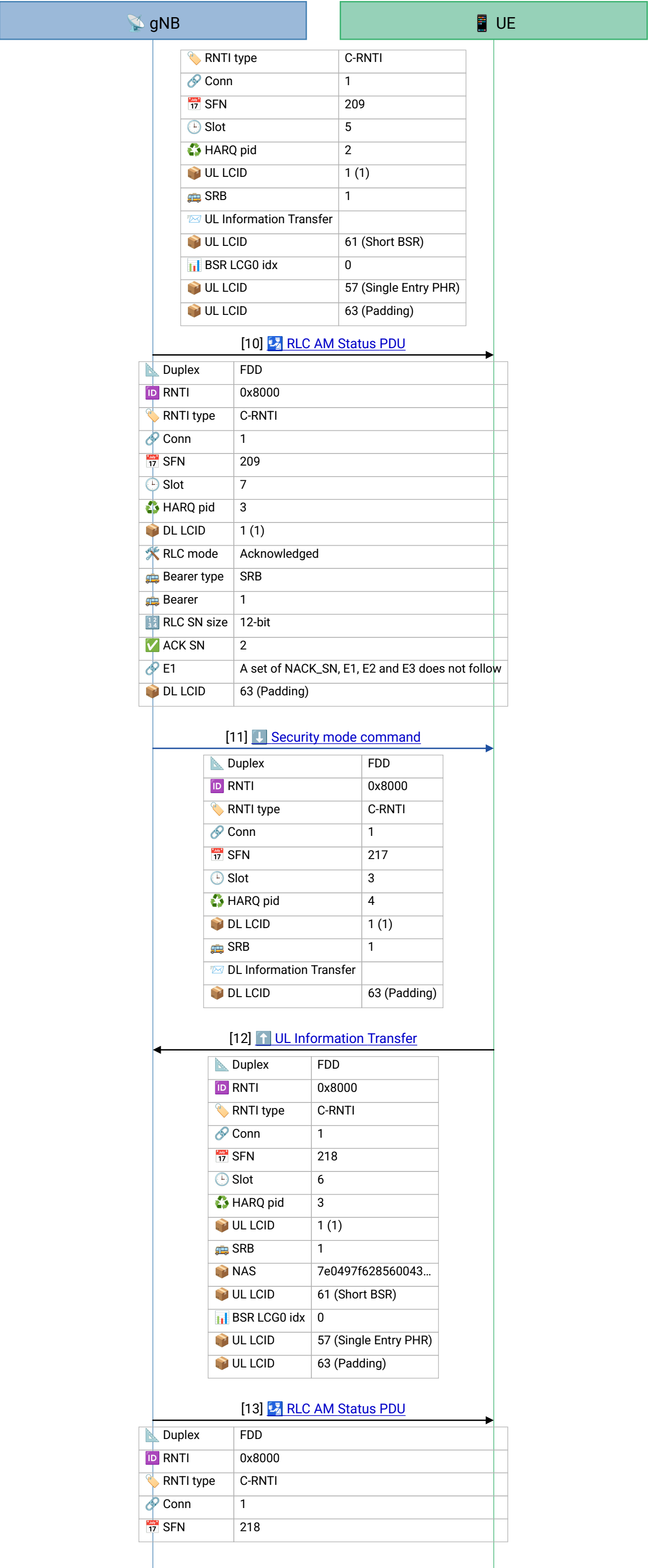




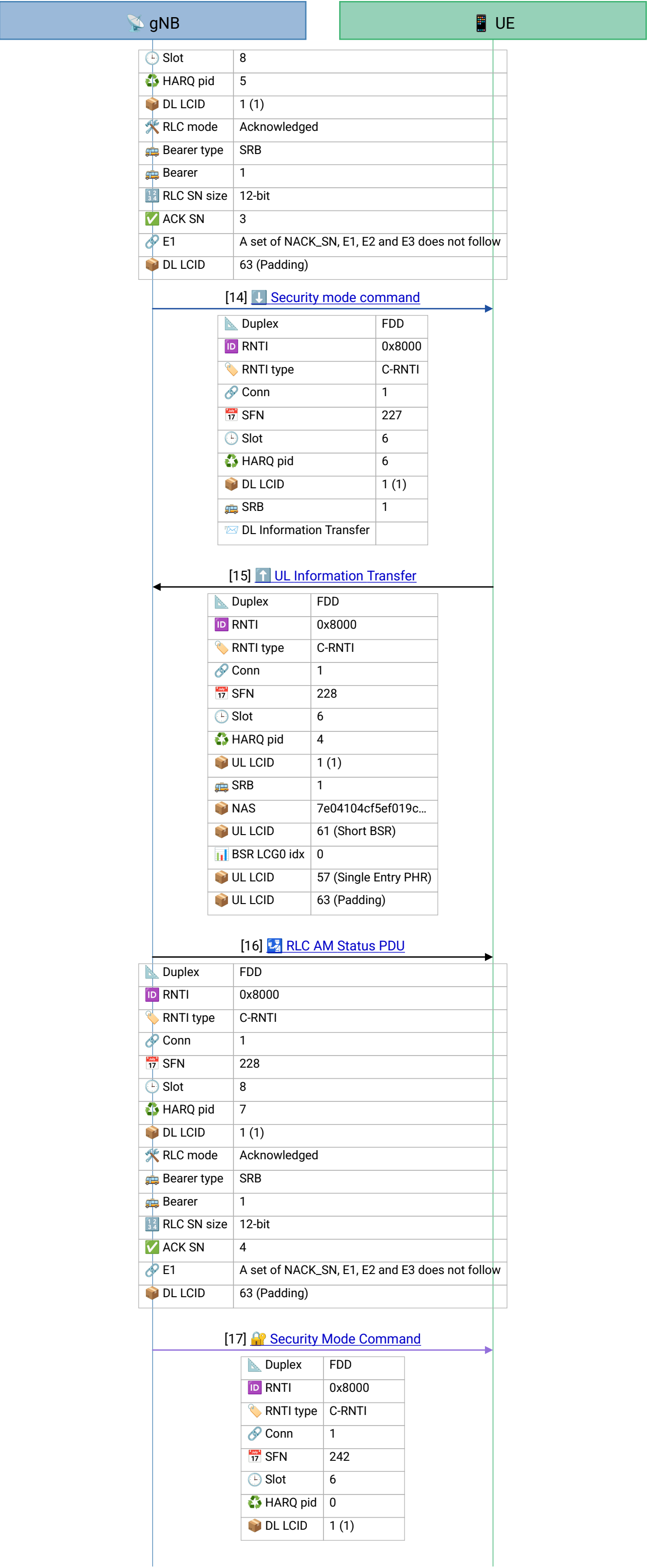


[Frame 10] RLC-AM Status PDU, ACK_SN = 2 – the gNB has now taken the Authentication response.

[Frame 11] **Phase 2 – NAS (core-network) security.** NAS Security mode command from the AMF (security-header type 3, "integrity protected with a new 5G NAS security context"). This activates *NAS-layer* ciphering and integrity – a security context that is entirely separate from the radio-layer one the gNB will set up later. Keep that separation in mind: it is the reason parts of this trace stay unreadable even after we apply the radio keys.

[Frame 12] NAS Security mode complete from the UE (security-header type 4, "integrity protected and ciphered with a new NAS context"). This is the first *NAS-ciphered* message in the capture. Its body is encrypted with the NAS keys — which we do **not** have — so the inner message type is opaque here.

[Frame 13] RLC-AM Status PDU on SRB1, ACK_SN = 3.

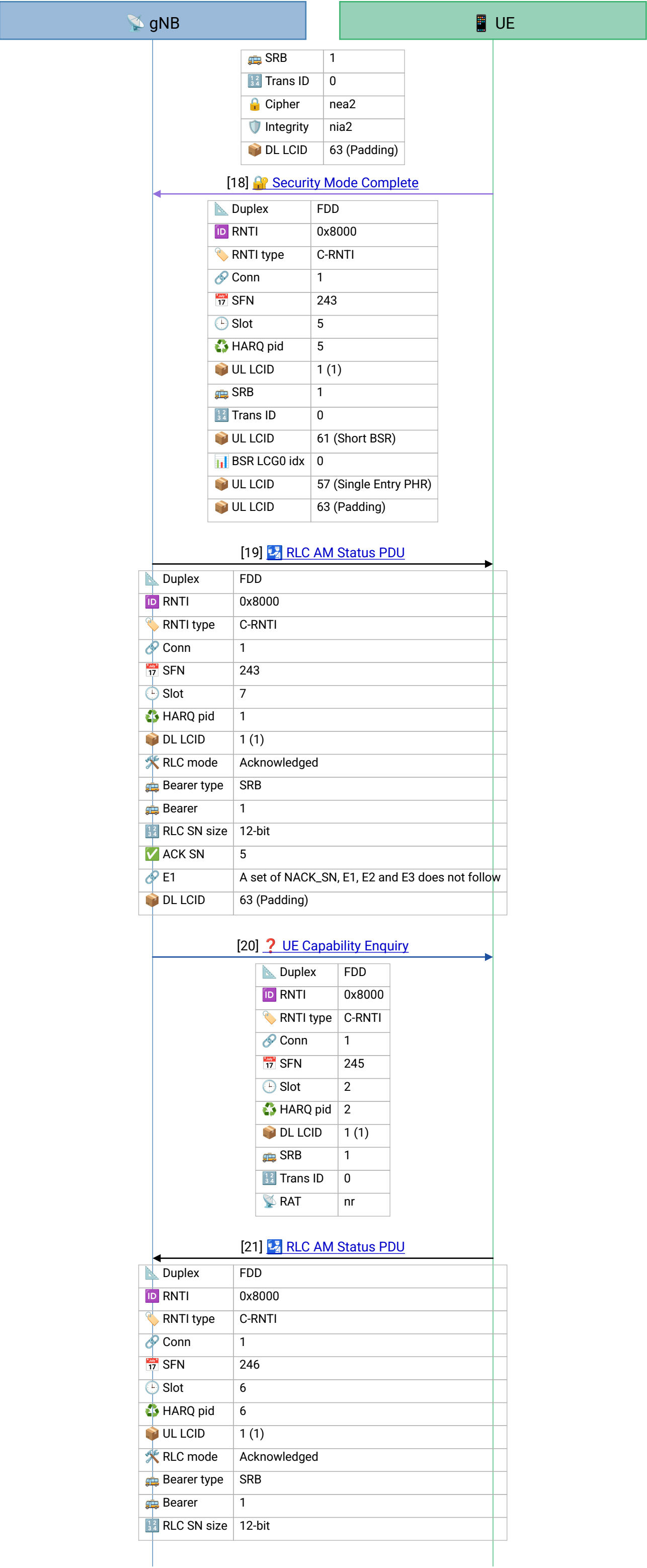


[Frame 14] A **second** NAS Security mode command (again security-header type 3, new context). The AMF runs the NAS security-mode procedure twice back-to-back — the first exchange (frames 11-12) is followed immediately by this one. A second run re-keys the NAS context; in a lab trace like this it is most likely the rig re-establishing NAS security rather than a fault, but it is a genuine second procedure, not a retransmission (the UE's Complete in frame 12 arrived in between).

[Frame 15] NAS Security mode complete for the second procedure (security-header type 4, ciphered). Body opaque, as in frame 12.

[Frame 16] RLC-AM Status PDU on SRB1, ACK_SN = 4.

[Frame 17] Phase 3 – Access-Stratum (radio) security. RRC Security Mode Command from the gNB. This is the *other* security context – the radio one, applied at the PDCP layer. It selects ciphering nea2 (AES) and integrity nia2 (AES-CMAC). From here, PDCP on every SRB and DRB is ciphered and integrity-protected. These are the nea2 keys the work-item-19757 issue publishes, and applying them is what deciphers the rest of this capture.

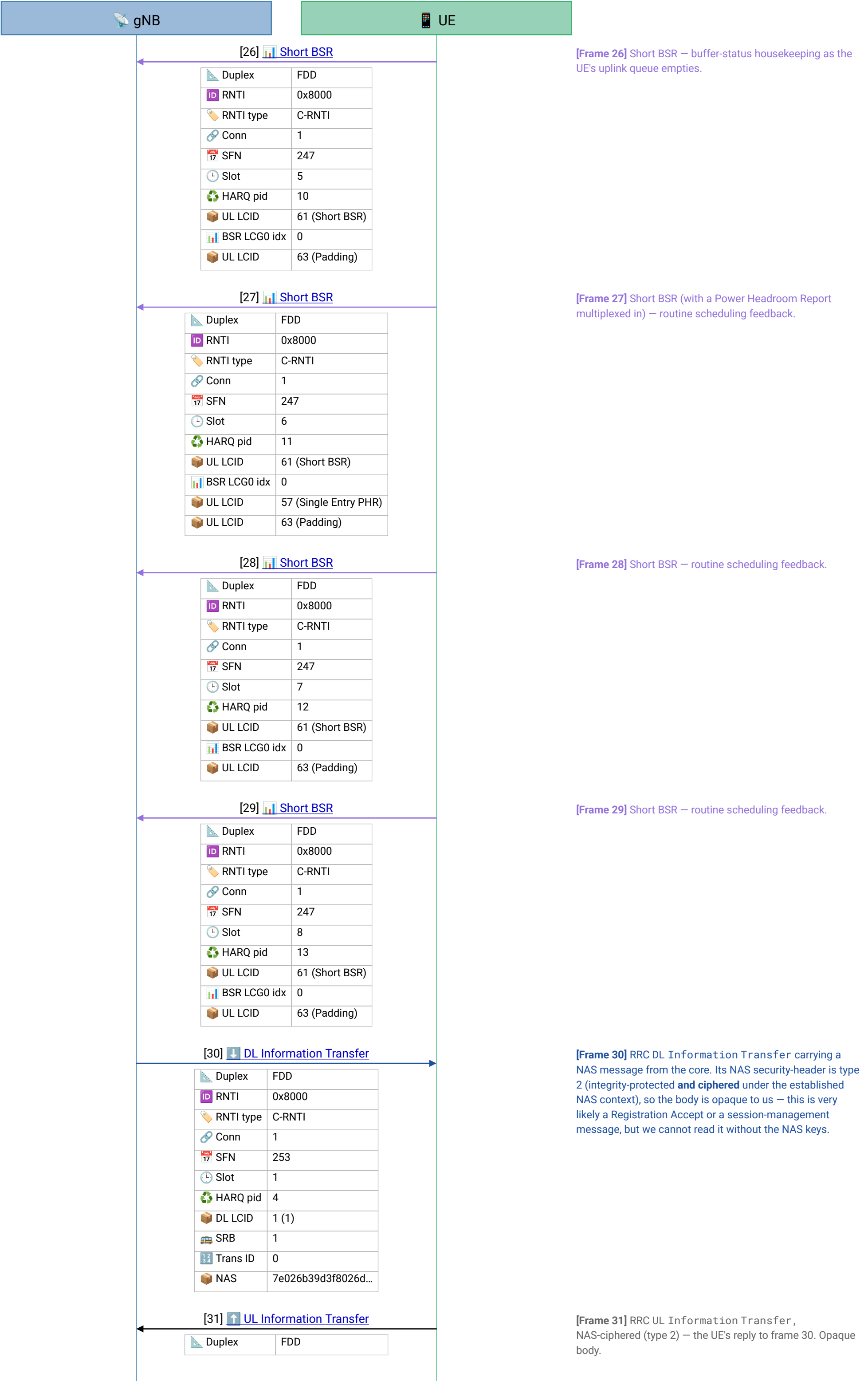


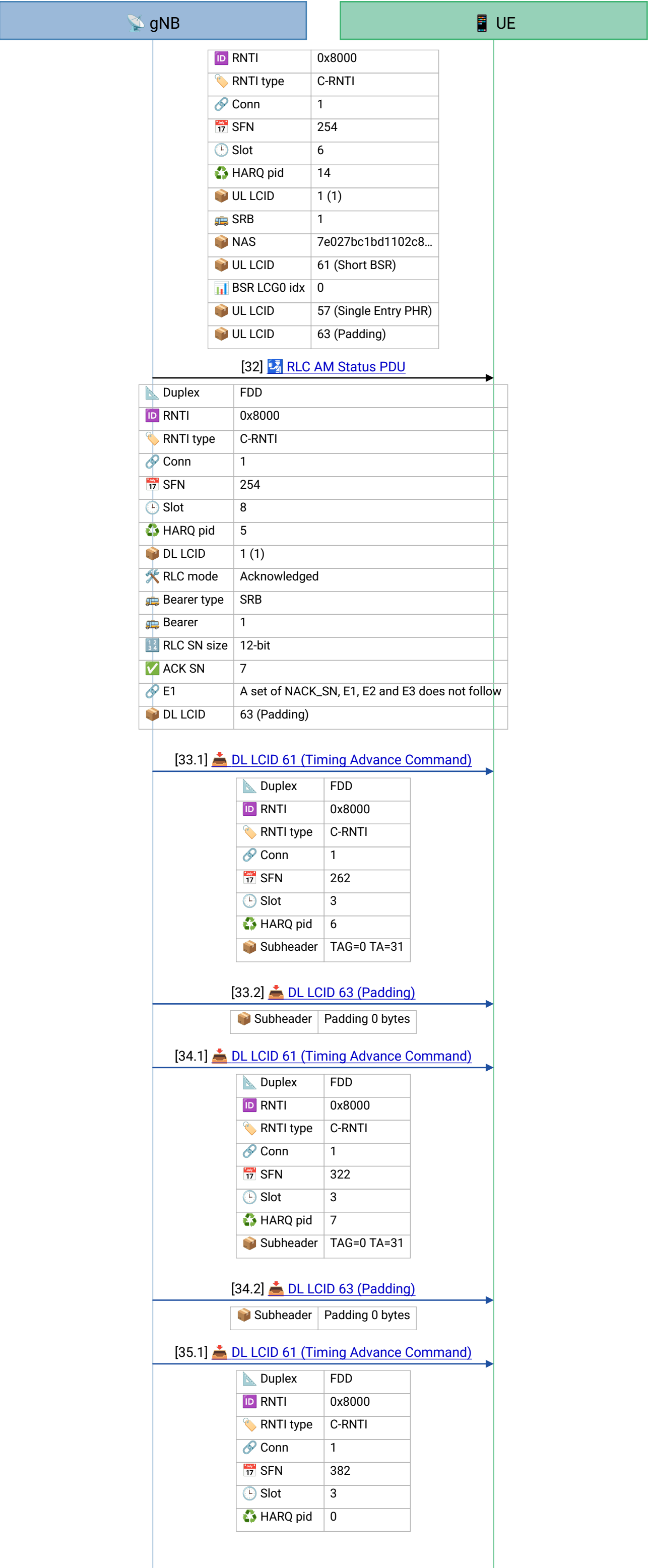
[Frame 18] RRC Security Mode Complete. The UE confirms under the new AS keys; radio security is now mutually active. Note the layering: two Security Mode procedures, NAS (frames 11-16) and AS (here), securing two independent contexts.

[Frame 19] RLC-AM Status PDU on SRB1, ACK_SN = 5.

[Frame 20] Phase 4 – UE capabilities. UE Capability Enquiry: the gNB asks the UE to report what it supports – bands, MIMO layers, modulation orders, ROHC profiles – before it configures a data bearer around those capabilities.

[Frame 21] RLC-AM Status PDU (uplink), ACK_SN = 5, plus a second AM segment starting – the UE Capability Information is large and is being segmented across RLC PDUs.



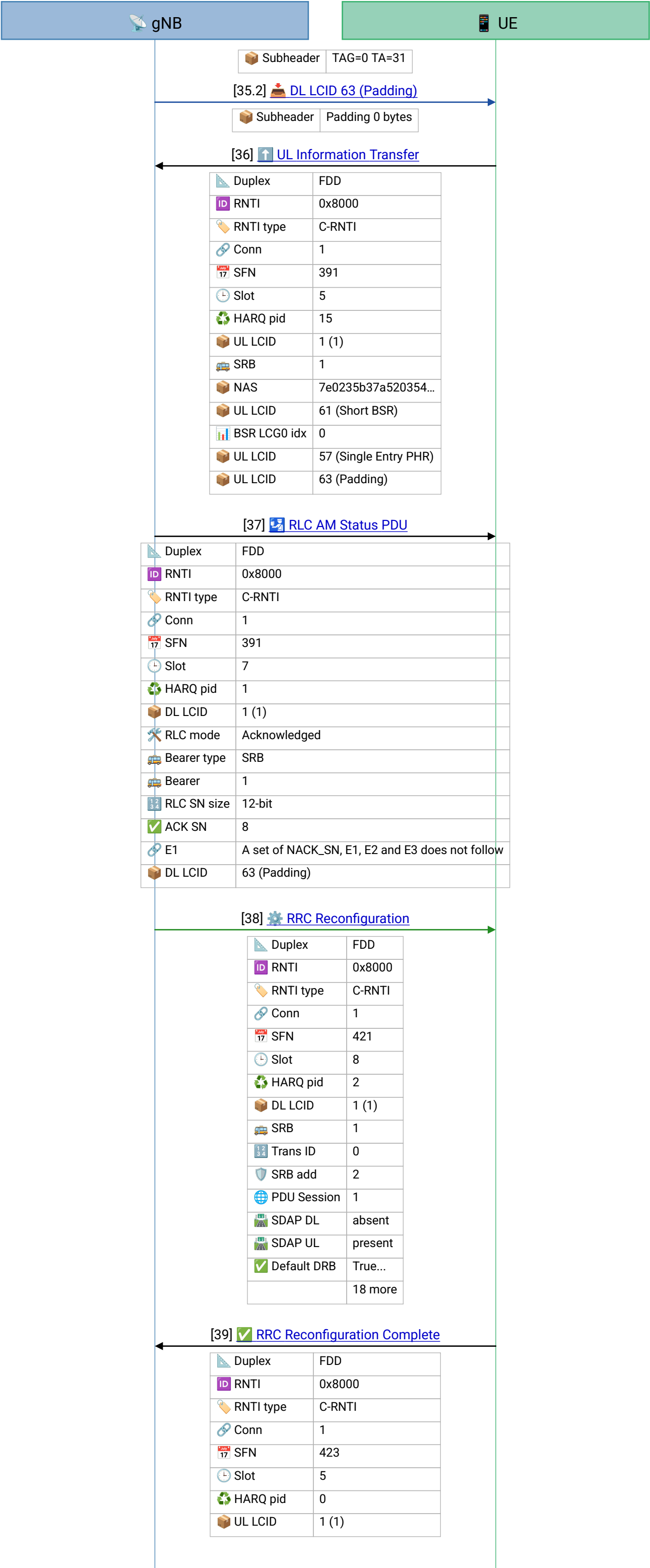


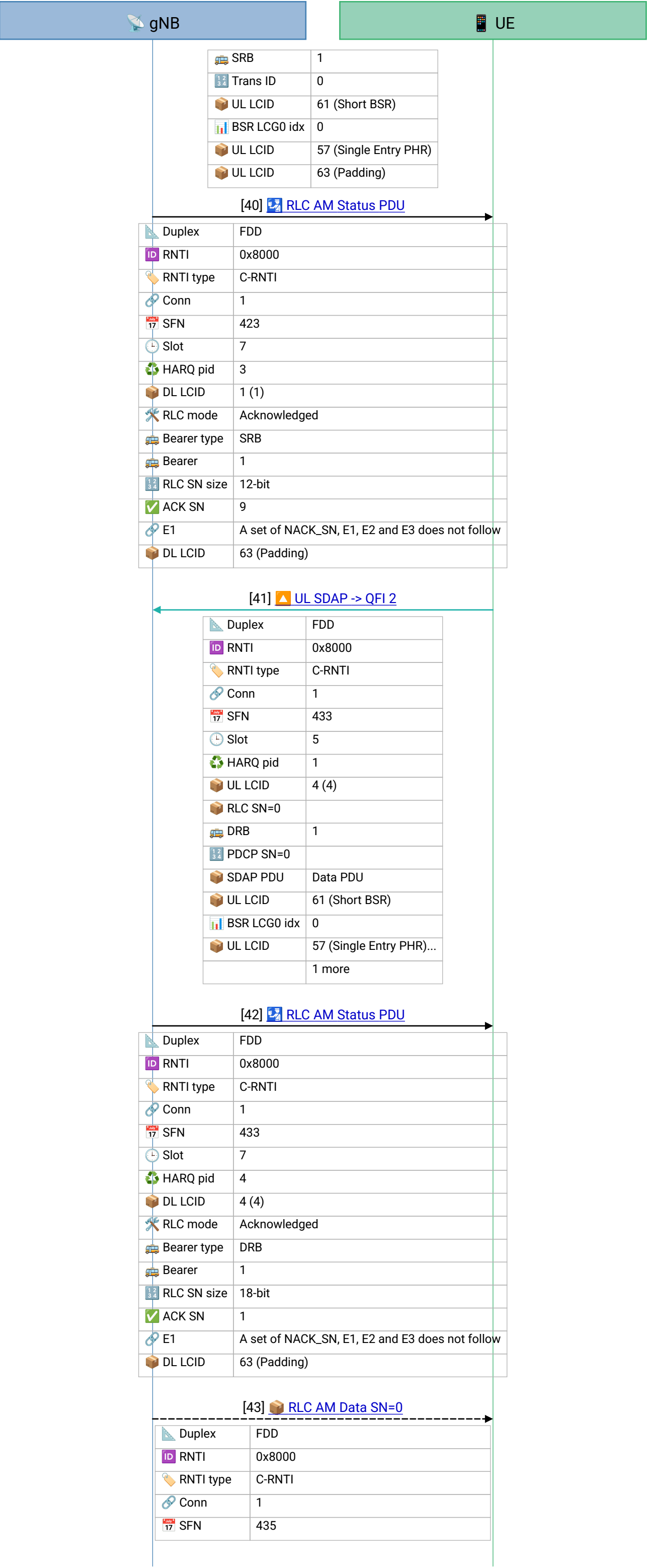
[Frame 32] RLC-AM Status PDU on SRB1, ACK_SN = 7.

[Frame 33.1] MAC Timing Advance Command – link maintenance during a lull in signaling.

[Frame 34.1] MAC Timing Advance Command. The ~ 0.6 s spacing between these is the gNB's periodic TA upkeep while little else is happening.

[Frame 35.1] MAC Timing Advance Command – periodic upkeep.



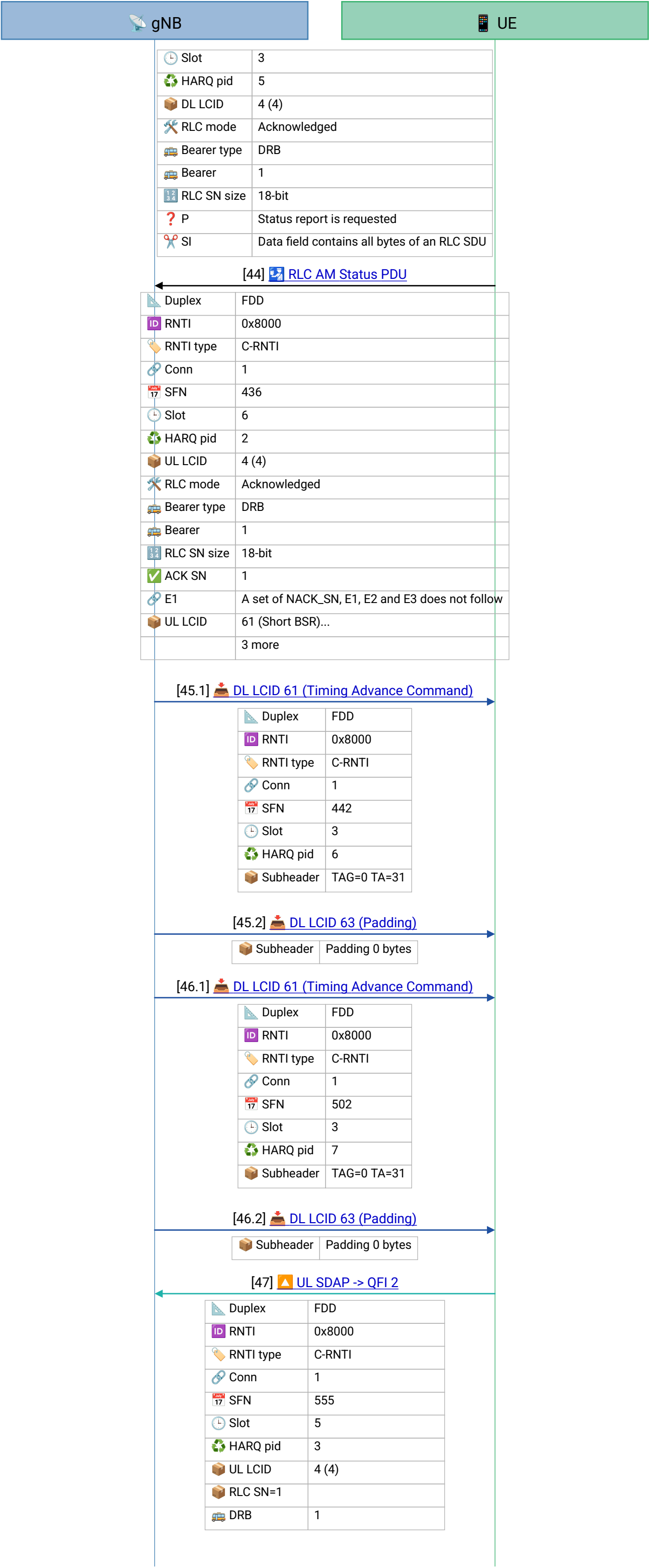


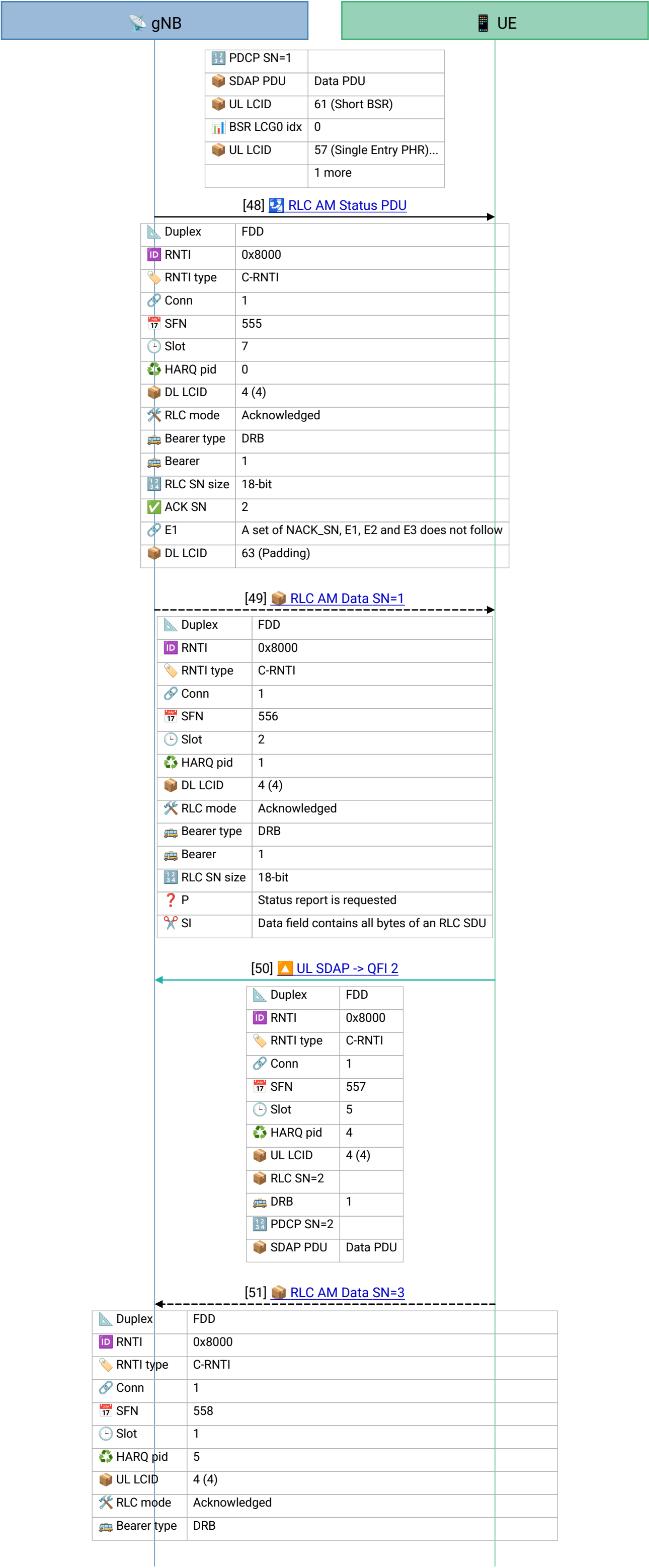
[Frame 40] RLC-AM Status PDU on SRB1, ACK_SN = 9 – acknowledging the reconfiguration exchange.

[Frame 41] Phase 6 – user-plane data on the DRB. The first uplink SDAP Data PDU on DRB 1 . The one-byte SDAP header (TS 37.324) carries the QFI = 2 the UE stamped on its IP packet, so the network knows which QoS flow this belongs to. This – and everything below the SDAP header – only becomes visible because the AS keys deciphered PDCP; without them this is an opaque ciphertext blob. Underneath sits IPv6 (here the start of IPv6 setup); the deeper look at what the user plane actually carries is the subject of the companion decryption article.

[Frame 42] RLC-AM Status PDU on the DRB (ACK_SN = 1 , 18-bit SN) – the data bearer has its own ARQ, distinct from SRB1 's.

[Frame 43] Downlink RLC-AM Data PDU on DRB 1 (SN 0) , a complete SDU, with the Poll bit set to demand an immediate Status PDU back.



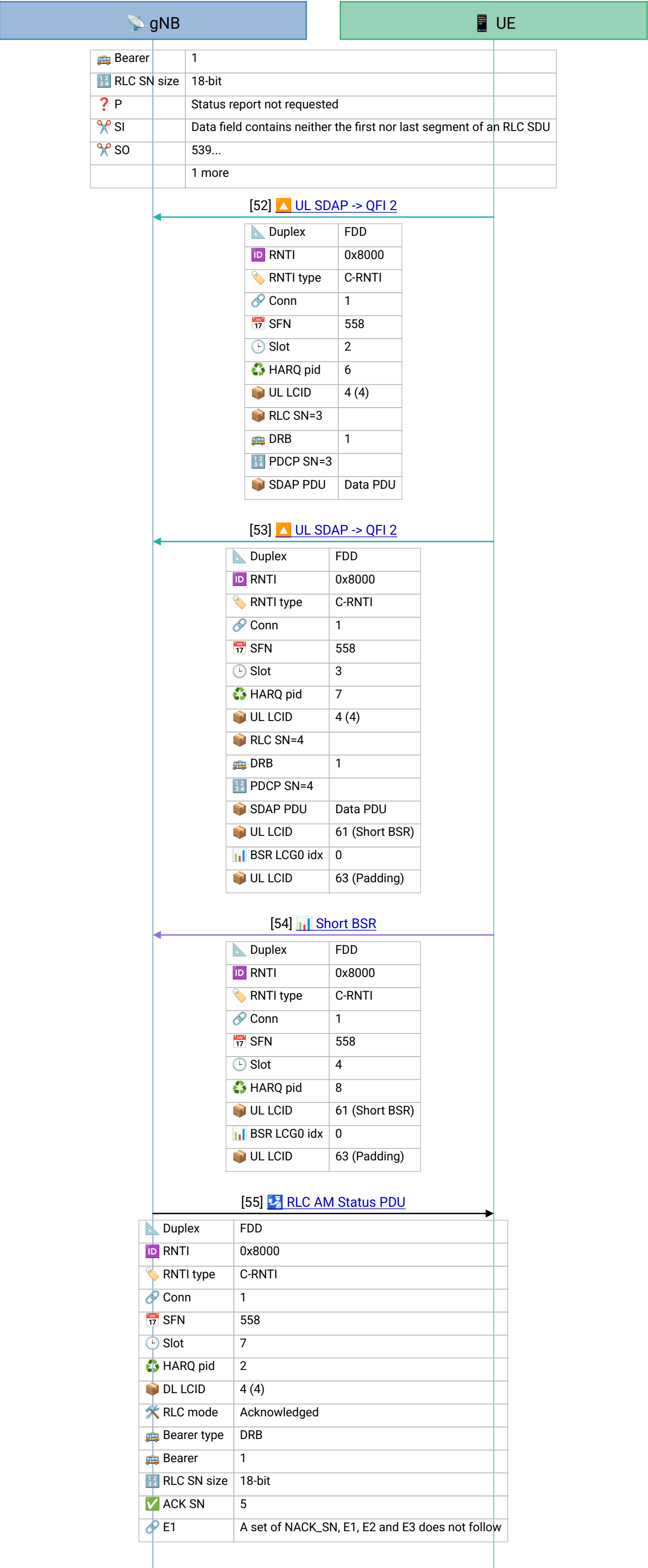


[Frame 48] RLC-AM Status PDU on the DRB, ACK_SN = 2 .

[Frame 49] Downlink RLC-AM Data PDU on DRB 1 (SN 1) ,
Poll bit set.

[Frame 50] Uplink SDAP Data PDU, QFI 2 (RLC SN 2) , with a second AM segment (SN 3) multiplexed into the same transport block.

[Frame 51] Uplink RLC-AM Data PDU on DRB 1 (SN 3) , a middle segment (SO = 539) of a larger SDU being carried across PDUs.

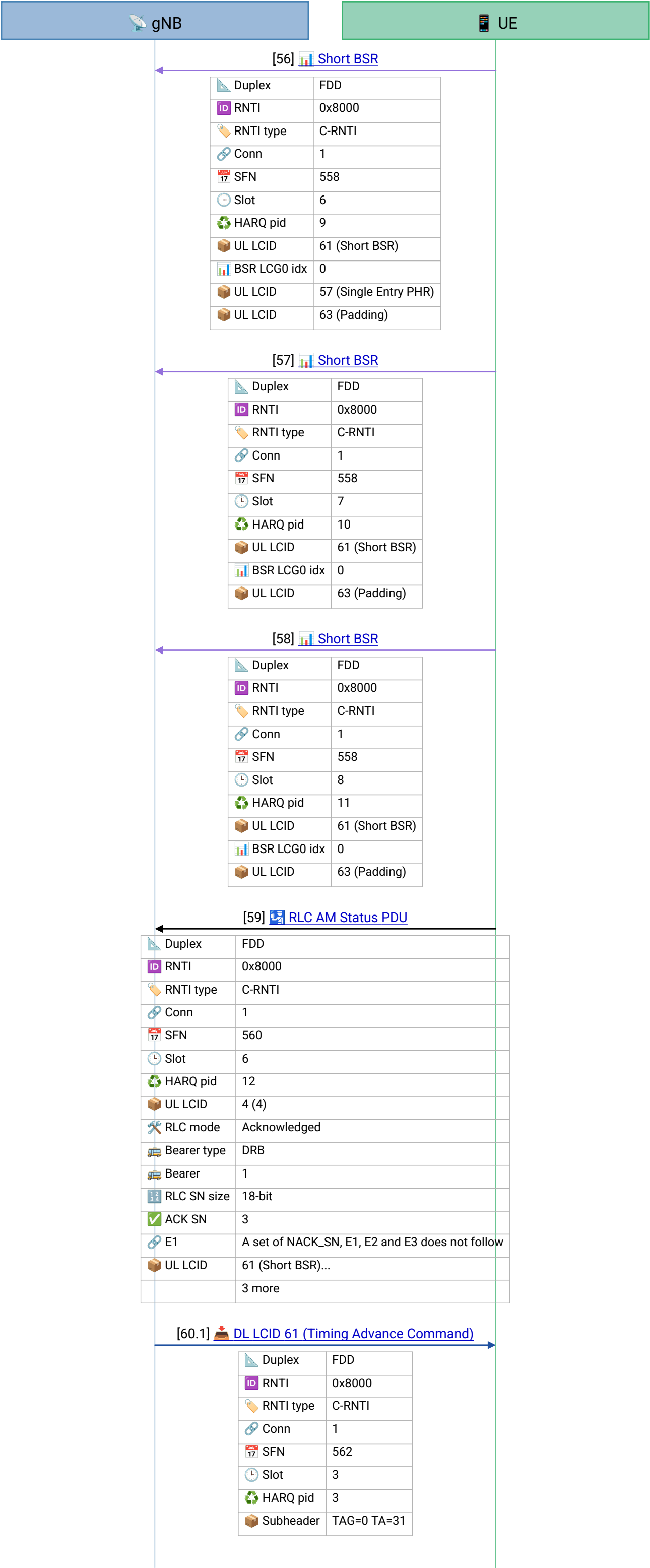


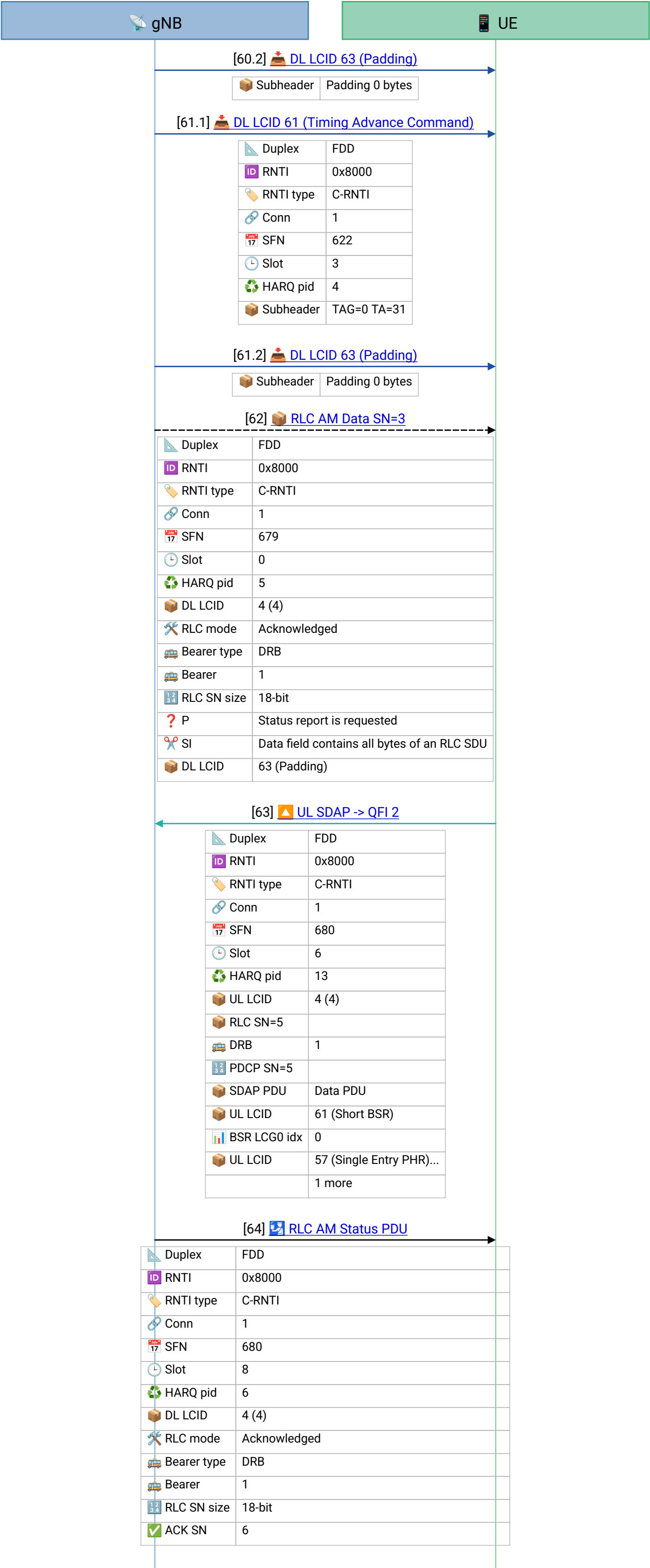
[Frame 52] Uplink SDAP Data PDU, QFI 2 (RLC SN 3 / PDCP SN 3) , with a further segment (SN 4) alongside.

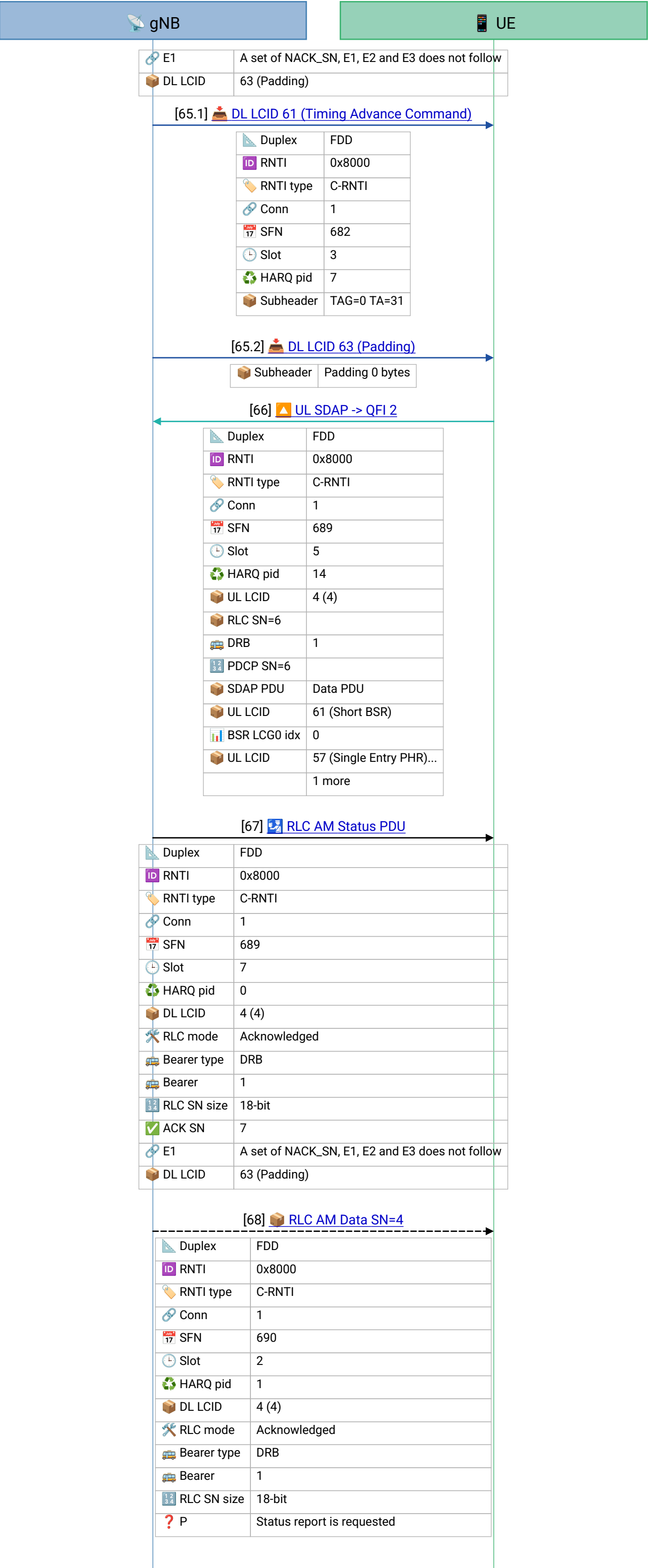
[Frame 53] Uplink SDAP Data PDU, QFI 2 (RLC SN 4 / PDCP SN 4) .

[Frame 54] Short BSR – the UE reporting its remaining uplink queue.

[Frame 55] RLC-AM Status PDU on the DRB, ACK_SN = 5.





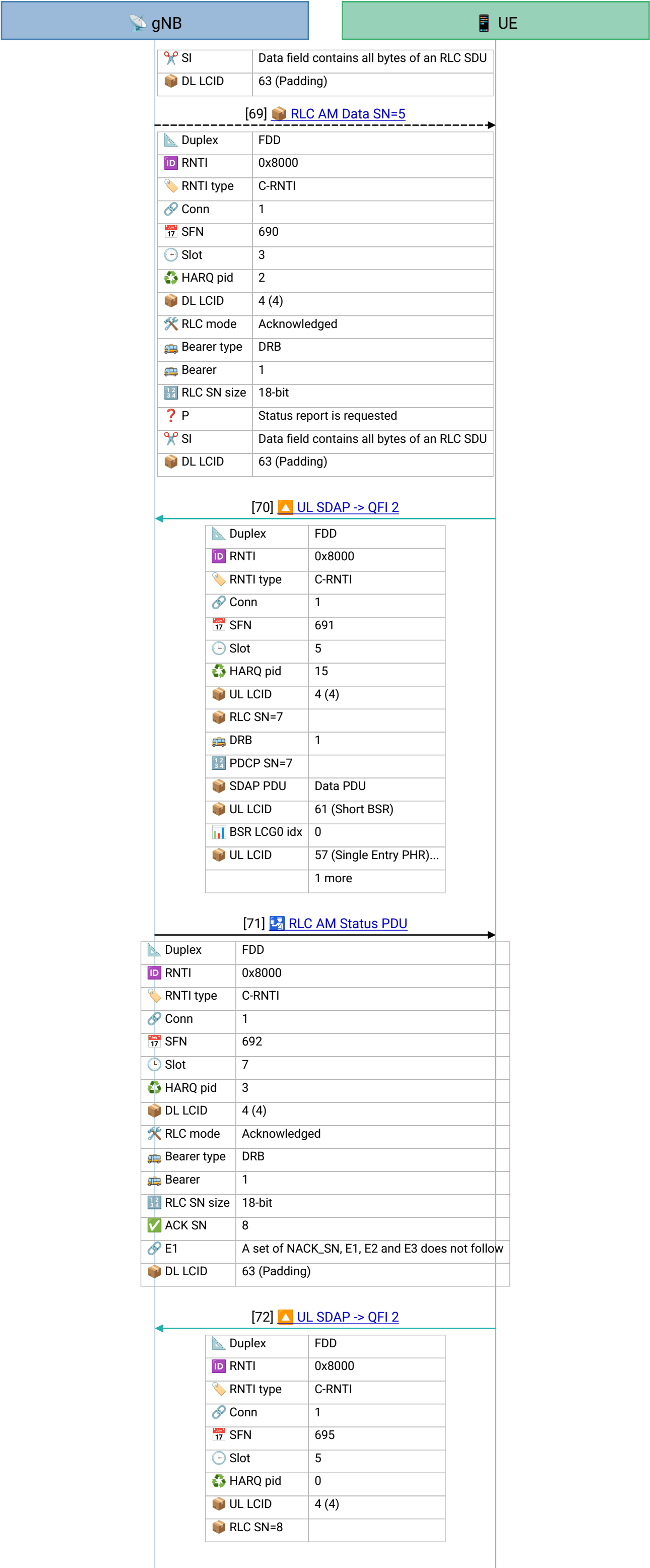


[Frame 65.1] MAC Timing Advance Command – link upkeep.

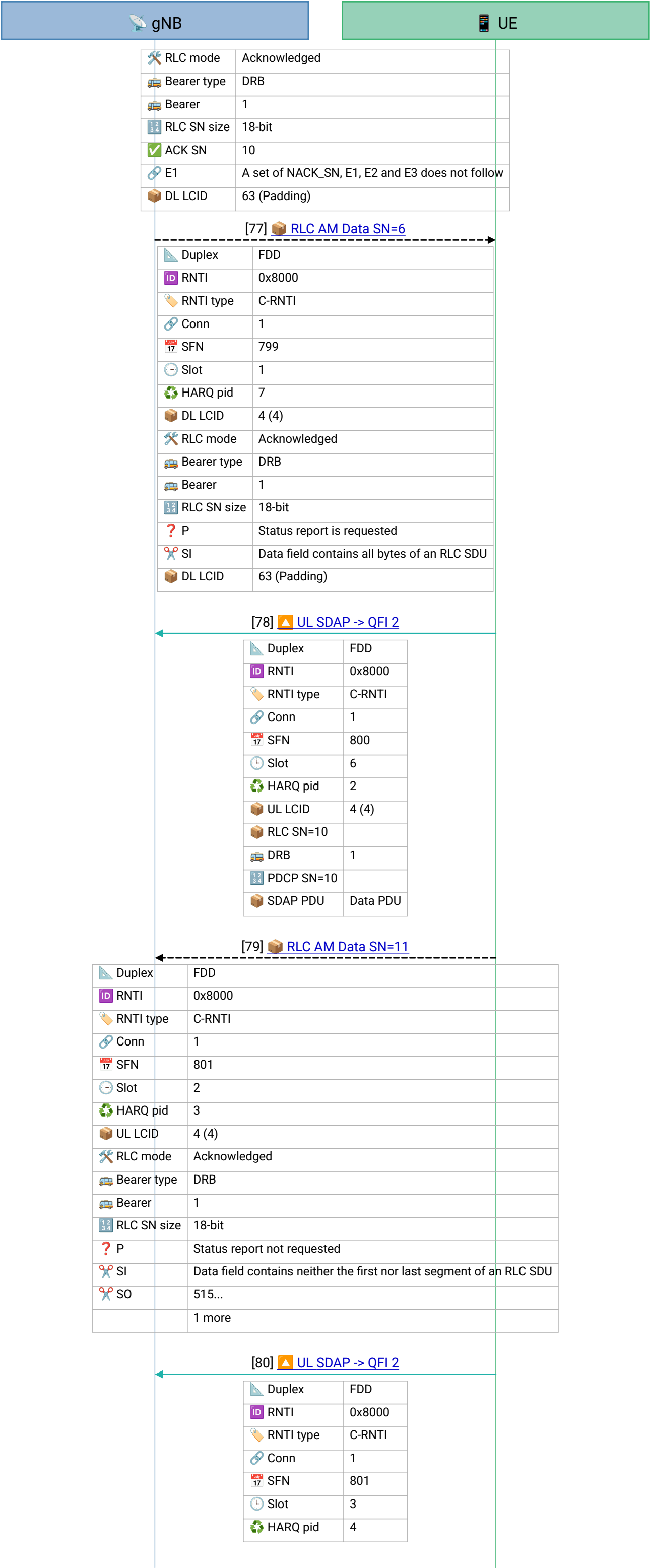
[Frame 66] Uplink SDAP Data PDU, QFI 2 (RLC SN 6 / PDCP SN 6) .

[Frame 67] RLC-AM Status PDU on the DRB, ACK_SN = 7.

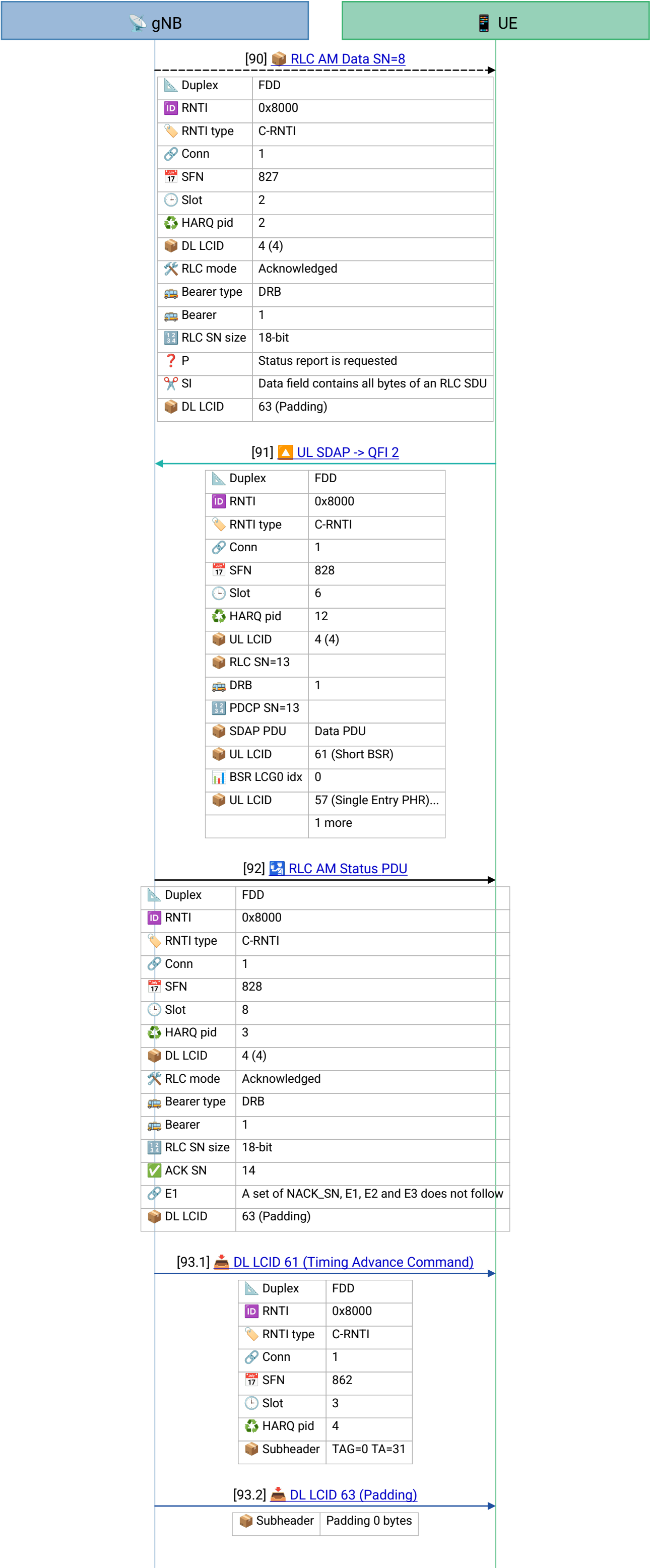
[Frame 68] Downlink RLC-AM Data PDU on DRB 1 (SN 4) ,
Poll set.

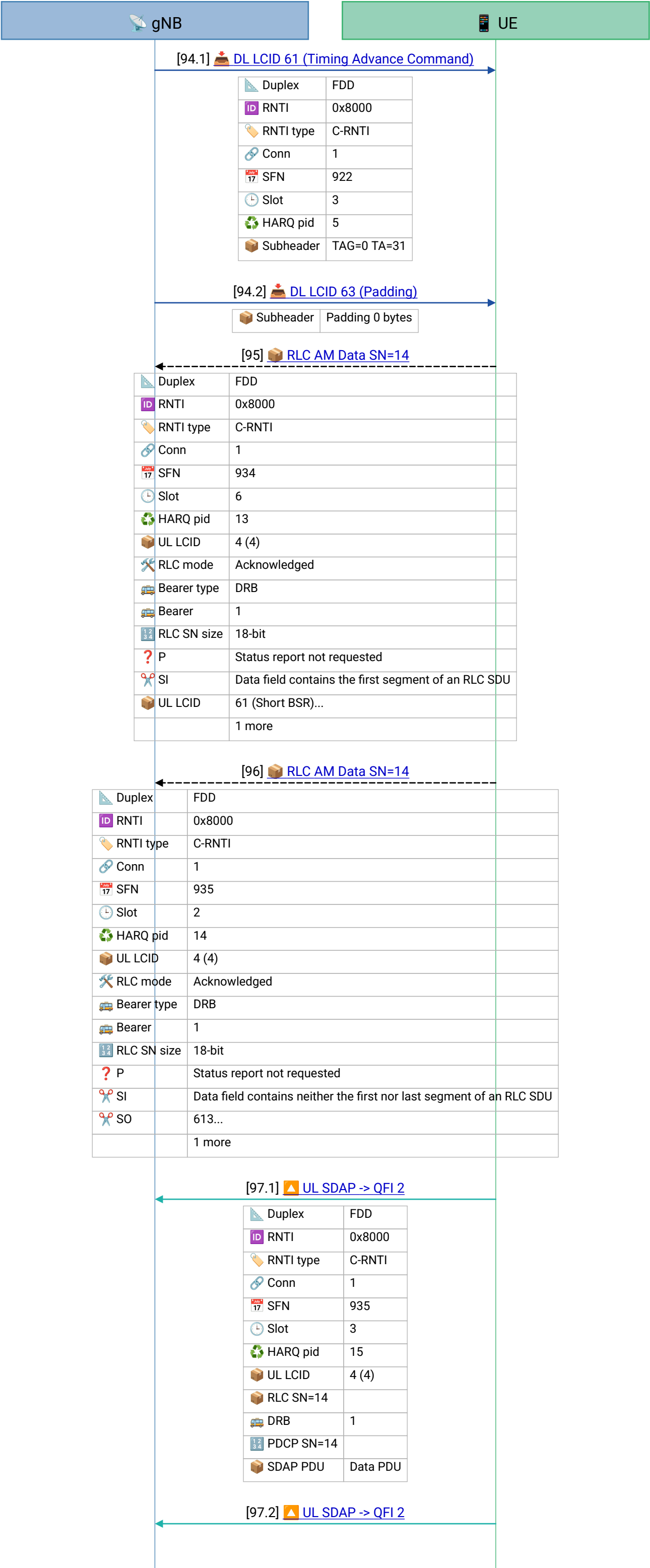


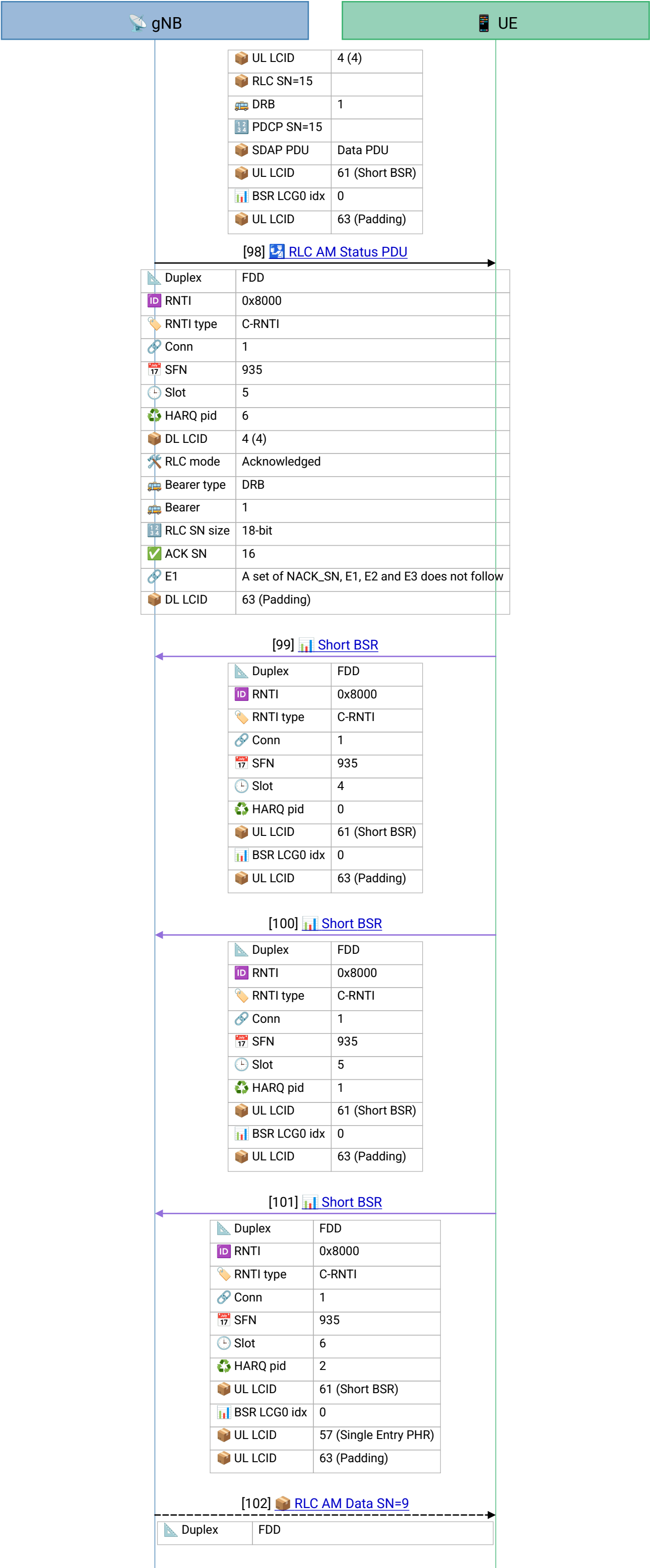












Duplex

FDD

RNTI

0x8000

RNTI type

C-RNTI

Conn

1

17

17

SFN

935

Slot

6

HARQ pid

2

UL LCID

61 (Short BSR)

BSR LCG0 idx

0

UL LCID

57 (Single Entry PHR)

UL LCID

63 (Padding)

[102]

RLC AM Data SN=9

Duplex

FDD

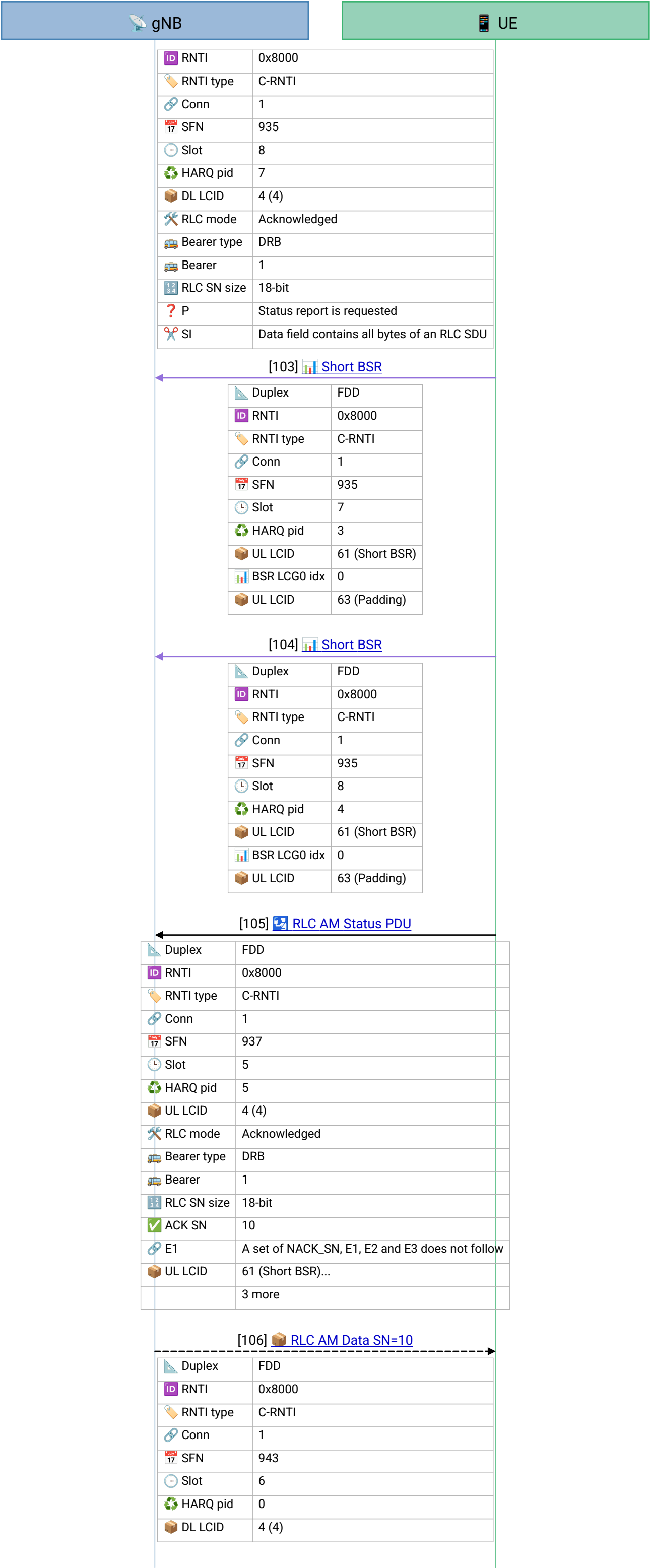
[Frame 98] RLC-AM Status PDU on the DRB, ACK_SN = 16 .

[Frame 99] Short BSR – scheduling feedback.

[Frame 100] Short BSR – scheduling feedback.

[Frame 101] Short BSR – scheduling feedback.

[Frame 102] Downlink RLC-AM Data PDU on DRB 1 (SN 9) , complete SDU, Poll set.

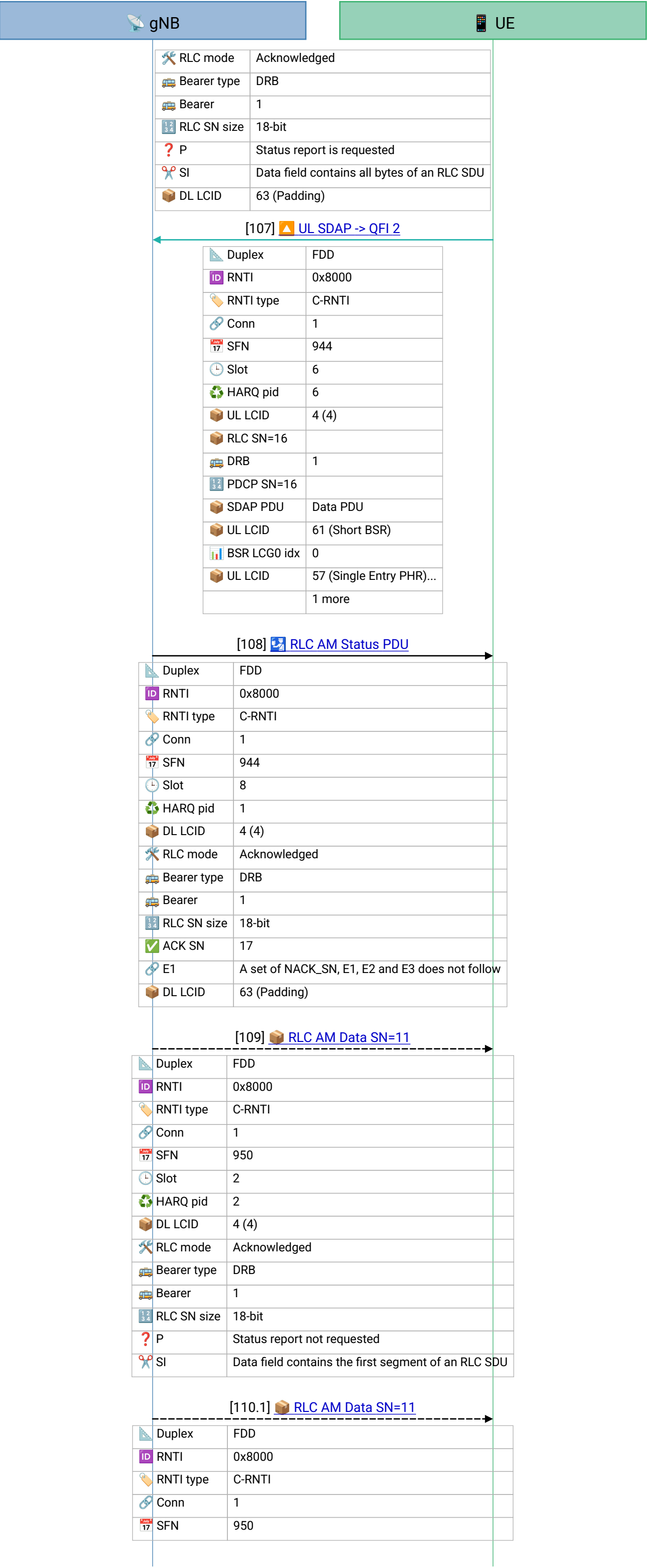


[Frame 103] Short BSR – scheduling feedback.

[Frame 104] Short BSR – scheduling feedback.

[Frame 105] RLC-AM Status PDU (uplink) on the DRB, ACK_SN = 10 .

[Frame 106] Downlink RLC-AM Data PDU on DRB 1 (SN 10) , complete SDU, Poll set.

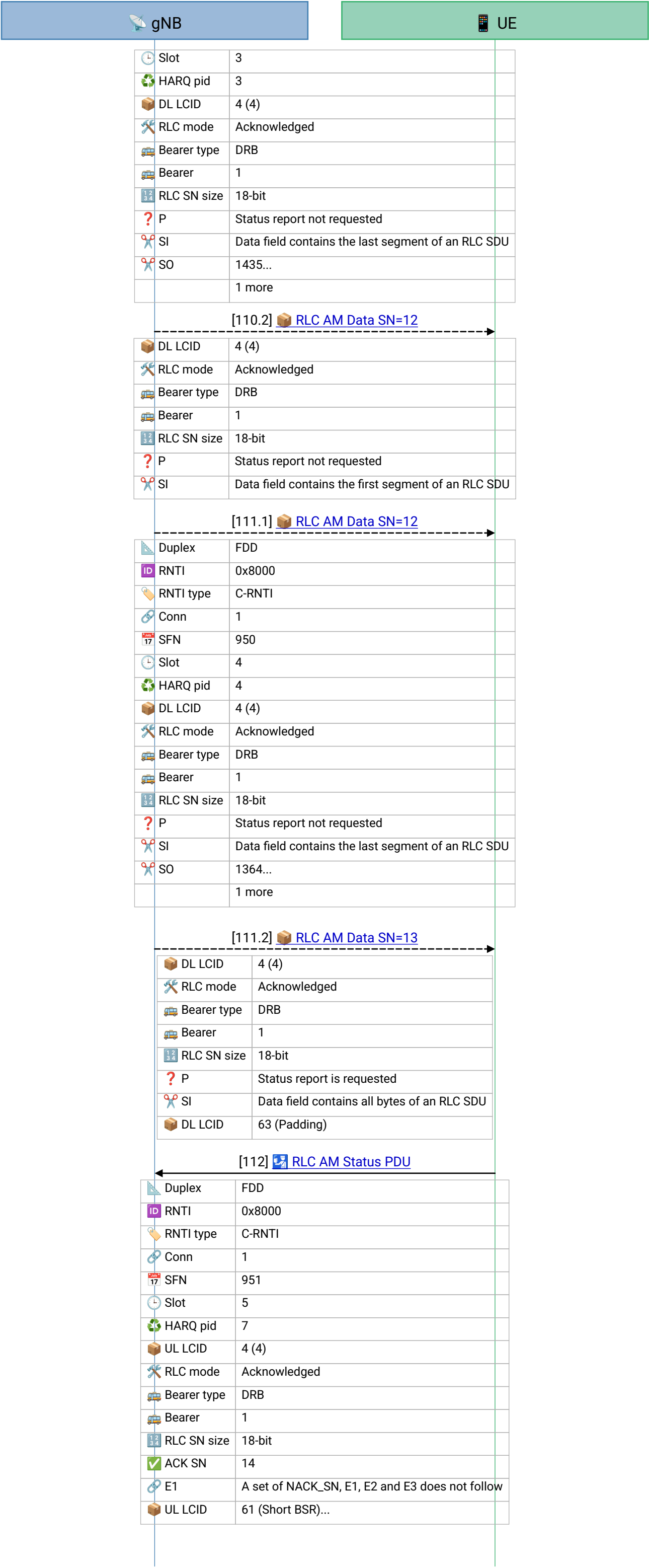


[Frame 107] Uplink SDAP Data PDU, QFI 2 (RLC SN 16 / PDCP SN 16) .

[Frame 108] RLC-AM Status PDU on the DRB, ACK_SN = 17.

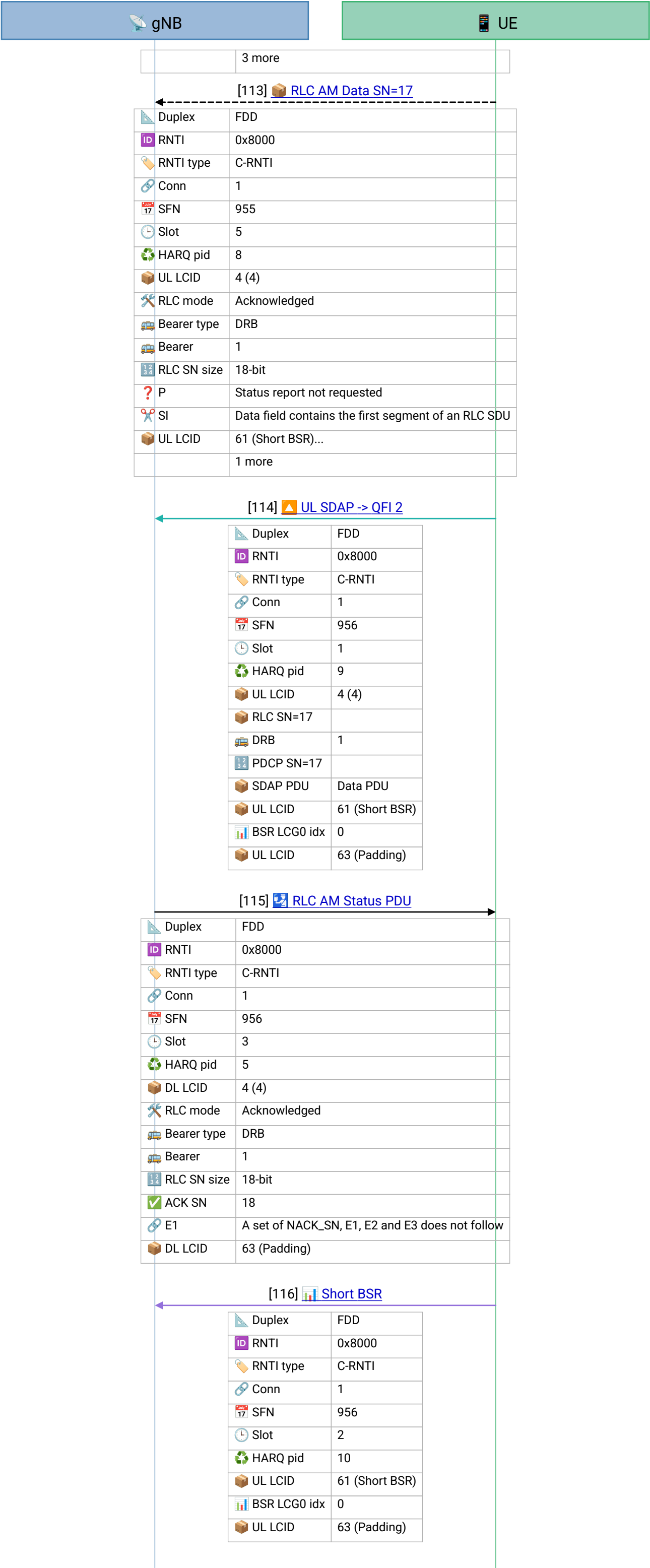
[Frame 109] Downlink RLC-AM Data PDU on DRB 1 (SN 11), first segment of a larger SDU.

[Frame 110.1] Downlink RLC-AM Data PDU on DRB 1 : the last segment of SN 11 (S0 = 1435, reassembled from 2 fragments) plus the first segment of SN 12 – two SDUs' fragments multiplexed into one transport block.



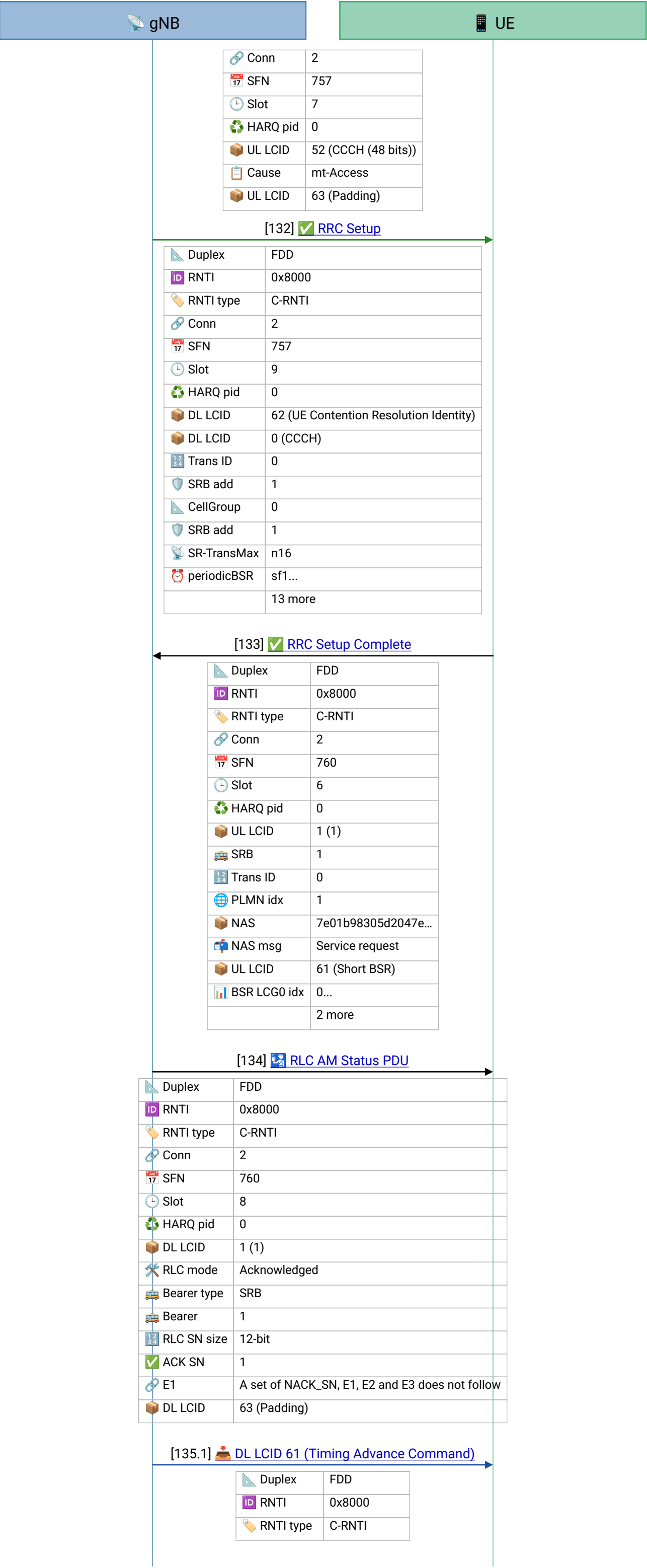
[Frame 111.1] Downlink RLC-AM Data PDU on DRB 1 : the last segment of SN 12 (S0 = 1364, 2 fragments) plus a complete SN 13, Poll set.

[Frame 112] RLC-AM Status PDU (uplink) on the DRB,
ACK_SN = 14 .







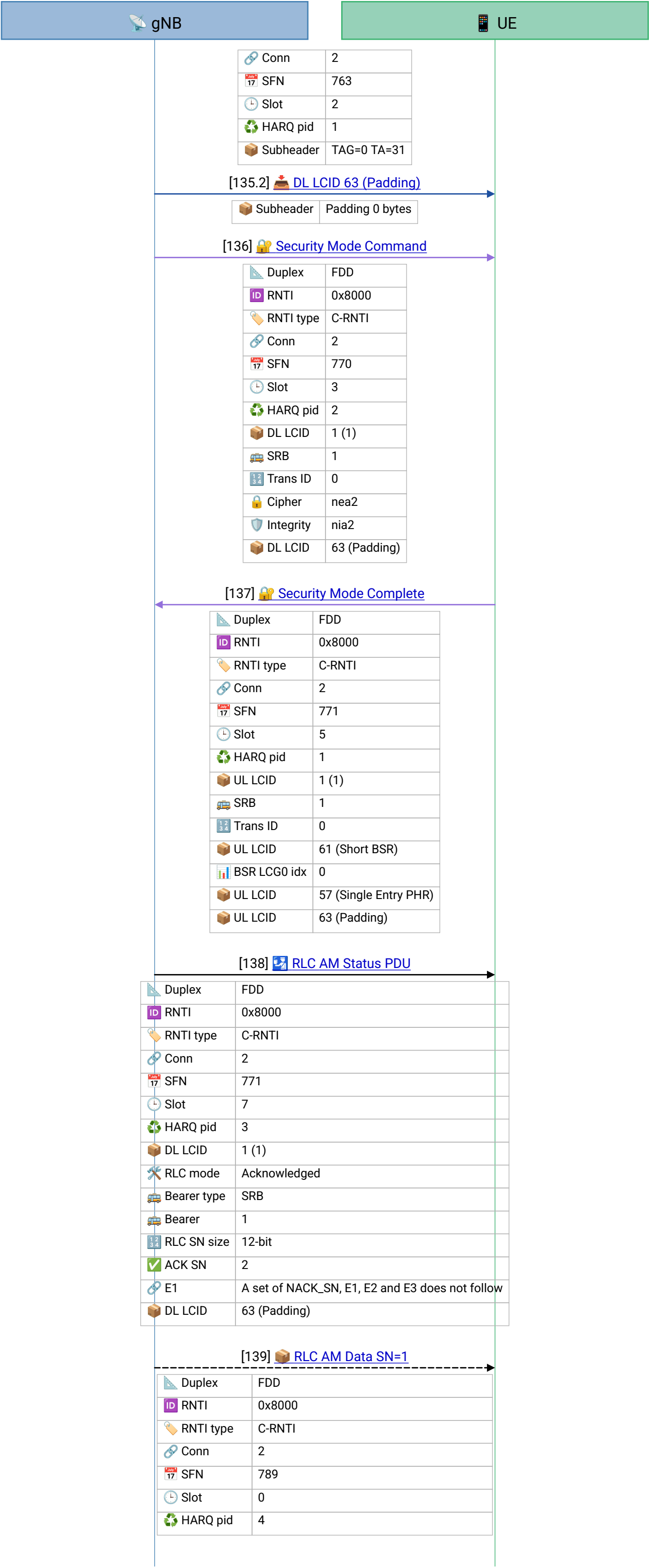


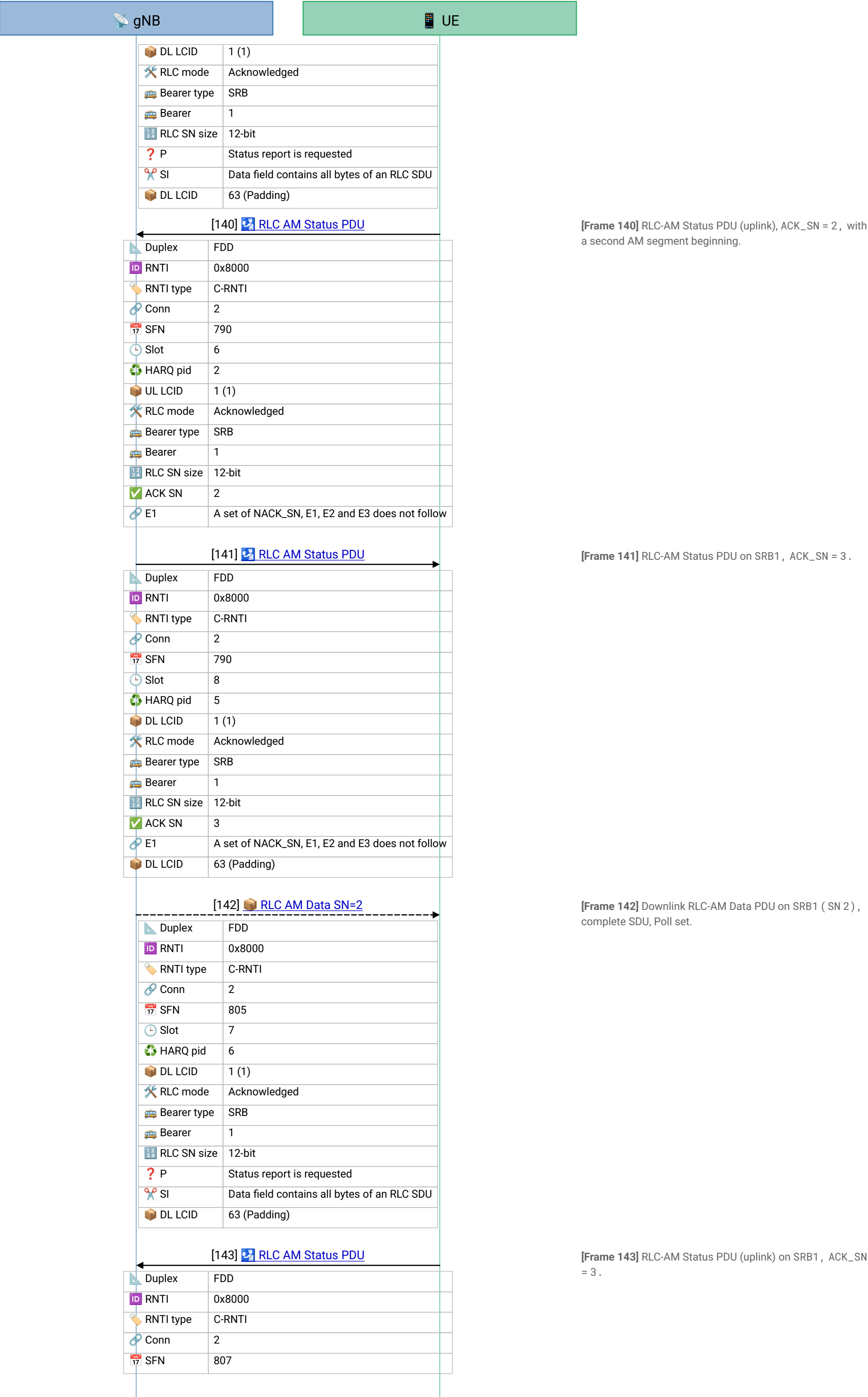
[Frame 132] RRC Setup (Msg4) with contention resolution and a fresh SRB1 / cell-group config – the same Msg4 role as frame 3, for the new connection.

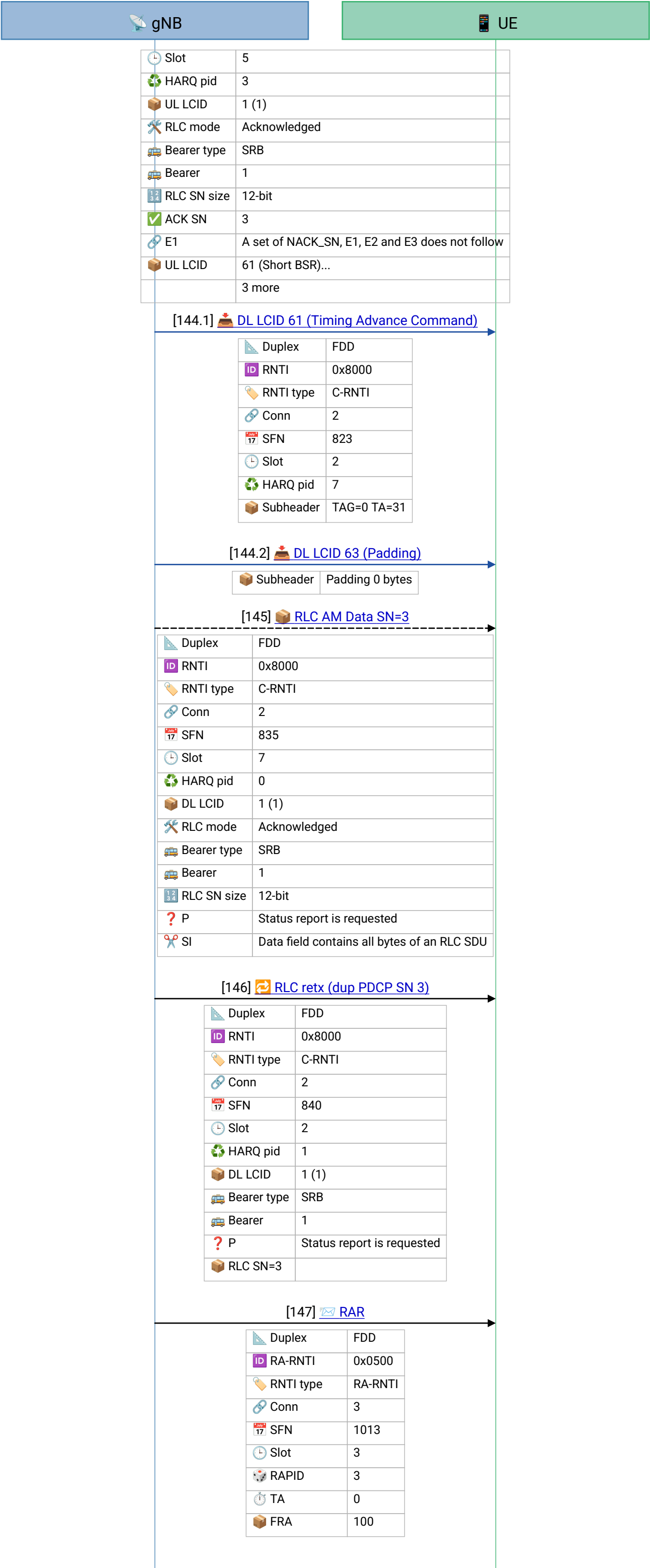
[Frame 133] RRC Setup Complete piggybacking a NAS Service request (integrity-protected, type 1). Service Request is the NAS procedure a UE in CM-IDLE uses to re-enter connected mode and resume its sessions — the natural response to mobile-terminated paging.

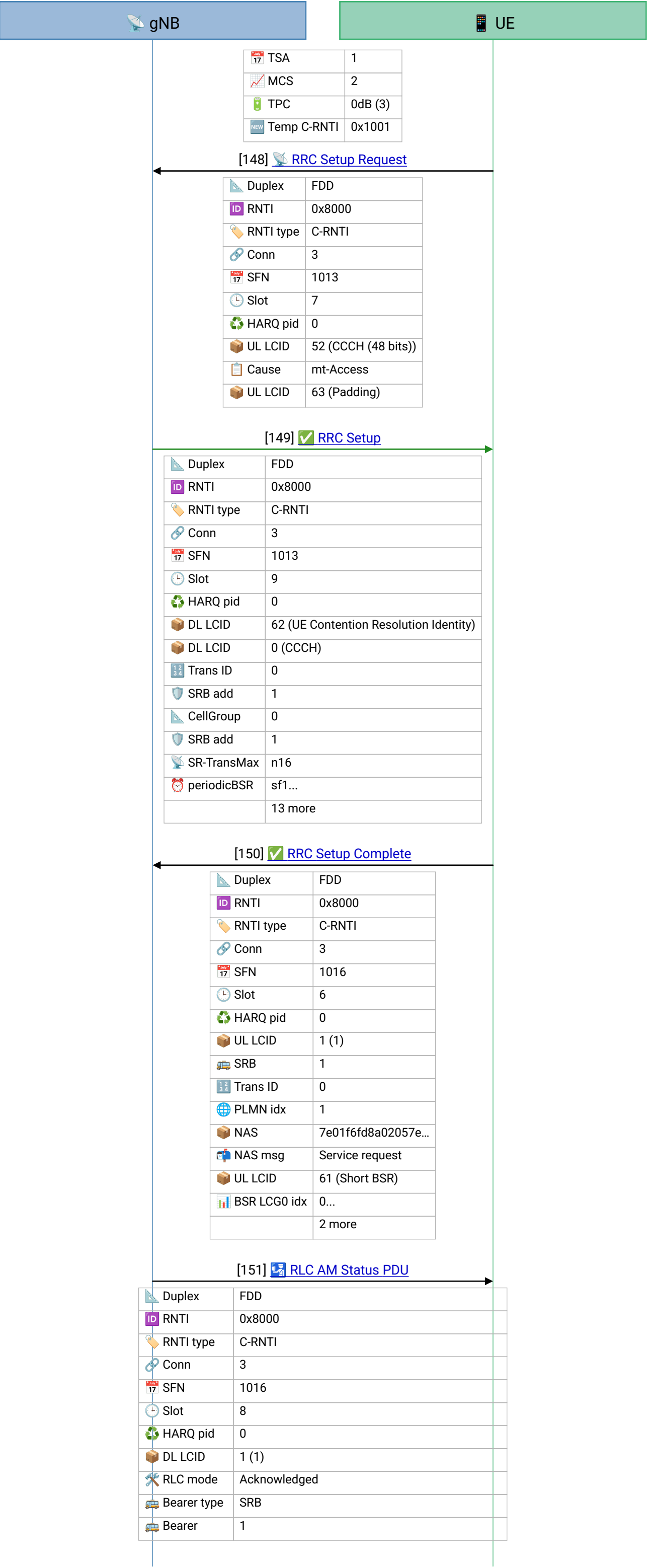
[Frame 134] RLC-AM Status PDU on SRB1, ACK_SN = 1 (connection 2).

[Frame 135.1] MAC Timing Advance Command – link upkeep on the new connection.









[Frame 148] RRC Setup Request (Msg3), establishment cause mt-Access again – a second mobile-terminated return.

[Frame 149] RRC Setup (Msg4) for connection 3 – contention resolution and a fresh SRB1 / cell-group config.

[Frame 150] RRC Setup Complete piggybacking a NAS Service request (integrity-protected) – the same idle-to-connected resume as connection 2.

[Frame 151] RLC-AM Status PDU on SRB1, ACK_SN = 1 (connection 3) – and the capture ends here, mid-setup, before AS security is re-established for this third connection.

