

How to Request Tactical Calls for Cities/Agencies

The Santa Clara County ARES/RACES packet network recognizes any valid call sign for login. It uses call sign formatting rules to validate call signs. The network also allows login by any valid tactical call sign. Validation of the tactical calls prevents accidental logins to the wrong account which results in misdirected messages.

Each city or agency in Santa Clara County has the option to specify their own list of tactical calls that will be recognized as valid by the county packet network. These tactical calls can be used by packet operators who are dispatched to various strategic locations within the city or the agency's jurisdiction. For example, some cities anticipate the potential need to locate packet operators at each school, fire station, shelter, emergency supply cache location, and public park.

File Format

The format of the tactical call file is simple, but several specific rules must be followed:

- The file must be a plain text file
 - MS-Word, rich text or other formats are not acceptable
- Lines beginning with “#” are ignored and can be used for comments
- Each line must contain a tactical call, white space (such as a <TAB> character) and a description.
 - Example: XNDFS2 Xanadu Fire Station 2
- Each tactical call must be six (6) characters
- Each tactical call must begin with the standard 3-letter tactical designation for the city or agency.
 - In the example above, “XND” is the official 3-letter abbreviation for the fictitious city of Xanadu
 - The official 3-letter tactical designation for each agency in Santa Clara County is listed on the county website at: <http://www.scc-ares-races.org/freqs/packet-freqs.html>.
- Tactical calls may not end with “EOC.” (this is reserved for the city or agency EOC)
- The fourth character of a tactical call may not be zero (“0”).
- We recommend against using the letter O (“oh”) since it can be confused with 0 (“zero”).

Tactical Calls for Ad Hoc Use

Each city will automatically be configured with ten (10) additional tactical calls for ad hoc use, whether they submit a file or not. These tactical calls will begin with the standard 3-letter tactical designation for the city or agency, followed by “001” (zero zero one) through “010” (zero one zero). For example: “XXX001”, where “XXX” is the 3-letter tactical designation. These tactical calls can be used at any time, but are intended to cover situations where a packet operator is deployed to an unanticipated location which does not yet have a pre-defined tactical call. These additional tactical calls can also be used when

a city or agency has submitted their list of tactical calls but the update has not yet been added to the county packet network configuration files.

Tactical Call Maintenance

Updates to the packet network configuration are performed at least once per quarter. An effort is made to make the updates just prior to each quarterly drill so that the drill can be conducted with the latest changes. Some of the BBSs are located in secure locations which require special access arrangements. So updates cannot yet be performed on the fly. Therefore, cities and agencies should think through their needs and submit their requests well in advance of the anticipated need.

To Submit Your Tactical Call List

- Send your list of valid tactical calls to: pktcmte at scc-ares-races dot org
- Your submittal must be a text file (see example below)
- You will receive a confirmation back that your submittal has been received.
- To make a change, submit a completely new file. To avoid errors, the packet team will substitute files but not edit individual entries.

Example File Contents

Following is a fictitious tactical call file submitted by a fictitious city named Xanadu, with a 3-letter tactical call of XND.

```
#
# Xanadu Tactical Call List
# Revised: 23-Jul-2010 by Joe Ham
#
# Public Safety
XNDFS1      Xanadu Fire Station 1
XNDFS2      Xanadu Fire Station 2
XNDPOL      Xanadu Police Station
#
# Schools
XNDCHS      Xanadu City High School
XNDCMS      Xanadu Cooper Middle School
#
# Other locations
XNDCRC      Xanadu City Recreation Center
XNDCPK      Xanadu City Park
```