



Monthly Packet Message Passing Exercise Review

Period: 06/21/2023 09:00 to 06/28/2023



Santa Clara County ARES®/RACES

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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):	16
Participating / dropped / fun / staff:	12 / 0 / 1 / 3
Content Messages exchanged *:	
Form EOC213RR	t.b.d.
CSV form 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 - 02/22/2020
 - 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
 - CSV “thumb drive” file simulation
- 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
 - Good, 1 missing
- EOC213RR mostly worked
 - Content was mostly ok
 - Most stations noted that “high priority” mapped to “Immediate”
 - Most stations did not use the simulated voice net for Immediate notification
- CSV worked well
- ICS-309 task number and task names, still some issues

The Checkpoint Assignment:

Scenario for this month's exercise: you have been assigned as a packet radio operator supporting messaging at a checkpoint during the Xanadu Annual Soap Box Derby event.

Your tactical number: 51
Your role: Packet Radio Operator for Checkpoint 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 Annual Soap Box Derby
Activation Number: XND-23-0621P
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, 06/21/23 09:00 until Wednesday, 06/28/23 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).
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 ****
- New assignment added as item 6) – missed by most

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

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

Please 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.

e) Replace any "##" with an integer number.

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.,

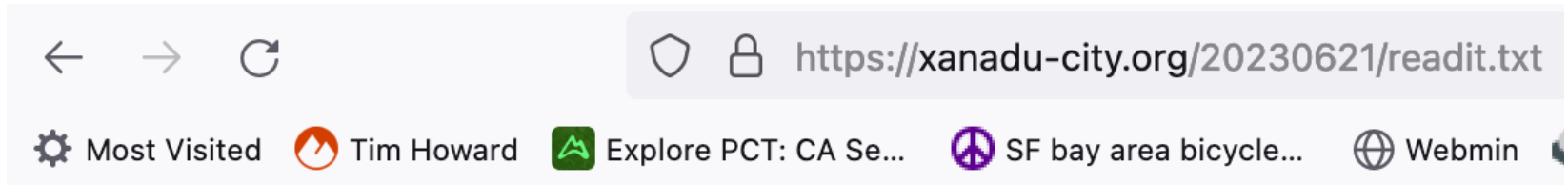
XND000-000P_R_ping

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

6) Open: xanadu-city.org/20230621/readit.txt

[20230621 1-check-in-ack]

Assignment 6)



Bonus!

Congratulations. You read to the bottom of the check-in acknowledgement message.

Please send this file as the message content in a routine, plain text message to the Xanadu EOC with subject "Bonus".

Hint: you can simply cut & paste this message as is.

**** this is drill traffic **** [20230621]

EOC-213RR Xanadu Annual Soap Box Derby

- From last month:
 - What is a 3rd party message?
 - <discussion>
 - Assignment form will be changed to not create confusion **Done**
- Everything mostly ok.
 - Some checkpoints thought the radio operator was one of the two parties and ICS From position was wrong
- Except:
 - Message was handling order Immediate
 - Only six checkpoints left simulated voice net message
 - Only two of those turned in ICS-309 for the voice net
- Self critique time:
 - Who wants to review how they did?

CSV file from “simulated thumb drive”

- Mostly went well
- Issues
 - One case blank lines were removed
 - One case CRLF terminations got embedded in quoted string, so didn't work
 - Fixed with a resend
 - One case a lot of commas were gone

ICS-309 and ICS-214

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

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-----  
- Use this as the Task Name:  
  "Xanadu Annual Soap Box Derby, Checkpoint XX".
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Some checkpoints did not 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:

- Expect third Wednesday start: 19 July
- Expect same level of efforts, but may “up” sent 3rd party from 2 to 3 for July

Expect Xanadu EOC vacation in August

Next UP: Exercise Scorecard

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