

Cape & Islands ARES District Technical Test Exercise #59 Guidelines



Cape Cod ARES

Operation **“Summer Comms”**

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Cape Cod ARES Zone Map



Date of Exercise

Saturday August 12th, 2017

Setup time: 9:00am

Start Time: 10:00am

End Time: 12:00pm

Duration: 2 hours

Purpose

The Cape Cod and Islands District Amateur Radio Emergency Service will conduct a technical test exercise to test its capability in establishing communications with some of its primary field sites using expedient stations. The technical test exercise called “**Summer Comms**” will test the ability of several FIELD STATIONS to provide communications coverage in our operational zones. This will also be a drill to test some of our EOC’s, Hospital stations, primary stations and other ARES member home stations. The exercise will attempt to build upon the lessons learned from our past operational exercises.

Scenario

Since this is a technical test exercise, there is no scenario as there would be during an operational exercise. Field stations that will interact with home, EOC and other fixed stations will be using only their basic field setup configurations. Field stations will be encouraged to use their optimal field antennas for maximum but safe height. Some stations may need to deploy directional antennas in addition to an omni-directional one. Any radios may be used in the exercise provided they are capable of being used on our frequencies outlined in the frequency utilization list. All stations should keep a detailed contact log for after action evaluation. Gaps will exist in coverage as is normally the case when using simplex operation. Remember that you might not always hear another station transmitting. Leave pauses between transmissions. The key to a successful exercise will be to carry on communications on simplex and use relays where necessary.

Exercise Objectives

The objectives of this exercise are as follows:

- Deploy field operations site at Sandwich EOC location
- Deploy field operation sites at Falmouth and Harwich
- Establish and conduct a tactical net on simplex 2m FM
- Establish HF communication regionally on 40m and 75m HF
- Establish contact with Town RACES EOC's
- Establish contact with other ARES districts and their EOCs where possible
- Test and evaluate zone relay operations with Home Stations
- Communicate with the Nantucket and Martha's Vineyard ARES/RACES stations

Operational Ground Rules

Communications Options to be utilized

Communications options for this exercise will be 2m FM, 75m and 40m SSB voice. All stations in VHF range will start by monitoring the 146.580 Primary *simplex frequency* for Net and other information.

Field Team must be completely self sufficient

The ARES field teams must bring all of their own equipment and supplies. Served agency communications equipment may **NOT** be used in any way. *We only use what we have brought with us.* Teams operating at RACES EOC's or other served agency sites are exempt, of course.

Message Handling

Message handling, on voice, will be limited as this is a technical test exercise.

Setup and Timeline

Setup time will be 9am. The exercise will begin promptly at 10am. It will last approximately 2 hours and will end at 12pm. Timelines may be adjusted accordingly in response to turnout and early completions of primary objectives.

Operational Disclaimers

Due to the proliferation of radio scanners and the possibility of misconstrued information by the public, all tactical voice messages *that can be misconstrued* will be preceded by the words **“This is a Drill”**. Any NTS formal messages will have the words **“This is a drill”** as the first four words in the body text. In this time of national public concern, we must make all efforts to ensure that the general populace is not misled and that amateur radio is not portrayed in a negative manner. Such messages will be infrequent as the scenario is a technical test exercise.

Available modes and frequencies to be used

ARES field, home and EOC operators should be using primarily 2 meter FM for this operation. 40m and 75m LSB will also be used. Use of other bands can be attempted if logistics and time permits.

Operational Players and Field Units

Cape Cod ARES Primary Field Site Station

The Cape Cod ARES Primary field site in Sandwich will attempt to set up the following operation stations:

- **2m FM 175W station**
- **40m and 75m NVIS Voice (Tentative)**

The Sandwich field site will be established near the Sandwich EOC. It will serve as a field EOC. It will operate self sufficiently.

Lower Cape Field Site- Cape Tech School

The Lower Cape site will be near the Cape Tech School in Harwich. It will be staffed by at least two operators for the exercise. It will operate self sufficiently and have operations on 2m FM voice and 40m/75m SSB.

Communications with the islands

Communications with the Islands will be attempted from either a Field site, or fixed stations (EOC etc.)/ARES home stations. Home relay stations can also be employed where necessary to establish contacts by simplex. Islands communications are critical.

Nantucket Operations

Nantucket operation is TBA

Home Operator Stations

Home operator stations will be of significant value in this drill. We will continue our test of home stations and their ability to serve as backup EOCs. Home stations can be the primary anchor points for our zones of operation within the district. This exercise will give our member's home stations a chance for testing of any new or experimental equipment, as well as, their emergency power backup systems. This will be an ideal time for the home operators to fully evaluate their stations performance.

Martha's Vineyard Operations

The Dukes County emergency manager will be utilizing a command mobile vehicle to check into the exercise.

Falmouth Hospital field site

Falmouth hospital site will be operational for the exercise. The hospital site, due to its man-made height will be an important station for relay work, if needed.

Cape and Islands Town RACES EOC's

We will attempt to communicate with several of our Cape RACES EOC's. Possible towns include Acushnet and others. New EOCs may be added as human resources allow.

FARA K1AIR Club station

The Falmouth club station K1AIR will likely be active on HF and VHF with voice.

NET Operations

HF Operation

HF operations will be conducted in a non formal check in with the Harwich field site anchoring the HF part of the exercise. It will operate continuously from the start of the exercise.

Primary Tactical NET

The primary tactical NET will operate on the RACES Primary *simplex* operating frequency of 146.580 using FM at the start of the exercise. This NET may remain there or move, if necessary, for the duration of the exercise.

Operating Procedure for the Tactical NET

The operating procedure for this exercise will consist of a roll call format for signal checks and contacts. During the initial check-in, stations will be flagged by whether or not the NCS can hear the station. If not, a relay will be asked for in contacting that station. After the initial check in, a roll call will be initiated. Stations will be asked by the NCS to attempt contact with EACH of the other stations, one at a time. All stations will keep a log of whom they can hear and who they have successfully contacted. Stations not being able to contact their intended calls will ask for relays, if needed, to complete the contact.

Problem Solving Situations and Improvisation

Unexpected situations

There will be one or two unannounced problem situations in the exercise. This will require the operators to improvise and think “out of the box”. These situations will enhance our ability to adapt to rapidly changing conditions. They will occur without notice, so be prepared to act quickly.

Incident Command Structure (ICS)

ICS functions will be assigned at the field site. We shall continue to use the ICS in future exercises in order for us to become knowledgeable in operating under this system for served agencies.

Critique and Evaluation of the Exercise

We will have a meeting to critique and analyze the exercise no later than 10 *days* after the exercise. All participants should bring their notes and observations for evaluation by the group. All exercises will produce information that could be useful to future operations. Even seemingly small details can prove valuable to our training and development.

This is a ***Basic/Medium*** Level Exercise

Although CCARES has had some multi-site large exercises in the past, this will be a Basic/medium level operations drill. It will be technically demanding on the field sites which will be using simplex and medium antenna heights.

Exercise Frequency Usage

(Exercise frequencies are all utilized from our frequency allocation sheet

Primary Tactical NET: 146.580 primary *Simplex*

UHF FM local operations 446.000 Simplex

HF 40m LSB voice 7245 Khz

HF 75m LSB voice 3943 Khz

Consult Latest Frequency Utilization list for Cape Cod ARES.