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EXERCISE BULLETIN
Exercise Mercury Medic 2018
Exercise Citadel Rumble 2018
-In support of the U.S. Navy Medical System-

Please distribute to all traffic nets and EMCOMM organizations
www.radio-relay.org

EXERCISE SUMMARY

Radio Relay International has been asked to support a military medical system exercise on Wednesday, September 5 and Thursday, September 6, 2018. The local phase and interface with U.S. Navy facilities is being managed by the ARRL San Diego Section.

The exercise is a Commander Navy Installation Command (CNIC) regional natural disaster exercise. Naval Air Station Whidbey Island (NASWI) will simulate two (2) significant earthquakes occurring within the exercise window. Earthquakes and subsequent damage(s) will interrupt existing communications assets and capabilities – Internet, landline (DSN), cellular, Enterprise Land Mobile Radio System (ELMRS).

Naval Health Clinic Oak Harbor (NHCOH), in conjunction with NASWI MARS, Island County Emergency Operations Center (IC EOC), and the San Diego Amateur Radio Volunteer team, will conduct Exercise Mercury Medic 2018, to develop, validate and execute alternate means of communications outside the affected region(s) (150 miles minimum), utilizing organic amateur radio communication assets to provide communication and coordination capabilities with NHCOH's Higher Headquarters (HHQ), Navy Medicine West (NMW), located in Southern California.

During the exercise period, simulated welfare traffic using the precedence "Test Welfare" (TW) will also be originated via the Winlink system using the standard radiogram template. This traffic will be automatically routed to RRI region liaison stations, which will be responsible for traffic distribution to state and local networks within their respective regions for delivery to the addressee.

Goals for the exercise include:

- Prompt routing by the most expedient method/network is to ensure timely delivery. RRI Radio Operators should use the network most likely to achieve delivery to the addressee within a reasonable time. For the purposes of this exercise, the target goal for the delivery of welfare traffic is within six hours from time of origination.

- Professional delivery methods are encouraged. A polite, professional telephone call should include a follow-up with an e-mail or hard-copy delivery of the message. Delivering stations are asked to offer this service to the addressee.

- E-mail follow-ups should include a copy of the radio message, properly translated, using RRI Radiogram Form 1801. See link to form below.

- Operators are asked to maintain a log of all messages delivered noting the city and state in which the addressee was located and time of delivery. Send these logs to: james.wades@radio-relay.org.

PREPARATION FOR EXERCISE:

All traffic operators should prepare for the exercise by taking the following steps:

1. Have the RRI Form 1801 or 1801ACP fillable radiogram blanks accessible on one's computer. In advance of the exercise, populate the form with a sample text and print the radiogram as a **non-fillable PDF**. Check the product saved to file. Ensure that you are familiar with the process in advance of the exercise. See:

   http://radio-relay.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/RRI-Radiogram-form-1801-A-Final-Approved.pdf

   http://radio-relay.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/RRI-Radiogram-form-1801-B-ACP-Final-Approved.pdf

2. Develop a list of one's state and local net times and frequencies, along with a list of both the Cycle 2 and Cycle 4 region net frequencies for your RRI region. This list should include any alternate frequencies to be used in time of emergency, such as one's state calling and emergency frequency.

3. Review the *Draft RRI National Emergency Communications Plan* available at: http://radio-relay.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/RRI-NECRP-Draft-V6-Public-Distribtuion-Comp.pdf

4. Ensure that all equipment is fully operational and, where applicable, check that the capacity exists to monitor alternate frequencies (spare communications receiver(s), etc.).

5. *While not anticipated*, operators should also be prepared to relay and deliver any agency traffic that might be transferred into the RRI system. This traffic will carry the "Test Priority" ("TP") precedence. Message traffic addressed to a served agency official should be delivered using RRI Radiogram-ICS213 Message Form 1703. This may be found at: http://radio-relay.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/RRI-Form-1703-ICS-2017-5-1.pdf

NETWORK ACTIVATION AND TOPOLOGY

Traffic will be injected via Winlink using the standard radiogram form contained in the Winlink Express package. It will then be transferred to an RRI Region Liaison Station based on addressee location. The Winlink/RRI liaison station will then distribute the traffic based on the following guidelines:

Region Net Interface:

Provided significant delays are not involved, the Winlink/RRI liaison station may transfer the traffic to a regularly scheduled Cycle 2 or Cycle 4 region net. State/section nets should take extra care to ensure they are represented on their region net during the exercise periods.

Direct transfer to state/section or local nets:

The Winlink/RRI liaison station may, at his discretion, take incoming traffic directly to a scheduled state or local traffic net to expedite rapid routing and delivery.

Watch (calling) frequencies:

CW Watch (calling) frequencies will also be available (SEE BELOW). Traffic operators are encouraged to monitor the watch frequencies during the time periods specified. Traffic to be transferred from the Winlink/RRI region liaison station to a destination state via CW should be concentrated at the top of the hour

RRI Digital Traffic Network:

The Winlink/RRI liaison station may also utilize the RRI Digital Traffic Network to automatically route traffic to the destination state/section. Therefore, Digital Traffic Stations stations should connect to DTN and download traffic **hourly,** at the minimum, during the exercise periods. It is the responsibility of the DTS to route traffic to scheduled destination state or local nets or otherwise ensure timely processing of incoming welfare message traffic for his state/section.

Winlink/RRI liaisons should be aware that some states/sections do not currently have an active Digital Traffic Station (DTS). Therefore, one should utilize DTN only for those states/sections known to have active connectivity during the exercise.

Inter-Area Traffic Network (IATN)

IATN CW frequencies will serve two purposes.

1. IATN frequencies will serve as the default calling frequencies for the optional distribution of traffic to states/sections. These frequencies will be shared in multiple regions. Therefore, care should be exercised to limit conflicts. Both assigned liaison stations and individual operators are encouraged to monitor the IATN frequencies (see below) for incoming message traffic.

2. IATN frequencies may be used to transfer traffic between regions. While unlikely, this may prove necessary should message traffic be accidentally routed to the wrong RRI region. This transfer process should be concentrated at half past the hour.

All traffic operators are also encouraged to monitor the IATN frequencies at the top of the hour to accept incoming traffic for their state. The basic format for traffic exchange is summarized below:

1. Stations holding traffic will transmit a traffic list at the start of the designated watch period (CW at top of hour, SSB at bottom of the hour). *Be certain to determine that the frequency is NOT already in use*. A typical format for a traffic list might be:

   RRI RRI de W6RRI QTC IL WI KY 2   QSP?

2. Stations answering should indicate which messages they can clear and specify a working frequency (e.g. up 3, down 5, etc.) above or below the calling frequency. The two stations will then QSY to the specified working frequency, clear the message traffic, then return to the calling frequency.

3563 kHz (Intrastate / Region alternate)	7115 kHz (Region primary)
10115 kHz (Region alternate)	14115 kHz (Inter-Area)

3. Stations exchanging traffic are at liberty to select any working frequency/mode of their choice, provided they return to the appropriate watch (calling) frequency. However, the method used should be reliant upon an RF path.

DIRECT DELIVERY BY WINLINK/RRI LIAISON STATION

Direct delivery to the addressee by the Winlink/RRI Liaison stations or other operators not in the immediate service area of the addressee may be necessary in some cases. Please try to ensure that the appropriate state or local service area is not represented before doing so. However, customer service in the form of prompt delivery is ultimately the overriding imperative.

Participating stations have considerable leverage to dynamically respond to exercise requirements. In other words….when necessary, improvise, adapt, overcome.

TRAFFIC DISTRIBUTION

At present, we are not aware of the anticipated general distribution of test welfare traffic to be originated. Therefore, all regions should be prepared to receive exercise traffic.

EXERCISE TIME PERIODS

The exercise will occur on September 5 and 6 during the following time periods:

　　　1000 PST to 1400 PDT   or   051701Z to 052100Z and 061701Z to 062100Z Sep 2018

RRI assets may not be required on the second day (September 6). While operators should plan to be on duty both days, please be advised that a special exercise bulletin may be issued terminating the RRI portion of the exercise on day two. Check the RRI Web Page at: www.radio-relay.org

END