Operation: Spring SET 2019

Exercise Plan

APRIL 27, 2019

# Exercise Overview

| **Exercise Name** | Illinois ARES® Spring Simulated Emergency Test (SET) 2019 |
| --- | --- |
| **Exercise Dates** | April 27, 2019, 0800-1600 Local |
| **Scope** | This exercise is focused on training Illinois ARES® and related operators involving ARES® Communications Units statewide. |
| **Mission Area(s)** | Response |
| **Core Capabilities** | Operational Coordination  Operational Communications  Operational Instruction and Training  Operational Planning |
| **Overall Objectives** | * + - 1. Demonstrate the ability to communicate with multiple stations within the state including Emergency Operations Center at the state level and Emergency Operations Centers at the county/City level using Incident Command System (ICS) forms/NTS Radiograms and different communication modes and protocols.       2. Demonstrate the ability to integrate Auxiliary Communications into the ICS Structure at served agencies, if available. |
| **Threat or Hazard** | Technological – Infrastructure severely impaired/inoperable |
| **Scenario** | A terrorist event has disrupted traditional communications services and equipment across the Midwest. Cell phones, telephones, and internet are being impacted. It is unknown if this is a cyber-attack or EMP at this time. Illinois Transportable Emergency Communications System (ITECS) and Unified Command Post (UCP) units have been deployed to supplement Emergency Operations Centers in communicating locally and state-wide. |
| **Sponsor** | Illinois Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES®) |
| **Participating Organizations** | Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA)  AuxComm, including ARES® and RACES  Illinois Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Services (RACES)  Wisconsin and Indiana ARES® Section Emergency Coordinators |
| **Point of Contact** | Robert Littler, W9DSR 630-360-1856 |

# General Information

## Exercise Objectives and Core Capabilities

The following exercise objectives in Table 1 describe the expected outcomes for the exercise. The objectives are linked to core capabilities, which are distinct critical elements necessary to achieve the specific mission area(s). The objectives and aligned core capabilities are guided by elected and appointed officials and selected by the Exercise Planning Team.

| Exercise Objective | Core Capability |
| --- | --- |
| Demonstrate the ability to coordinate multiple NET CONTROL STATIONS to adequately support backup communication methods. | Operational Coordination |
| Demonstrate the ability to communicate with multiple ARES® stations using voice and digital modes | Operational Communications |
| Demonstrate the ability to communicate with the State Emergency Operations Center via voice and data communications methods. | Operational Communications |
| Demonstrate the ability to support local communications methods. | Operational Communications |
| Demonstrate the ability to integrate auxiliary communications into the ICS structure. | Operational Communications |
| Demonstrate the ability to effectively use ICS forms. | Operational Coordination |
| Demonstrate and explain Field Station equipment, methods and protocols to ARES members | Operational Instruction and Training |
| Simulate personnel changes due to multiple Operation Periods | Operation Coordination |
| Creation of a viable Exercise Plan | Operation Planning |

Table 1. Exercise Objectives and Associated Core Capabilities

## Participant Roles and Responsibilities

The term *participant* encompasses many groups of people, not just those playing in the exercise. Groups of participants involved in the exercise, and their respective roles and responsibilities, are as follows:

* **Players.** Players are personnel who have an active role in discussing or performing their regular roles and responsibilities during the exercise. Players discuss or initiate actions in response to the simulated emergency.
* **Controllers.** Controllers plan and manage exercise play, set up and operate the exercise site, and act in the roles of organizations or individuals that are not playing in the exercise. Controllers direct the pace of the exercise, provide key data to players, and may prompt or initiate certain player actions to ensure exercise continuity. In addition, they issue exercise material to players as required, monitor the exercise timeline, and supervise the safety of all exercise participants.
* **Evaluators**. Evaluators manage data collection and analysis effort. Aggregates all evaluation data, compares it to performance objectives and core capabilities, facilitates incident/exercise hot washes or debriefings, eliciting feedback and input from all types of personnel. Serves as author for after-action report and other required evaluation documents, diplomatically conveying complex, potentially sensitive issue

## Exercise Assumptions and Artificialities

In any exercise, assumptions and artificial scenarios are necessary to complete play in the time allotted and/or account for logistical limitations. Exercise participants should accept that assumptions and artificial scenarios are inherent in any exercise and should not allow these considerations to negatively impact their participation.

### Assumptions

Assumptions constitute the implied factual foundation for the exercise and, as such, are assumed to be present before the exercise starts. The following assumptions apply to the exercise:

* The exercise is conducted in a no-fault learning environment wherein capabilities, plans, systems, and processes will be evaluated.
* The exercise scenario is plausible, and events occur as they are presented.
* Exercise simulation contains sufficient detail to allow players to react to information and situations as they are presented as if the simulated incident were real.
* Participating agencies may need to balance the exercise with real-world emergencies. Real-world emergencies take priority.

### Artificialities

During this exercise, the following artificialities apply:

* Only communication methods/protocols listed in the attached ICS 205 (as amended by local controllers) are available for players to use during the exercise.

# Exercise Logistics

## Safety

Exercise participant safety takes priority over exercise events. The following general requirements apply to the exercise:

* A Safety Controller is responsible for participant safety; any safety concerns must be immediately reported to the Safety Controller. The Safety Controller and Exercise Director will determine if a real-world emergency warrants a pause in exercise play and when exercise play can be resumed. A Safety Controller shall be assigned as soon as possible before the exercise.
* For an emergency that requires assistance, use the phrase **“real-world emergency.”** The following procedures should be used in case of a real emergency during the exercise:
* Anyone who observes a participant who is seriously ill or injured will immediately notify emergency services and the closest controller, and, within reason and training, render aid.
* The controller aware of a real emergency will initiate the **“real-world emergency”** broadcast and provide the Safety Controller, Senior Controller, and Exercise Director with the location of the emergency and resources needed, if any. The Senior Controller (if assigned) will notify the Exercise Director as soon as possible if a real emergency occurs.

### Electrical and Generating Device Hazards

All applicable electrical and generating device safety requirements shall be documented prior to the start of the exercise.

### Weapons Policy

Weapons are prohibited on premises during the exercise.

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# Post-exercise and Evaluation Activities

## Debriefings

Post-exercise debriefings aim to collect sufficient relevant data to support effective evaluation and improvement planning.

### Hot Wash

At the conclusion of exercise play (1600L), controllers facilitate a Hot Wash to allow players to discuss strengths and areas for improvement, and evaluators to seek clarification regarding player actions and decision-making processes. All participants may attend; however, observers are not encouraged to attend the meeting. The Hot Wash should not exceed 30 minutes.

Bridge information: 712-451-0200, access code is 951496#.

# Demobilization

**General Information**

The local Controller will announce the demobilization of resources for the SET.

1. This activity ensures that all Amateur Radio/EMA resources are returned to their “as-found” condition.
2. All Unit ICS-214 forms will be given to the local Controller prior to release.

**Demobilization process**

1. Ensure all power sources are in the off position before removing any radio/electronic devices.
2. Roll up coax, tuner cable, rotator cable or other lines and cables neatly.
3. Retract portable towers, push up poles, or other antenna structures to their lowest level. Stow those items in their storage location.
4. Ensure that all stakes, guy lines, warning ropes are removed, coiled up and stowed.
5. Ensure trailers, if used, are properly attached to their vehicles with hitches and safety chains as required.
6. Ensure all equipment related Issues are resolved and documented
7. Ensure all equipment is readied for the next activity.
8. If available, Demobilization Checkout form ([ICS-221](file:///C:\Users\jrozwick\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary%20Internet%20Files\Content.Outlook\ZZ6P4ZQT\pdf%20versions\ICS-221_DEMOBILIZATION_CHECKOUT.pdf)) given to demobilizing players.

Completed ICS 221 forms must be returned to the local Controller as the last step before final release. Controllers will then release all participants when forms are complete and equipment is ready to be transported to home base.

# Participant Information and Guidance

## Exercise Rules

The following general rules govern exercise play:

* Real-world emergency actions will take priority over exercise actions.
* Exercise players will comply with real-world emergency procedures, unless otherwise directed by the control staff.
* All communications (including written, radio, telephone, and e-mail) during the exercise will begin and end with the statement **“This is an exercise.” Net Control Stations using voice/phone may take some liberty using that phrase. Providing the phrase is generally understood by all.**
* Use emergency power when at all possible
* Use "simplified" equipment configuration - operated by minimum number of people.
* Use teams/groups to alternate operating times - simulation of "72 Hours"
* Simplex operation on all bands – secondary simplex nets acceptable

Temporary antenna structures dipoles or Near Vertical Incidence Skywave (NVIS) HF antennas

* Use voice and data (Winlink) message relays where needed
* Test of JS8Call for passing SET bulletins/changes. See Appendix X**.**

## Players Instructions

Players should follow certain SET and safety guidelines before, during, and after the exercise to ensure a safe and effective exercise.

### Before the Exercise

* Review appropriate organizational plans, procedures, and exercise support documents.
* Each player will start an ICS214 and update the form throughout the day.
* Be at the appropriate site at least 30 minutes before the exercise starts.
* Wear the appropriate clothing and/or identification item(s).
* Sign in with Team Leader/Controller upon arrival.
* Read and understand the exercise plan particularly for exercise safety.

### During the Exercise

* Respond to exercise events and information as if the emergency were real, unless otherwise directed by an exercise controller.
* Controllers will provide only the information they are specifically directed to disseminate. Players are expected to obtain other necessary information through exercise information channels.
* Players are allowed to discuss exercise topics and conversations with controllers, evaluators, observers, or media personnel during the exercise. If asked an exercise-related question, give a short, concise answer. If a player is busy and cannot immediately respond, indicate that, but report back with an answer as soon as possible. Players are not allowed to discuss non-exercise topics with controllers, evaluators, observers, or media personnel.
* If a player does not understand the scope of the exercise, or if is uncertain about an organization’s participation in an exercise, the player should ask a controller. Do not guess or assume.
* Parts of the scenario may seem implausible. Recognize that the exercise has objectives to satisfy and may require incorporation of unrealistic aspects. Every effort has been made by the exercise’s authors to balance realism with safety and to create an effective learning and evaluation environment.
* All exercise communications will begin and end with the statement “This is an exercise.” This precaution is taken so that anyone who overhears the conversation will not mistake the exercise for a real-world emergency. (As amended by Exercise Rules)
* Players should vocalize actions taken. This will ensure that evaluators are aware of critical actions as they occur.
* Log activities (ICS214) including digital messages sent and received via WinLink Peer to Peer (P2P). Even if the message is counted at other stations, count it as a sent or received message from the player’s station. Follow the attached spreadsheet format when counting messages or use the log report from your WinLink software. Spread sheet example will be attached to the final document.
* Digital Messages will be sent by VHF Packet Winlink Peer to Peer or HF WINMOR/ARDOP Peer to Peer, or JS8Call.
* After the exercise, all players will participate in the Hot Wash at the local venue with controllers and evaluators.
* Provide any notes or materials generated from the exercise to the controller or evaluator for review and inclusion in the After Action Report (AAR).
* NET CONTROL STATION’s on scheduled bands will call every 20 Minutes (X:00, X:20, X:40) on a "open net" check ins, 3.905 MHz 'fall back' frequency throughout the day
* We will be using the traffic cop approach. That is, where an originating station with non-NTS (ICS213) traffic will contact the current NET CONTROL STATION, and the NET CONTROL STATION in turn will contact the traffic receiving station. The receiving station will then call the originating station for traffic. For National Traffic System traffic see WB9QPM’s comment in Appendix Y.
* There will be 4 NET CONTROL STATIONS during the exercise. Although we will plan the times for the NCS to be on the air, and the bands they will cover, propagation and other activities may change that. We will be using 3.905 for the fall back frequency….so if you hear silence, call on 3.905.

A conference bridge will be active during the exercise **for the** **Controllers and Evaluators**.

Bridge information: 712-451-0200, access code is 951496#.

## 

## Simulation Guidelines

Because the exercise is of limited duration and scope, certain details will be simulated. The physical description of what would fully occur at the incident sites and surrounding areas will be relayed to players by controllers?

# exercise scenario

At 4:30 am CDT, Illinois experienced a statewide communications failure. The cause of the failure is a physical attack against a major telecommunication switching center and a coordinated cyber-attack against the carrier’s management and control systems. Cell Phones, StarCom Radios, landlines, 911, and internet service is spotty or unavailable.

Emergency Operation Centers have been activated across the state including the Rogers Street Facility (NC9IL) in Springfield.

Information will need to be shared locally, regionally as well as statewide.

Hospitals, Emergency Management Services (EMS), Police and 9-1-1 centers have limited to no communications capabilities.

At 0800 CDT, we will start an 80 meter net to establish the exercise. This net will close at 1030CDT when the 60 meter net will start. Please check into the net as your station becomes operable and check out when the net closes down.

At 1030 CDT, we will start the 60-meter net and NET CONTROL STATION will announce to the attendees the net is open to accept traffic. This net will close at 1130AM then the 40-meter net will start. Please check into the net as your station becomes operable and check out when the net closes.

At 1130 CDT we will start the 40-meter net. NET CONTROL STATION will announce the net is open to accept traffic both digital and voice. This net will close when we start the 80-meter net at 1300 CDT. Please check into the net as your station becomes operable and check out when the net closes.

At 1300 CDT we will start the 80-meter net. NET CONTROL STATION will announce the net is open to accept both digital and voice traffic. Please check into the net as your station becomes operable and check out when the net closes.

At 1600 CDT 80-meter NET CONTROL STATION will close the net and return the frequency back to normal use. The field stations will contact net control and check out.

**The following activities are the minimum to be done during each of the HF nets from 0800 – 1600**

**Activity 1**

-Stations outside IL will send directed NTS Radiograms and WinLink messages to certain exercise field stations. Be prepared to handle these messages per their directions. You will not know until the message arrives what you are to do with it.

**Activity 2**

-A station in N Illinois has developed a list of supplies to be fulfilled by NC9IL. The list will be sent to the NET CONTROL STATION in Southern Illinois ASAP and then they will send to NC9IL.

You are to get the following list to the Southern Illinois NCS.

200 feet of 1” hardline with connectors

2 dual band antennas

20 cots

40 blankets

200 gallons of water

200 First Aid Kits

**Activity 3**

-You are handed a list of meds to be communicated to the American Red Cross station in Quincy (Western Illinois), the list will be sent from a station in Eastern Illinois. Please forward/relay to a destination as close to Quincy, IL

APTIOM

BANZEL

BRIVIACT

CELONTIN

chloroquine

clobazam

clonazepam

DIASTAT

diazepam

DILANTIN

divalproex

epitol

EQUETRO

ethosuximide

felbamate

FYCOMPA

gabapentin

GRALISE

LAMICTAL XR STARTER (BLUE)

LAMICTAL XR STARTER (GREEN)

LAMICTAL XR STARTER (ORANGE)

Vivotif

**Activity 4**

Send an ICS213 or NTS Radiogram (Digital WinLink, “peer to peer”) message to any WinLink address. ARES® Winlink addresses listed in Appendix F are suggestions only. Each Field Station may choose as many addresses as they wish or add additional Call Signs. Message content for the activity shall contain the following:

Number of people at the SET site

* Location of SET station
* Capability of SET station (modes and frequencies)
* Name of your Team Leader/Controller
* Name of your County EMA director

Exercise Schedule

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  |  |
| **4/27/2019** | **Personnel** | **Activity** | **Location** |
| 0800-1030 | All Participants | 80-meter Net | All SET Locations |
| 1030-1130 | All Participants | 60-meter Net | All SET Locations |
| 1130-1300 | All Participants | 40-meter Net | All SET Locations |
| 1300-1600 | All Participants | 80-meter Net | All SET Locations |
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|  |  |  |  |

Communications Plan

See ICS205 attachment.

**Appendix C: Net Operations**

NC9IL is fully manned and operational from 0800L to SET close

NC9IL has 'all band' SSB capability (dedicated equipment)

NC9IL has 3571.5 Winlink ARDOP capability throughout SET operational period

Two additional NCS stations (A/B) will be assigned later

In this scenario, NC9IL will begin the SET Net on 80 meters (3905) at 0800,

The two other NCS stations will check in and relay as required.

When the Band changes to 60 meters at 1030L, NCS A will call the net,

NCS B will check in and stay on 60m for relays, NC9IL will check in and then

return to 3905.

The same process will occur on the Band changes to 40 meters at 1130L with

NCS B as primary and NCS A as secondary. NC9IL will check in on the

first net call and then return to 3.905.

When the Band changes back to 80 meters (3.905) at 1130L, NCS primary will revert to NC9IL

with NCS A and B operating as before and the net will close NLT 1600L.

**Appendix D: JS8**

Per Kevin Coffey: For those of you currently using JS8 or interested in using it we will be running several dedicated stations as well as other JS8 users who are willing to participate. I plan to send and store messages to as many stations as possible including my own KD9APZ station. Some messages will be for NC9IL in Springfield specifically and other messages will be “All Call” messages for everybody. NC9IL can retrieve the messages using an “All Call messages for me” query at any time of the exercise and no station information will be needed for them to retrieve the messages. In addition, I will be posting messages to be retrieved using the specific message IDs that I will provide via an “All Call” as well as a group Winlink email at the start of each net. My station will also be available for the usual direct contact, message and relay auto functions. Due to the fact that many unmanned stations may be involved we will remain on 40 meters 7.078 for the entire SET.

Contact Kevin Coffey with questions. KD9APZ@gmail.com

**Appendix E: NTS**

NTS Radiogram Traffic:

The transmitting station should always call the receiving station and check for copy.

Even if the transmitting station does not have traffic quality copy. Acknowledgements, “Roger”, “QSL”, etc. can be relayed to the transmitter with minimum delay. When neither station can copy, the NET CONTROL STATION should find a station to “Stand in the middle” (as a relay) that can copy both stations. See link below.

http://www.arrl.org/files/file/NTS\_MPG2014.pdf

**Appendix F: Suggested Winlink Callsigns**

You may use **ANY** additional WinLink Callsigns as you see fit. Here are some suggested call signs to use as you move WinLink messages during the SET. Remember you are moving messages from one call sign/station to another callsign/station via simplex using WinLink/ARDOP.

**W9DSR**

**KB9APW**

**NG9R**

**N9WEW**

**WB9QPM**

**WA9APQ**

**WX9VOR**

**WD9FMB**

**AI9F**

**W9RY**