

# Packet Network Update

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**Date:** September 18, 2014

**From:** Santa Clara County ARES/RACES Packet Committee

**Subject:** Packet Network Update – Change to Tactical Call Routing

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

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

- Change to tactical call routing
- Training net
- Additional upcoming changes
- Action item summary for ALL packet users
- Questions / comments / concerns

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

## Change to Tactical Call Routing

Beginning on Wednesday, October 1, auto-forwarding of messages addressed to tactical calls will no longer be performed. This means that any messages addressed to a tactical call without “@...” will no longer be auto-forwarded to the primary BBS for the associated agency. Such messages will stay on the local BBS where they originated. In order to send a message to another BBS, users will need to specify “@” followed by the destination BBS name and, optionally, the domain. This new behavior for tactical calls is the same as the current behavior when sending messages addressed to FCC call signs. It is also standard behavior for BBSs throughout the world.

As always, the primary and secondary BBS assignments for all agencies can be found in the “SCCo Packet Tactical Calls” bulletin found in the “xscperm” mailbox/area on any of the Santa Clara County BBSs (w1xsc, w2xsc, w3xsc, w4xsc). The bulletin contains instructions to save it in the Outpost Archive folder, so each user should already have a copy on their packet station computer. The same information is also found on the packet frequencies web page on the county ARES/RACES website, which should already be in everyone’s go kit.

## Fictional Example

This change is best understood by example. The following fictional call sign will be used to avoid SPAM:

XNDEOC = The tactical call sign for the City of Xanadu’s Emergency Operations Center

A fictional version of the “SCCo Packet Tactical Calls” bulletin reads as follows:

```
#Tactical   Agency Name           Pfx  Pri    Sec
#-----   -----
XNDEOC     Xanadu, City of           XND  W2XSC  W4XSC
```

The following table summarizes both the old, auto-forwarding behavior and the new behavior when a message is addressed to a tactical call without specifying a destination BBS (no “@...”).

Sent From BBS	Addressed To:	Old Behavior Forwarded To:	New Behavior Delivered To:
W1XSC	xndeoc	xndeoc@w2xsc	xndeoc (on W1XSC)
W2XSC	xndeoc	xndeoc@w2xsc	xndeoc (on W2XSC)
W3XSC	xndeoc	xndeoc@w2xsc	xndeoc (on W3XSC)
W4XSC	xndeoc	xndeco@w2xsc	xndeoc (on W4XSC)

Note that with the old, auto-forwarding behavior, messages are ALWAYS auto-forwarded to the primary BBS (W2XSC in this case), even if the destination BBS is down! In the example above, even if W2XSC is down and the City of Xanadu is using their secondary BBS (W4XSC), a message sent from W4XSC and addressed to just “XNDEOC” (with no “@w4xsc”) would be auto-forwarded by the old behavior back to W2XSC, which is down. The new behavior will allow users in the City of Xanadu to continue to address messages to each other using local-only addressing, even when all Xanadu users move to their backup BBS.

In short, the new behavior does what you tell it to do. If you want the message to stay local, then specify only the local part (the part before the “@”) of the address. If you want the message to go to a different BBS, then use the “@” followed by the BBS name and, optionally, the domain name in the address. For example, to send a message from any BBS in our network to XNDEOC at W3XSC, use any of the following address formats:

- xndeoc@w3xsc (O.K. to use within Santa Clara County network)
- xndeoc@w3xsc.ampr.org (recommended)
- xndeoc@w3xsc.#nca.ca.usa.noam

Note that most cities/agencies are not assigned to the same BBS as Santa Clara County. So most agencies will need to specify the full (@...) destination BBS address when sending to Santa Clara County tactical calls.

**IMPORTANT:** ALL users should make sure that they maintain a current copy of the SCCo Tactical Calls bulletin in the archive folder of Outpost.

## Documentation Updates

Documentation which contains references to the auto-forwarding behavior will also be updated on October 1, including:

- SCCo Packet Tactical Calls bulletin in the “xscperm” mailbox/area on all BBSs
- Web pages
  - <http://www.scc-ares-races.org/freqs/packet-freqs.html>
  - <http://www.scc-ares-races.org/packet/packet-addressing.html>
- Training course materials
  - [http://www.scc-ares-races.org/training/courses/Packet\\_3B/Course\\_Packet\\_3B.html](http://www.scc-ares-races.org/training/courses/Packet_3B/Course_Packet_3B.html)

## Training Net

A training net will be held on Tuesday, September 30 at 2030 hours to review the tactical call routing changes that will occur on Wednesday, October 1. Frequency information and a PDF of the presentation can be found on the Training page of the county ARES/RACES website:

<http://www.scc-ares-races.org/training.html#nets>

## Additional Upcoming Changes

Some additional changes will be happening over the course of the next couple of months. Stay tuned for additional updates on the following topics:

- New Outpost Version
  - Jim Oberhofer, KN6PE, is finishing up changes to a new version of Outpost. Testing will begin soon. We anticipate rolling it out in the October/November timeframe.
- New PacFORMS
  - We expect some changes to a couple of the hospital forms to occur sometime in the next month or so. When we get the details, Phil Henderson, KF6ZSQ, will update PacFORMS.
- Expanded Bulletin Support
  - The W[1-4]XSC BBSs are being updated to support full worldwide bulletin traffic. This will be useful for exchanging bulletin traffic with users on other BBSs during an emergency. But it's also useful for public service events and is interesting reading just for fun.

## Action Item Summary for ALL Packet Users

- 1) Attend the training net on Tuesday, September 30
- 2) Be prepared before the change occurs on October 1. Ask questions on the scc-packet list.

- 3) After the October 1 changes are completed, an announcement will be sent to the scc-packet list. After you receive the announcement, complete the following action items :
  - a. Download the updated SCCo Packet Tactical Calls bulletin from the xscperm mailbox/area and save it in your Outpost Archive folder.
  - b. Download and save a copy of the Packet Frequencies and BBS Listing web page in your go kit
    - o <http://www.scc-ares-races.org/freqs/packet-freqs.html>

### **Questions / Comments / Concerns**

That's all for this update. If you have a question, comment or concern, it is likely that someone else does, too. So please post it to the scc-packet Yahoo group. That way, everyone can see the question and the answer. URL: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/scc-packet>