

Date: September 11, 2010

Subject: Packet Network Update – New Features Available

Attention: All ECs, AECs, MACs and other Santa Clara County Packet Users

This Packet Network Notice contains important information which affects your ability to access and use the county packet backbone. This update covers the following topics:

- Updated web page
- Expansion of Tactical Call Feature
- New Features in Outpost/PacFORMS Combined Installer
- Instructions and How To Documents
- Schedule summary
- Action items
- Questions / Comments / Concerns

Please read this information thoroughly and pass along to any packet users in your local area.

Updated Web Page

The Packet Frequency and BBS Information web page on the county website now includes message routing information. See: <http://www.scc-ares-races.org/freqs/packet-freqs.html>. Packet users should download and save a copy in their go kit.

Expansion of Tactical Call Feature

The county packet network now accepts a wider variety of tactical calls. Each city or agency in the county may submit a text file containing the additional tactical calls they would like to use. All files submitted so far have been installed in the BBSs.

Instructions for “How to Request Tactical Calls” are posted on the packet page of the county website: <http://www.scc-ares-races.org/packet.html>. We will update the network with new tactical calls a minimum of once per quarter.

New Features in Outpost/PacFORMS Combined Installer

Two major new features are now available in Outpost/PacForms: incoming message numbering and an ICS 309 Communications Log. Download the new installer at: <http://www.scc-ares-races.org/packet.html>.

Incoming Message Numbering: Outpost now has the ability to assign an incoming message number to received messages. The message number is be visible when viewing and printing messages, in the auto delivery reply, and in PacFORMS.

ICS 309 Communications Log: Outpost can now produce an ICS 309 Communications log. There are a variety of configuration options for controlling what is included in the log. The log can also be automated to print at regular intervals.

Instructions and How-To Documents

The “Standard Outpost Configuration Instructions” document has been updated to reflect the new options available in Outpost. Two new “How-To” documents have been created: “How to Configure Outpost for Inbound Message Numbering” and “How to Configure Outpost for Automated ICS-309 Printing.” All three documents are available on the packet page of the county website.

Schedule Summary

Saturday, September 25th:

- County MAC drill
- All packet operators will be expected to use the new version

Saturday, October 23rd:

- County Quarterly Drill
- All packet operators will be expected to use the new version

Action Items

1. Print a and retain a copy of the new frequency and BBS info web page: <http://www.scc-ares-races.org/fregs/packet-fregs.html>
2. Download and install the combined Outpost/PacFORMS installer (version 19) as soon as possible. Connect to your assigned primary BBS and send one or more test messages to yourself (including PacFORMS) to verify proper operation.
 - a. **ECs:** Remember that you need to get the “private” version of the installer for your EOC. The private version can be found in the password protected area of the website and includes additional PacFORMS which are not publically available.
3. Check-in with packet to SPECS (Monday evenings) or SVECS (Tuesday evenings) to further verify operation. There will be two opportunities to check-in (13th/14th and 20th/21st) prior to the county MAC drill.

Questions / Comments / Concerns

That’s all for this update. If you have any questions, comments or concerns, it is likely that someone else does, too. So it would be helpful if you direct them to the scc-packet Yahoo group. That way, everyone can see the answer.

Michael - N6MEF

Santa Clara County ARES/RACES Packet Committee