



Monthly Packet Message Passing Exercise Review

Period: 05/17/2023 09:00 to 05/24/2023



Santa Clara County ARES®/RACES

Last Updated: 05 June 2023

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Simulated Shelters and Messages Passed

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

Checkpoints assigned (total):	22
Participating / dropped / fun / staff:	18 / 0 / 1 / 3
Content Messages exchanged *:	
Form EOC213RR	t.b.d.
Form ICS-213 sent to XNDEOC	t.b.d.
Other	t.b.d.

NOTE: insufficient time to process message counts for this month.

Thank you for participating in this exercise!!!!

- Excluding DELIVERED:, includes resends and testing.
Overall total to/from Xanadu EOC: t.b.d.

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 - 02/22/20202
 - 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
- Added a “just for fun” position for this month
 - Tactical gets assigned, messages ignored, no participation credit

How did we do in general?

- City Notice XND@XSC downloaded and reported by most
 - Pretty good, 2 missing
- EOC213RR mostly worked for content
 - 3rd Party message issues
- ICS-213 mostly worked
- ICS-309 task number and task names, some issues

NOTE: scoring not done for most message content. What was done was minimum needed for participation credit validation plus:

- Messages sent
- Message headers examined
- Observing for “**** this is drill traffic ****”

The Checkpoint Assignment:

Scenario for this month's exercise: you have been assigned as a packet radio operator supporting messaging at an airshow checkpoint during the Xanadu Memorial Day Airshow event. Airshow checkpoints manage local road closures, perform public surveys, and act as "eyes and ears" for law enforcement.

Your tactical number: 11
Your From ICS Position: Radio Operator
Your From Location: Checkpoint 11
Your Tactical Call Sign is: XND011
Your message prefix is: X11
Starting message number: your_choice
SCC Event Position[**]: Primary_Station_test
Incident Name: Xanadu Memorial Day Airshow
Activation Number: XND-23-0517P
Your BBS: Use your normal primary/secondary. There is no simulated-down BBS for this exercise
Xanadu EOC mailbox: XNDEOC@W1XSC.ampr.org (primary)
XNDEOC@W4XSC.ampr.org (secondary)
XND EOC activation period: From Wednesday, 05/17/23 09:00 until Wednesday, 05/24/23 18:00 (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).
Ref: [2021 Packet Type III Part B course, slide "Standard Packet Subject Line"](#)

How'd we do: Starting Status

- Check-in Ack & Welcome
- Note on the change to:
**** this is drill traffic ****
- No assignment this time in this message.
 - Separate assignment message sent

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

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

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

Plsase note the change from "exercise" to "drill"

2) 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.

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 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.

4) 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.

5) A new utility has been added to the Xanadu EOC, it will now respond to ping messages. Specifically, the word "ping" is the only word in the subject line: e.g.,

XND000-000P_R_ping

no extra spaces before the "ping". You will get a response back if Xanadu EOC is processing messages.

[20230517 1-check-in-ack]

EOC-213RR Xanadu Memorial Day Airshow

- What is a 3rd party message?
 - <discussion>
 - Assignment form will be changed to not create confusion
- Issues:
 - Some drill message text lines missing
 - Medium EOC-213RR priority -> Handling order Priority
- Self critique time:
 - Who wants to review how they did?
- Comment during zoom from instructor: will reword assignment text to change “Your From ICS Position:” to something else to avoid confusion with similar fields on 3rd party forms.

ICS-213 Status Update and Planned Closure Time

- Issues:
 - A couple ICS FROM Name missing -> “Jack Armstrong”
 - Some missing **** this is drill traffic ****
- Self critique time:
 - Who wants to review how they did?

ICS-309 and ICS-214

- Too common ICS-309 issue:
 - For Outpost-created ICS309 form, the Task Name should be:

"Xanadu Memorial Day Airshow, Checkpoint XX"

A number of checkpoints didn't follow this.

Self-critiques?

- ICS-214 was not required for this drill. Thanks for sending one if you did.

Summary

- Nice participation for this go!
- Areas for continued practice have been identified

Next practice is posted:

- Will be posted soon.
- Expect third Wednesday start: 21 June
- Expect same level of efforts

Next UP: Exercise Scorecard

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

NOTE: for this month, participants were asked to self-critique their own form content. Minimal checking was done by the instructor to verify participation requirements.