

Field Operations

Field Staff: John Altieri W6HW, Tom Armer K6TAA
Field Evaluator: Andy Rose KI6SEP
Participants: 14
Evaluations: 1 - F3

Participant Exercises

Participants were given the choice of two positions: Rover or Fixed Station.

- All participants chose Rover.
 - Comment by Pat AF6OT: Setting up a Fixed Station was not considered because he had done something similar recently at another event.
- There were 10 exercises for Rovers. For each exercise
 - the participant collected information found at the park
 - composed a message
 - passed the message to net control
- It was left up to the participants to do as few or as many exercises as they could fit into their schedule. The recommended maximum time was 2 hours.

Overall Assessment

- The Rovers met the goal of sending a large number of messages (70) but were frustrated when a 30-45 minute message queue developed mid-morning. The backlog occurred primarily because only one field net was activated rather than two, due to insufficient net control sign-ups.
- The message passing abilities of those who had taken training was excellent with nearly no repeat requests.
- The park facilities were ideal with ample parking, paved paths and many picnic tables under shade trees

What went well

- The participants understood the briefing.
 - The staff reviewed the briefing line by line with groups of 1 or 2 people.
- Providing 10 exercises was about the right number to give Rovers plenty to do.
 - David KF4MDV was able to complete all 10 exercises in 2 hours though he had to wait 45 minutes to get his last 3 message through (see Lessons Learned below).
- Two staff were able to handle check-ins and briefings with no participant wait times
- Having a mesh network phone at Field Ops was useful in locating Andy KI6SEP who wasn't on the command frequency.

Recommendations/Lessons Learned

- At mid morning there were 12 Rovers in the field--all with messages to send. This caused a backlog and some Rovers had to wait 30 to 45 minutes to get a message

through.

- For future drills instead of having the participants send 8 formal and 2 informal messages, provide 5 formal and 8 informal and then the day before the drill, pick the number of each type of message to send based on the number of net control operator sign-ups and the number of field operator sign-ups.
- In the hand outs, 10 ICS-213 forms were provided yet in 2 of the exercises the participants were instructed to send informal messages. All participants sent the 2 informal messages on the ICS-213 which took extra time and contributed to the backlog.
 - For future drills, provide only the required number of ICS-213 forms.
 - Clearly state informal messages should be written on “Form 1”
- To allow the person who was being evaluated to jump to the front of the message queue, the staff instructed her to set the message handling order to Priority. One participant thought this was unfair.
 - For future drills include in the briefing that Priority can be used by evaluatees.