



Monthly Packet Message Passing Exercise Review

Period: 11/16/2022 09:00 to 11/23/2022 17:00



Santa Clara County ARES®/RACES/CRU

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Simulated Shelters and Messages Passed

Approximate number counts from the Xanadu EOC ICS-309 (as of Wed.):

Posts assigned (total):	21
Participating / staff:	3
Content Messages exchanged *:	
Form ICS-213 / Routine	44
EOC213RR	22
RACES-MAR	19
Courtesy	0 **

Thank you for participating in this exercise!!!!

- * Excluding DELIVERED 334. Overall including DELIVERED 592 messages
- ** some error return messages were observed

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 - 02/22/2022
 - Standard Packet Check-in/Out Message - 09/25/2022
 - Outpost Users Guide, Basics; Version 3.4 | July 2020
 - RACES Recommended Form Routing Cheat Sheet [Rev: 19-Feb-2022]
- Exercise simulated 3rd party and operator-to-operator messages
 - Check-In and Check-Out using new form
 - XSCEVENT and XND@XSC City Notice retrieval
 - ICS-213
 - EOC213RR, Priority
 - RACES-MAR

How did we do in general?

- More missing City Notice XND@XSC reads than expect.
- Message Numbering: your choice
- ICS-213 Reference field – use it. Several posts did not
- Several messages missing **** this is exercise traffic ****
- Tactical Name in Check-in/out varied
- Some “fax machine” errors
- Improved instructions for information on the National ICS-309 form that is used by Outpost – tried to leave some hints in the instructions
- Also, reminder to send/received all the messages after the Check-out before building your ICS-309 data.
- Simulated voice radio traffic using Xanadu City voicemail box – none for this exercise

- All in All – Nice!

The Field Post Assignment:

Simulated Scenario for this month's exercise: you have been assigned as a packet radio operator for a Xanadu City Hometown Thanksgiving Celebration Post. Your post is located on a street corner at the intersection of Pumpkin Street and Spice Street.

Your tactical number: 16
Your From ICS Position: Radio Operator
Your From Location: "Xanadu City Hometown Thanksgiving Celebration Post 16". You can shorten to: "Post 16" where applicable.
Your Tactical Call Sign is: XND016
Your message prefix is: X16
Starting message number: your_choice
Incident Name: XND Hometown Thanksgiving Celebration
Activation Number:
(also ICS-309 Task#) XND-22-1116P
Your BBS: Use your normal primary/secondary. There is no simulated-down BBS for this exercise
Simulated physical location: The intersection of Pumpkin Street and Spice Street.
Xanadu County EOC mailbox: XNDEOC@W1XSC.ampr.org (primary)
XNDEOC@W4XSC.ampr.org (secondary)
XND EOC activation period: From Wednesday, 11/16/22 09:00 until Wednesday, 11/23/22 17:00
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 accepted, but voice messages are preferred.
Ref: [2021 Packet Type III Part B course, slide "Standard Packet Subject Line"](#)
You signed up as a: Primary_Station_test

How'd we do: City Notice

- 4 of 17 "missed"
- I kept the knowledge stimulation message the same:
"Did you retrieve both XSCEVENT and XSC city notices?"
could have gone back, retrieved and sent the requested message.
- Let's try to make it 100% next month
- Reminder on directions: send after successful check-in

How'd we do: Starting Status

- Check-in Ack & Welcome
- URL "handed to you" method explained
- Reminder on DD, HH, MM replacements
- Added +time instructions
- First URL message
- Note about "<" and ">" notes to you

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

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

*** This is exercise traffic ***

2) This month's practice will simulate forms being handed to you by your location's manager available as PDF via URL.

a) After they "hand" you the form(s), they walk away and are not available for updates/corrections.

Reminder: you are a FAX machine

b) You may need to complete the form using the Radio Routing Cheat sheet and your best judgement.

c) They don't know about Guideline 1) for stating drill traffic in the message, you will need to add to any form missing this. Add to an appropriate field within the form.

3) 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 exercise.

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.

4) Please prepare and send a routine ICS-213 to Operations at Xanadu City EOC describing your packet station used for this exercise:

a) Number of personnel present at your Post for each position being staffed (hint: you need at least a manager and the two ARES/RACES operators, be creative about a few more people being present.

b) Brief description of packet station, please mention if you have a printer and also your approximate run time assuming you are on battery power, as well as the TNC make and model you are using.

c) Optional: if you set up in an alternate location, approximately where is it located relative to your primary location?

Use the Subject: opening status for Post XX

5) Note: This exercise 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.

[20221116 1-check-in-ack]

ICS-213 on opening status for Post XX

- 8 posts missed filling out the Reference field.
 - We will keep practicing this...
- Little bit of variation in the answering of a)
`“Number of personnel present at your Post for each position being staffed (hint: you need at least a manager and the two ARES/RACES operators, be creative about a few more people being present.”`
- Some posts just gave total number of people.
- Expected a count per named position.

- Otherwise equipment lists varied, which is just fine.

ICS-213 on Interim Status Update

- Good go!
- A couple “fax” machine errors with some extra characters.
- Some forgetting to replace “XX” in text
- Some forgetting ICS From Name: “H. Horseman”
- Some put information in the Reference field
 - Simulated handoff from Manager -> Packet Operator, nothing to reference

EOC213 Resource Request

- Very good go!
- A couple “fax” machine errors leaving out entire fields.

RACES Mutual Aid Request

Also a good go!

ICS-309

- Awesome!
- For those doing Manual Operation and sent in a session log, thank you!
 - For everyone, session log will be requested for all Manual Operation in future practices

Experiments this month

- KN6PE asked for two tactical calls for manual
 - Evaluated two different methods of keeping track of messages
- KK6FPP also asked for two tactical calls, one manual one alt
 - Manual for manual practice
 - Alt for testing a USB sound card Fob/Dongle TNC & Outpost + Direwolf
- If you would like to have an extra tactical call, let me know

There were no Immediate handling order messages this month

- Two posts left voice mail for Priority alert with Xanadu EOC
- Reminder: only really needed for Immediate due to ASAP

Change to Monthly Packet Practice Training Page

- Added a Table Of Contents
- “New” and “Updated” flags indicated was has changed since the last month’s practice
- Change date is at the bottom of the page

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- [Scheduling Info](#)
- [Frequencies](#)
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- [Immediate Handling Order Messages](#)
- [Outpost ICS-309 Form](#) **New**
- [Postion: Manual Operation](#) **New**
- [Training Questions](#)
- [Preparation for a successful exercise](#)
- [Packet Course Instructor Notes](#)
- [Drill/Exercise Packet Manager Notes](#)
- [Past Exercises](#) **Updated**

"New" or "Updated" are used to indicated added or modified material since the last monthly practice.

- Note: for future manual operation, will be requested a terminal emulator session log be turned in with ICS-309

Participation

- Participation is logged for everyone who completes all the sent PackItForms forms message requests
 - E. g. for this practice, 2 x ICS-213, 1 x EOC213RR, and 1 x RACES-MAR
- Heads up:
Monthly Packet Message Passing practice participation may come in to play for Participation Credit for Packet credentials in the (1/2 year) future – stay tuned

Summary

Nice participation for this go!

Next practice will be December 21 2022, 3rd Wednesday

- Event already posted for signup
- Scenario: T.B.D.

Next UP: Exercise Scorecard

- Reminder, there is no pass or fail
- The scorecard is a tool for indicating areas for improvement