



Monthly Packet Message Passing Exercise Review

Period: 10/18/2023 09:00 to 10/25/2023



Santa Clara County ARES®/RACES

Last Updated: 26 October 2023

Author: Mark Laubach, K6FJC

ARES and Amateur Radio Emergency Service are registered service marks of the American Radio Relay League Incorporated and are used by permission.

Messages Passed Summary

Approximate number counts from the Xanadu EOC ICS-309 (as of 17:00):

Assignments sent (total):	34 !!
Participating / dropped / fun / staff:	29 / 2 / 0 / 3
Content Messages exchanged *:	
Form ICS213	125
CSV form	1
Other	358

Thank you for participating in this exercise!!!!

- Excluding DELIVERED: 484 includes resends and testing.
Overall total to/from Xanadu EOC: 921

Exercise Objectives

- Based on SCC documentation
 - SCCo ARES/RACES Packet Operations - Type III, Part A and Part B courses
 - How to Send a Packet Message with Outpost - 09/19/2013
 - Standard Packet Message Subject Line - 02/22/2020
 - Standard Packet Check-in/Out Message - 09/25/2023
 - Outpost Users Guide, Basics; Version 3.4 | July 2020
 - RACES Recommended Form Routing Cheat Sheet [Rev: 19-Feb-2023]
- Exercise simulated 3rd party and operator-to-operator messages
 - Check-In and Check-Out
 - XND City Notice retrieval
 - Operator to operator messages
 - 3rd party messages
 - Hand-written forms “handed” to operator via URL to simulate a “complete” form being handed from Principal
 - Operator limited to header (routing form) content and **** this is drill traffic ****
 - URL assignments now will be “given” in operator-to-operator messages and not 3rd party form

How did we do in general?

- City Notice XND@XSC downloaded and reported by most
 - Very Good, 2 missing reports
- Happy Halloween! added message in Assignments
 - 6 stations missed
- Check-in and Check-out – a few tactical call configuration issues
- ICS-213 initial status message went well -
- Lost child Immediate plain-text was an experiment – more later
- ICS-309 (packet) and ICS-309 (voice) should have both been turned in

The Assignment:

Simulated Scenario for this month's exercise: you have been assigned as a packet radio operator for a Xanadu Halloween Parade Check Point. Your check point is located at on a corner at the intersection of Main Street and 2nd Street. Check points provide services to the attending public such as parade information, reporting of "lost persons", emergency reporting, as well as facilitating estimated crowd count reports coming in from the other volunteers from each of the four city blocks that meet at Main and 2nd. Your check point manager is Abraham Van Brunt.

Your tactical number: 51
Your role: Packet Radio Operator for Halloween Parade Check Point 51, you can shorten to Check Point 51
Your Tactical Call Sign is: XND051
Your message prefix is: X51
Starting message number: your_choice
SCC Event Position[**]: Primary_Station_test
Incident Name: Xanadu Halloween Parade
Activation Number: XND-23-1018P
Your BBS: Use your normal primary/secondary. There is no simulated-down BBS for this exercise
Xanadu EOC mailbox: XDNEOC@W1XSC.ampr.org (primary)
XDNEOC@W4XSC.ampr.org (secondary)
XND EOC activation period: From Wednesday, 10/18/23 09:00 until Wednesday, 10/25/23 17:00 (sharp)
Simulate Voice communications with Xanadu EOC: For simulated voice net messages, call the EOC at **650-542-8987** and leave a voice message., SMS/MMS text messages are also accepted. (Yes, this really works for this exercise).

There will be Zoom "Office Hours" held next Wednesday from 19:30 to 21:30. Conference details will be sent in a separate email. The agenda for this call will be to review an overall exercise "score card" and to interactively review any issues, problems, and to answer any questions.

Some notes/reminders:

- **[**]** Your SCC event position is not your tactical assignment position. It was what you selected when you signed up for this event.
- The Xanadu EOC will process messages only during the exercise activation time period:
- You will get a DELIVERED receipt for each message received by XDNEOC.
- The Xanadu EOC will check for new messages approximately every 3.0 minutes during the entire exercise period.
- If you have sent a message and haven't heard back within an expected response time, there are a couple things you can do before contacting the instructor:
 1. Check the Subject line of your message to make sure it is following directions, Xanadu EOC can be picky about spelling and punctuation. If you see an issue, resend with the corrections,
 2. Send a PING message as detailed in your Check-In acknowledged message. If you get a PONG response back, Xanadu EOC is up and running, go back to 1)
 3. If 1) and 2) don't work for you and you are stuck, send a normal Internet email to the instructor with the details (don't send a packet message)
- If you need more time beyond the end date/time please contact the instructor in advance.
- If you are reading all these directions, send a plain text routine message to XDNEOC with the Subject "Happy Halloween!" and a single word message "Boo!"
- As per the event description, please make sure you've read the [Training Page](#) for this regular practice training.
- Please follow all directions received.
- **Please be current with (download) all County BBS and City Notices.**

Tactical call Station ID and Forms Reminder

Station ID is K6FJC as XNDEOC

Identification | BBS Logins | Signatures

Current Profile: XNDEOC ~ W1XSC ~ Telnet

Legal

User Call Sign: K6FJC [New]

User Name: Mark Laubach [Delete]

Message ID Prefix: FJC (3 Characters max)

Transmit PST:

Tactical

Use Tactical Call for all BBS interaction

Tactical Call Sign: XNDEOC [New]

Additional ID Text: Xanadu City EOC [Delete]

Message ID Prefix: XND (3 Characters max)

Show this form on startup [OK] [Apply] [Cancel]

Check-In/Out x +

127.0.0.1:51977/form-1

Bookmarks UniFi Ingress Intel Xu-Fu's Pet Battle WTB NWS Radar SF Ingress Intel EPIC Desktop — IITC-CE Latit

Submit to Outpost **Submit via Email** **Reset Form**

Message number: XND-5162P

Check In Check Out

Your Call Sign: K6FJC Name: Mark Laubach

Use Tactical Call: XNDEOC Name: Xanadu EOC

How'd we do: Starting Status

- Smaller size for this month

Check-In acknowledged to the Xanadu County Packet Net for this month's message passing communication practice. You have these guidelines and assignments:

- 1) This month's practice will simulate forms being handed to you by your manager available as PDF via URL.
 - a) After they "hand" you the form(s), they walk away and are not available for updates/corrections.
 - b) You may need to complete the form using the Radio Routing Cheat sheet and your best judgement.

- 2) In any messages you are asked to transmit:
 - a) If you see an "XX" (double-X), replace the XX with your assigned tactical number.
 - b) Replace any "DD" with the actual day value that you are transmitting the form for the practice.
 - c) "HH" and "MM" with current 24-hour clock hour value and the current minutes value
 - d) If you see a "+time" add the correction to the current time. For example, if the form has "HH:MM+3h", use your current time plus 3 hours, or "08/DD/2022+tomorrow", would be enter tomorrow's date for the DD replacement.
 - e) Replace any "##" with an integer number.

3) This practice may put some notes into the forms for various fields. A note to you is bracketed by "<" and ">" signs. For example, you may see:

```
"<enter your simulated field post address>"
```

Simply, replace the brackets and the note text with the requested text for that field, do not include the brackets and the instruction text.

4) Please make sure each message you send has this somewhere in the message content:

```
**** This is drill traffic ****
```

```
[20231018 1-check-in-ack]
```

Abbreviated review for this month

- Packet manager has been way busy with real work
- Multiplied by new record in participation
- No 3rd party message content scoring this month
- Review limited to what is necessary for participation logging
 - Message headers were processed
 - ICS309 turn-in
- Participants will have to self-assess their own content

ICS-213 Initial Crowd Count and Water Request

MESSAGE FORM ▶ For paper: use ballpoint pen – blue or black ink only (See back for instructions)		Origin Msg #: ² _____	Destination Msg #: ³ _____
Date ¹ : 10 / 00 / 2023 (mm/dd/yy)	Time (24hr): HH:MM (0001 to 2400)	Handling ⁵ (✓one): <input type="checkbox"/> Immediate (ASAP) <input type="checkbox"/> Priority (<1 hr) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Routine (<2 hr)	
		This Message Requests You To ⁶ : TAKE ACTION (✓one): <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No REPLY (✓one): <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, by _____ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	
T O	ICS Position: (required) ⁷ PLANNING	F R O M	ICS Position: (required) ⁸ CHECK POINT MGR
	Location: (required) ⁹ XANADU EOC		Location: (required) ⁹ CHECK POINT XX
	Name: (optional)		Name: (optional) ABRAHAM VAN BRUNT
	Telephone #: (optional)		Telephone #: (optional)
SUBJECT: ¹⁰ INITIAL CROWD COUNT AND WATER REQUEST			
REFERENCE (e.g., Number of earlier msg.): ¹¹ _____			
MESSAGE: ¹² (what, when, where needed; how long; contact name and phone number - KEEP MSG BRIEF) MOST OF CROWDS ARE ALONG MAIN STREET.			

- Comments or questions?
- Bonus question: who is Abraham Van Brunt?
 - Go search it

Lost Child Report

- Entirely contrived for this month's exercise
 - However, a manager could still hand you something like this
- In real life, packet would not be used for a lost person report
- Objectives
 - Exercise sending an Immediate packet message :
 - Outpost Urg flag – did people remember on plain text messages?
 - Curious on how people would send it
 - 21 x plain text
 - 10 x ICS213
 - 1 x CSV
 - Simulated voice net follow-up as per training
- If you were faced with this again in a real drill / activation what would you do to get it sent within 5 minutes?
- Comments / questions?
- Bonus: who is Gan Ceann?
 - Search it up or <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dullahan>

Summary

- Nice participation for this go!

Next practice will be posted “soon”:

- Expect 2nd Wednesday start: 8th November through 15th November
- Expect same level of effort (Package Manager will also be work-busy in November)
- Same for December, start on 2nd Wednesday

Note: consensus on Zoom call was to start Nov and Dec on 2nd Wednesday due to conflicts with respective holidays and work travels.

Next UP: Exercise Scorecard

- Reminder, there is no pass or fail
- The scorecard is a tool for indicating areas for improvement
- Only message headers and forms turn-in was scored – no content was scored