

# After Action Report

## *Santa Clara County Wide RACES/CERT Combined Exercise – October 29, 2016 Incident Commander*



Santa Clara County

ARES/ RACES

### 1. Event Overview

Description: SCCo County Wide RACES/CERT Exercise – Incident Commander  
Event Date: October 29, 2016  
Duration: 0600-1700  
Location: Moffett Field Federal Air Field (NASA)  
Submitted By: Logan R. Zintsmaster, Incident Commander

#### Description

A combined CERT/RACES Communications Drill was conducted on October 29, 2016 and Moffett Field. The event was a Santa Clara County RACES training activation XSC-16-09T.

The objective of this event was to provide communications support for a countywide CERT drill and to provide a training opportunity for the deployment of field voice and packet operators

This After Action Report covers the overall drill. Individual reports for the drill activity areas have been prepared by the activity planners.

#### Goals

1. Demonstrate the capability to set up a field Emergency Operations Center (EOC) with a voice network, packet network, and staging facilities utilizing the County RACES trailer.
2. Demonstrate the ability to set up multiple field and packet sites to provide communications support for the CERT Drill Incident Command Posts (ICP).
3. Demonstrate the ability to pass message traffic to/from the CERT Drill ICPs to the Drill EOC.

4. Demonstrate the ability to demobilize all RACES resources.
5. Provide evaluation opportunities for people seeking qualifications in the Mutual Assistance Communicator (MAC) program.
6. Perform all in accordance with the Santa Clara County ARES/RACES Performance Standards and Best Practices.

### Objectives

1. Activate the Resource Net to oversee the movement of ARES/RACES drill participants to the drill site by 0600.
2. Set up Drill EOC Radio Room and Staging using the equipment in the ARES/RACES Trailer by 0700.
3. Set up and deploy generators to all operating positions.
4. Process participants through Staging including sign in, briefings, t-card, and drill information for mobilization and demobilization according to the Staging Plan.
5. Deploy field operators to the CERT ICPs according to the Field Operations Plan and the Packet Operations Plan.
6. Deploy shadows according to the Staging Plan.
7. Demonstrate a mesh network telephone system according to the Mesh Plan
8. Operate the drill Resource, Staging, Tactical, and Packet nets according to the Net Control Plan.

## 2. Results Achieved

### Participation

#### Planning Staff

The planning staff consisted of

Planning/Event Staff	
IC	Logan Zintsmaster
Net Control	Don McKee
Packet	Rob Moore/Michael Fox
Field Ops	Judy Halchin
Staging	Rick Levine
Shadows	Tim Howard
Logistics	Logan Zintsmaster
Mesh	Mark Laubach

Several members of the planning staff were doing their first planning activity to satisfy the requirements for a Type 1 qualification in their respective areas.

#### Event Staff

The event staff consisted of the Planning Staff overseeing the implementation of their plans as well as the additional staff noted below.

There were a total of 18 staff members.

<b>Callsign</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>City</b>
K6HAX	Burns, Bill	Campbell
K6AKA	Burns, Julie	Campbell
N6MEF	Fox, Michael	Santa Clara
KK6EKN	Grimm, Leslie	Mountain View
KM6CRD	Guy, Harry	Los Altos
KK6EWQ	Halchin, Judy	Cupertino
KE6TIM	Howard, Tim	Milpitas
N6IHT	Kutner, Mike	Mountain View
K6FJC	Laubach, Mark	Cupertino
KK6WHJ	Levine, Rick	Cupertino
KK6WHI	Levine, Sue	Cupertino
KE6DM	McKee, Donald	San Jose
K6OTT	Ott, Andreas	Sunnyvale
AI6OG	Palmisano, Samuel	Gilroy
N6HDN	Smith, Barton	Campbell
KK6VF	Smith, Kevin	Campbell
KZ6O	Zintsmaster, Logan	Morgan Hill

### Participants

There were a total of 24 participants.

<b>Callsign</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>City</b>
KG6YHS	Beardsley, Irene	Palo Alto
K6SLB	Bordelon, Scott	San Jose
N6JRC	Clark, Jim	Los Altos
K6FSH	Fishman, Bob	Sunnyvale
KK6LUA	Gandour, Donna	Mountain View
AF6ZF	Gore, Nigel	San Jose
KK6EKN	Grimm, Leslie	Mountain View
KG6UWO	Hamilton, Robert C	Castro Valley
KZ6DM	Hansen, Poul	Mountain View
KI6EUG	Heidmiller, John (Jack)	Los Altos

K6PLH	Hertan, Peter	Los Gatos
K2LL	Katin, Neil	Los Altos
KK6WHJ	Levine, Rick	Cupertino
KK6WHI	Levine, Sue	Cupertino
AF6HL	Lewis, Herbert	Sunnyvale
KN6IW	Lienres, Bjorn	Palo Alto
KJ6CBR	Reutter, Betty	San Jose
KD6HMJ	Rhoten, Wayne	Morgan Hill
K6WWS	Salyer, Woody	Morgan Hill
KI6YSV	Springer, Rahn	Milpitas
KK6PCV	Tavel, Tracie	Los Altos
KI6CLA	Vieira, David	San Jose
WU6K	Weatherford, James	Mounain View
K6KWW	Werges, Kent	Sunnyvale

### 3. Agencies Served

The following communities had CERT attendees. The CERT attendees formed teams which set an Incident Command Post (ICP), performed triage on simulated victims in a building, and performed basic first aid on simulated injuries. The results of these activities provided the content for messages to be transmitted to the Drill EOC via voice and packet radio.

- Campbell
- Cupertino
- Gilroy
- Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory
- Los Altos
- Los Altos Hills
- Milpitas
- Morgan Hill
- Mountain View
- Palo Alto
- Redwood City
- San Jose
- Santa Clara
- Sunnyvale

## 4. Radio Usage

A Resource Net was used to track RACES participants both to and from the drill site. A Staging Net tracked participants from the drill site parking lot to the Staging area and then to/from the field location. Two tactical nets were set up for message handling via voice. A Command Net was used by the Event staff. Health and Welfare checks were conducted on a regular basis on all of the voice nets.

A JNOS BBS packet was set up on site to handle all packet drill traffic.

A total of 229 messages were passed during the drill.

## 5. Observations and Feedback

Feedback from the CERT Planning Team was very positive. It was particularly helpful for RACES to be an active participant in the CERT planning meetings to make sure that the RACES and CERT activities were coordinated.

Creating messages using an ICS 213 was a new experience for the CERT participants which resulted in a low number of messages to be passed. Feedback was provided to the CERT Planning Team which they said would be considered for the next drill.

A walkthrough of the drill site was conducted the day before the drill by the planning staff. Siting of the different activities, radio room, packet, staging, field operations, was determined in the daylight which made parking, unloading, and set up much easier in the early morning darkness.

## 6. Lessons Learned

Sign ups – This drill spanned two shifts with an option for all day participation. A single event sign up was used for both shifts. It was found that this created problems for people who wanted to sign up for two shifts due to constraints in the database. A manual work around was used.

In the future, a separate “sub-event” should be set up for each shift of the overall event. Then participants can easily sign up for two shifts.

In addition, the mix of the event staff sign ups included both staff positions and “hands-on” contributors. The staff sign ups should be for staff only.

Logistics – Logistics is a difficult position to staff and manage because of “all of the moving pieces.” In this drill, the Incident Commander took on the role of logistics planning and focused on the main support items: generators, tables, chairs, pop-up shelters, radios, and antennas. The smaller items, like forms, clipboards, etc. were left to the planners for the individual functions.

As providers were identified, a spreadsheet was started that showed the individual needs for each drill function and the provider of that need. On the day of the drill, as equipment arrived, the destination for that equipment had been predetermined which made deployment easier with fewer questions.

Paper Moisture Absorption – There was a heavy dew on the morning of the drill and it was discovered that the paper in the packet printer became limp from high humidity. The bulk of the paper was then stored in a closed container to minimize the absorption.

## 7. Improvement Ideas

ARES/RACES Trailer – the ARES/RACES trailer needs a thorough clean out, inventory, and organization.

- Unused “stuff” needs to be removed and discarded.
- Cording is used in several places to hold items in place. The cording needs to be replaced with attachment points and adjustable straps.
- The plug strip for the radio power supplies to maintain the batteries should be relocated to a more convenient location.
- All of the radio box batteries need to be checked and replaced if necessary.
- Antennas need to be inventoried and additional roll-up J-poles procured.
- All boxes and drawers should be labelled.

## References

All of the drill documentation is posted in the Yahoo group scc-drill-planning.

<https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/scc-drill-planning/info>

There is a folder for this drill that includes all planning material and post drill documentation.