

Date: Mon, 30 May 2005 20:29:57 -0700 (PDT)
From: Mike Moses <ki7wh@yahoo.com>
Subject: E-newsletter and instructions for Tac net Wed June 1

As noted in the last e-newsletter, our RACES net schedule has changed to reflect a net each Wednesday, to include the monthly tactical net now changed to the first Wednesday of the month. Each net will involve a drill to verify competence, assess training needs, and/or enhance capabilities for amateur emergency communications.

Last week's drill was to see if operators could "QSY to a different repeater". Success rate for RACES logins was 70%. Operators logging in to both repeaters received a certification date on the member database for that task. The database will also increment the number of logins per individual member. We are looking to assess the reliability and competence of RACES operators and eventually use these data to make assignment decisions.

In looking over comments on RACES communication during Charlie, it seems that the central EOC RACES office was, for a time, overwhelmed with priority traffic. Could communications have been more efficient if there were more nets within the county filtering the traffic and coordinating with the main EOC? The idea is that we should have the ability (given enough operators with dual/multi-band capabilities) to tailor the number of nets to meet the communication needs. RACES must be flexible and scalable.

Our tac net this week will attempt to exercise the establishment of three sub-nodal nets feeding information to the main node at the EOC. The net controllers will be given an amended narrative establishing the parameters of the exercise. The first sub node will be the Englewood group, the second node will be a Peace River North location, probably at Peace River Regional Med Center. The third node will be Peace River South—location to be determined, but hopefully out of a citizen's home base.

There will be two layers of nets—A supervisory net consisting of the EOC and the three subordinate NCS's, each of which having their own net. The EOC will initiate the primary net with the three NCS's using the CARS machine 146.745 MHz. The EOC will direct the subordinate NCS's to contact their stations on the secondary net frequency.

Secondary Frequency

Englewood—146.865 EARS

Peace River North—147.015 GATOR

Peace River South--- 147.255 PRRA

Note: the nodes will be maintaining both nets simultaneously. These locations have more than one radio.

Designated stations will be polled in order by the NCS. Once the stations are logged in, the net will be opened to other stations wanting to log in. The NCS will then direct all stations to QSY to a simplex frequency and recheck in. A tally will be kept of stations logging in to each net. Stations will not call in, they will be called in turn by the NCS. The NCS will poll each station 3 times. Once all the stations are polled, the NCS will repoll each station that has not been checked in and then open check in for all stations. The sub net will then be closed. The EOC will contact each NCS to copy results, to include call signs before and after QSY and percentage of successful QSY for designated and non designated stations.

Other guidelines:

- NCS will stress use of standard prowords; e.g., zulu not zed, delta not dog.

- NCS are encouraged to provide correction for non-standard prowords by repeating the traffic using the correct proword.
- NCS will stress that RACES is an official net. Extraneous conversation and comments should be held till after the net.

The following narratives are provided for each of the 3 subordinate nets. These narratives replace the ones in the Charlotte EOC operations plan.

As indicated, the three NCSs should be from the Englewood EOC, the Peace River Regional (formerly St. Joseph) medical center and the Charlotte regional center. Designated operators for these positions are requested to confirm by email response.

narratives follow:

TACTICAL NET (3rd Wednesday 10 A.M.)

(Charlotte County EOC Tactical Net on 146.745 MHz repeater)

The control operator will use the following format:

CQ, CQ, CQ,

This is the Charlotte County Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service Tactical Net. Net Control is (call sign) _"Charlotte EOC" _____.

Today's net will test the ability of operators and control stations to split into subordinate nets, simulating saturated traffic at the main EOC. It will also test the ability of operator's to QSY to a simplex frequency and operate. There will be no announcements on these nets. Announcements for RACES/ARES will be made during routine repeater nets, repeater controller, and through email and club bulletins.

Repeater Controller Trustees or designees are requested to announce the following:

This month's tactical RACES net will take place on

Wednesday June 1 at 10 AM. We will attempt to run three subordinate nets at that time involving Englewood, Peace River North, and Peace River South NCS's. Tune in to the 745 machine at 10 AM for further instructions or email KI7WH@yahoo.com.

This is a directed net activated for the purpose of a training drill. All communications shall be directed to the Net Control Station. The tactical call sign of the net control is Charlotte EOC.

The tactical call sign shall be used when contacting the net control station. Amateur radio stations not directly concerned with this RACES exercise are requested to standby.

This is Charlotte EOC net control (call sign)_____.

This week the tactical net will consist of an exercise involving 3 subordinate nets within the county, each of which will operate on a different repeater as well as QSY to a simplex frequency. The net will initiate with Charlotte EOC establishing 3 subordinate nets. Each subordinate net will then open a tactical net, poll members, QSY, close the subordinate net and report the results to Charlotte EOC NCS.

The Alternate NCS stations will most likely be:

Englewood EOC on Frequency 146.865 minus,
Peace River Regional as Peace River North NCS on Frequency 147.015 positive,
and Charlotte Medical as Peace River South NCS on Frequency 147.255 positive.

The following narrative will be used:

FOR ENGLEWOOD:

“Englewood EOC , this is Charlotte EOC.”

If Englewood responds: “ Englewood EOC, this is Charlotte EOC. What are your station call letters, phonetically?”

Englewood responds with call letters. Then ask “Englewood EOC, if you have assistant or alternate operators, provide their call signs phonetically.” “Englewood EOC How do you hear this station?”

Then state, I have you logged in to the EOC NCS net at _____ (time) with _____(signal report). At this time, you are to assume control of the Englewood sub-regional net, using the net control instructions for this exercise. You are initially on repeater Freq 146.685. Poll your stations by calling each tactical location and have then identify the station (e.g., Tringali) and the operator/assistant operator call sign. Poll any missing stations that have not checked in.. Once stations are logged in you may call for non-RACES stations to join your net. Once these stations are logged, have all stations QSY to simplex 144.600, and poll the RACES station, then the visiting stations. Call for missing stations only one time. Once the final call for visiting stations has been made, close the net and call the Charlotte EOC to report your results.

“At this time Englewood net control requests a station to act as back-up net control to operate this net if at any point "primary" net control can not continue. The back up net control must be located at one of the tactical sites and must have the capability of operation on at least two nets simultaneously.

Any station who can operate as back-up net control please call now. “

“Net control will now standby for stations with emergency or priority traffic.....(Pause).”

Net control will now proceed with a check in of Tactical Locations. Each location shall acknowledge as follows:

This is (state your call sign phonetically) _____ at (state your location) with a signal report. (Net Control shall respond to the called station with a signal report.) Do not call in to net control. I will call each station in turn.

If a station does not respond, call them a second time. If no response, state "I have nothing heard from _____". Then, call the next station in turn. Once all stations have been called, call for the missing stations in turn.

Tactical Locations:

- Englewood EOC
- Englewood Fire Station #1
- Englewood Community Hospital
- Fire Station #4
- Joseph Tringali Community Center
- Gardens of Gulf Cove
- Lemon Bay High School
- WENG Radio Station
- Beverly Health Care Center
- Ainger Jr. High School
- Vineland Elementary school
- Myakka Elementary School
- EMS Station #4
- Englewood Repeater Site
- Holiday Park

"ENGLEWOOD EOC will now stand by for RACES/ARES pool operator member stations only. If you are not a member of RACES or ARES, you are encouraged to apply. Stations wishing to check in call now.

Are there any further check ins?"

After the last check in,

"At this time there will be no further check-ins."

"All Stations. All Stations. On my mark QSY to simplex 144.600 MHz. . I say again, on my mark QSY to 144.600MHz simplex. This station will resume the Englewood EOC tactical net in 3 minutes at which time all currently logged in stations will be re-polled in turn. At this time QSY, QSY, QSY"

After 3 minutes, net control calls each station that has been logged in and relog there time to join the simplex net. If no response, call each station one additional time before moving on to the next station. If no response state "I have nothing heard from _____" and move to the next station. Request any stations hearing a station with a weak signal not heard by net control to identify themselves and attempt a relay. After the last station has been relogged, ask for any missing stations to check in. Log their times.

This completes this RACES exercise. ENGLEWOOD EOC Net Control _____ closes this RACES training net at _____local time clear.

At this time Englewood EOC contacts Charlotte EOC on 146.745 as follows:

"Charlotte EOC, this is Englewood EOC with a report for today's exercise."

The response should reflect: “ Englewood EOC, this is Charlotte EOC. Go ahead with your report to include: start, close and QSY times of each net and of each logged in tactical site, operator(s) call sign, time logged in to repeater net , time logged in to simplex net.

After the report of all subordinate nets are in.

“This is Charlotte EOC. This concludes today’s tactical exercise. Thanks and appreciation to all RACES/ARES volunteers. The net is now closed.

FOR Peace River South:

“Peace River South EOC , this is Charlotte EOC.”

If Peace River South. EOC responds: “ Peace River South EOC, this is Charlotte EOC. What are your station call letters, phonetically?”

Peace River South EOC responds with call letters. Then ask “Peace River South EOC, if you have assistant or alternate operators, provide their call signs phonetically.” “Peace River South EOC How do you hear this station?”

Then state, I have you logged in to the EOC NCS net at _____ (time) with _____(signal report). At this time, you are to assume control of the Peace River South sub-regional net, using the net control instructions for this exercise. You are initially on repeater Freq 147.255. Poll your stations by calling each tactical location and have then identify the station (e.g., Airport) and the operator/assistant operator call sign. Poll any missing stations that have not checked in.. Once stations are logged in you may call for non-RACES stations to join your net. Once these stations are logged, have all stations QSY to simplex 144.600, and poll the RACES station, then the visiting stations. Call for missing stations only one time. Once the final call for visiting stations has been made, close the net and call the Charlotte EOC to report your results.

“At this time Peace River South net control requests a station to act as back-up net control to operate this net if at any point "primary" net control can not continue. The back up net control must be located at one of the tactical sites and must have the capability of operation on at least two nets simultaneously.

Any station who can operate as back-up net control please call now. “

“Net control will now standby for stations with emergency or priority traffic.....(Pause).”

Net control will now proceed with a check in of Tactical Locations. Each location shall acknowledge as follows:

This is (state your call sign phonetically) _____ at (state your location) with a signal report. (Net Control shall respond to the called station with a signal report.) Do not call in to net control. I will call each station in turn.

If a station does not respond, call them a second time. If no response, state “I have nothing heard from _____”. Then, call the next station in turn. Once all stations have been called, call for the missing stations in turn.

Tactical Locations:

Sheriff's Hanger, etc.
(PG)Punta Gorda Police, etc
(PG) Punta Gorda Utilities
Coast Guard Aux
Airport

“Peace River South EOC will now stand by for RACES/ARES pool operator member stations only. If you are not a member of RACES or ARES, you are encouraged to apply. Stations wishing to check in call now.

Are there any further check ins?”

After the last check in,

“At this time there will be no further check-ins.”

“All Stations. All Stations. On my mark QSY to simplex 144.652 MHz. . I say again, on my mark QSY to 144.652MHzsimplex. This station will resume the Peace River South EOC tactical net in 3 minutes at which time all currently logged in stations will be re-pollled in turn. At this time QSY, QSY, QSY”

After 3 minutes, net control calls each station that has been logged in and re-log there time to join the simplex net. If no response, call each station one additional time before moving on to the next station. If no response state “I have nothing heard from _____” and move to the next station. Request any stations hearing a station with a weak signal not heard by net control to identify themselves and attempt a relay. After the last station has been re-logged, ask for any missing stations to check in. Log their times.

This completes this RACES exercise. Peace River South. EOC Net Control _____ closes this RACES training net at _____ local time clear.

At this time Peace River South EOC contacts Charlotte EOC on 146.745 as follows:

“Charlotte EOC, this is Peace River South EOC with a report for today's exercise.”

The response should reflect: “Englewood EOC, this is Charlotte EOC. Go ahead with your report to include: start, close and QSY times of each net and of each logged in tactical site, operator(s) callsign, time logged in to repeater net , time logged in to simplex net.

After the report of all subordinate nets are in.

“This is Charlotte EOC. This concludes today's tactical exercise. Thanks and appreciation to all RACES/ARES volunteers. The net is now closed.

FOR Peace River North:

“Peace River North EOC , this is Charlotte EOC.”

If Peace River North. EOC responds: “ Peace River North EOC, this is Charlotte EOC. What are your station call letters, phonetically?”

Peace River North EOC responds with call letters. Then ask “Peace River North EOC, if you have assistant or alternate operators, provide their call signs phonetically.” “Peace River North. EOC How do you hear this station?”

Then state, I have you logged in to the EOC NCS net at _____ (time) with _____(signal report). At this time, you are to assume control of the Peace River North sub-regional net, using the net control instructions for this exercise. You are initially on repeater Freq 146.685. Poll your stations by calling each tactical location and have then identify the station (e.g., Fawcett) and the operator/assistant operator call sign. Poll any missing stations that have not checked in.. Once stations are logged in you may call for non-RACES stations to join your net. Once these stations are logged, have all stations QSY to simplex 144.600, and poll the RACES station, then the visiting stations. Call for missing stations only one time. Once the final call for visiting stations has been made, close the net and call the Charlotte EOC to report your results.

“At this time Peace River North net control requests a station to act as back-up net control to operate this net if at any point "primary" net control can not continue. The back up net control must be located at one of the tactical sites and must have the capability of operation on at least two nets simultaneously.

Any station who can operate as back-up net control please call now. “

“Net control will now standby for stations with emergency or priority traffic.....(Pause).”

Net control will now proceed with a check in of Tactical Locations. Each location shall acknowledge as follows:

This is (state your callsign phonetically) _____ at (state your location) with a signal report. (Net Control shall respond to the called station with a signal report.) Do not call in to net control. I will call each station in turn.

If a station does not respond, call them a second time. If no response, state “I have nothing heard from _____”. Then, call the next station in turn. Once all stations have been called, call for the missing stations in turn.

Tactical Locations:

Peace River Regional Hospital),etc.
(American)Red Cross, etc.
Fawcett (Memorial Hospital) etc.
Veteran’s Home
Deep Creek

“Peace River North EOC will now stand by for RACES/ARES pool operator member stations only. If you are not a member of RACES or ARES, you are encouraged to apply. Stations wishing to check in call now.

Are there any further check ins?”

After the last check in,

“At this time there will be no further check-ins.”

“All Stations. All Stations. On my mark QSY to simplex 144.652 MHz. . I say again, on my mark QSY to 144.652MHzsimplex. This station will resume the Peace River North EOC tactical net in 3 minutes at which time all currently logged in stations will be re-polled in turn. At this time QSY, QSY, QSY”

After 3 minutes, net control calls each station that has been logged in and relog there time to join the simplex net. If no response, call each station one additional time before moving on to the next station. If no response state “I have nothing heard from _____” and move to the next station. Request any stations hearing a station with a weak signal not heard by net control to identify themselves and attempt a relay. After the last station has been re-logged, ask for any missing stations to check in. Log their times.

This completes this RACES exercise. Peace River North. EOC Net Control _____ closes this RACES training net at _____local time clear.

At this time Peace River North EOC contacts Charlotte EOC on 146.745 as follows:

“Charlotte EOC, this is Peace River North EOC with a report for today’s exercise.”

The response should reflect: “ Peace River North EOC, this is Charlotte EOC. Go ahead with your report to include: start, close and QSY times of each net and of each logged in tactical site, operator(s) call sign, time logged in to repeater net , time logged in to simplex net.

After the report of all subordinate nets are in.

“This is Charlotte EOC. This concludes today’s tactical exercise. Thanks and appreciation to all RACES/ARES volunteers. The net is now closed.

Narrative ends.

Questions? by email reply or 629 4553

KI7WH
MIKE MOSES