



# Simulated Emergency Test Exercise 2014 After Action Report

ARES® - Escambia County, FL

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## Summary

On Saturday, October 4, 2014, Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) in Escambia County, Florida held a Simulated Emergency Test Exercise (SET) as part of a nationwide exercise in emergency communications held every year.

- 42 Amateur Radio Operators and stations.
  - 27 Escambia County ARES
  - 6 Santa Rosa County ARES
  - 1 Okaloosa ARES
  - 7 other local operators/stations
  - 1 ARRL Honorary Vice President from Ft. Walton Beach
- Two visitors from Civil Air Patrol stopped by the ARES room before the exercise.
- 1 shelter
- 3 counties EOC (Escambia, Santa Rosa, Okaloosa). We checked into their ARES net on their repeaters, and they checked into our ARES net.
- Escambia County Emergency Net – net was started at EOC for about ½ hour, then transferred to an off-site Net Control station for the remaining part of the exercise.
- Simulated “deployment” of ARES members to 10 additional agencies.
- Message handling classroom training was conducted (over 1¼ hours).
- 10 messages passed (most on local simplex frequency, two via Winlink on HF)
- HF and VHF frequencies used, including digital modes.
- Training and gaining experience for new hams and ARES members was accomplished under the direction of experienced ARES members.
- First time use of text messaging as an additional method of notifying ARES members for ARES activation.
- Estimated 53.7 people-hours for the exercise itself. 36+ hours of planning, documentation, and preparing before and after the exercise.

## Twelve Agencies and Locations covered by Amateur Radios operators for this exercise.

- Escambia County Emergency Management
  - ARES room at Escambia County Emergency Operations Center
- Non-Public Shelters
  - Azalea Trace Retirement Center
- “Simulated deployments” to other agencies.
  - Fire
  - EMS
  - Sheriff Office
  - FWC - Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
  - Naval Air Station Pensacola - Emergency Management
  - Pensacola State College Police
  - Pensacola Retirement Village
  - National Park Service – Fort Pickens
  - National Weather Service Mobile, AL
  - Escambia Search and Rescue

**Formal Written Messages sent** – ARL message format used for many of the messages.

<b><u>Precedence</u></b>	<b><u>From</u></b>	<b><u>To</u></b>	<b><u>Message summary</u></b>
Emergency	Fire	EOC	Evacuation needed. Flooding
Emergency	FWC (Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission)	EOC	Barge collided with sailboat under bridge, sailboat sinking, people in water.
Emergency	Pensacola State College	EOC	Need info about sinkhole
Emergency	Pensacola Retirement Village	EMS Dispatch at EOC	Help and Care for evacuation of sick and injured from this location needed at once. Fumes from Train derailment.
Emergency	Sheriff Office	EMS	Medical emergency situation – EMS needed
Emergency	Naval Air Station Pensacola - Emergency Management	Fire	Two CFR (airport crash fire trucks) needed at Sherman Field
Priority	EOC	FL DOT	Interstate 10 Bridge out message, send temporary span and crew. (Sent via Winlink)
Priority	National Weather Service, Mobile, AL	EOC	request weather conditions.
Priority	National Park Service (Fort Pickens)	EOC	Evacuation of campground urgently needed.
	Azalea Trace Retirement Center	EOC	test message (via Winlink)

**Radio Modes used**

- HF voice via the North Florida ARES net
- Tactical net – VHF – Local ARES net on 146.76 repeater.
- Checked into ARES nets in Santa Rosa (146.70 repeater) and Okaloosa (147.36 repeater) counties. They also checked into Escambia County ARES net on 146.76 repeater.
- Traffic passed on simplex frequency using HTs between “deployed” ARES member to agencies and the ARES room at the EOC.
- Digital modes
  - D-RATS – sent “Escambia EOC activated for SET” chat message to State EOC.
  - APRS monitored
  - Winlink HF
    - Azalea Trace sent a test messages to Escambia EOC
    - Bridge out message sent from EOC to Florida DOT Region 3 office.

**Acknowledgements**

- Escambia County Emergency Management
  - for allowing the use of the ARES room at the EOC for the exercise
- ARES members and other amateur radio operators for participating in the exercise.

## Comparison of previous years

	<b>Simulated Emergency Test Exercises</b>				
	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>
<b>Total radio operators/stations</b>	10	13	34	40	42
Escambia ARES	7	11	16	22	27
Santa Rosa ARES			7	6	6
Okaloosa ARES					1
TSA	1		5	2	
MARS			1	1	
other local hams/stations (non ARES)			4	7	7
out of area hams	2	2	1	2	1
<b>Locations activated or checked in</b>					
shelters (simulated) Public and Non-Public		2	5	6	1
hospitals			4	2	
EOC	2	1	3	1	3
airport	1		1	1	
MARS station			1	1	
Other agencies (simulated deployments)			1	2	10
messages handled	3	7	8	7	10
people-hours		34	98	67	54
exercise score (points)		84	227	241	251

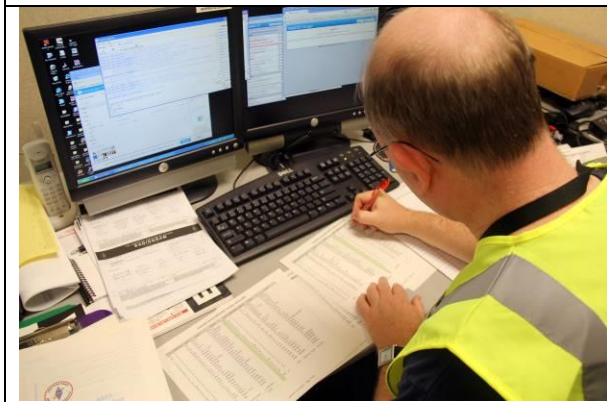
**Pictures – by N4XXO and KF4DVF**



Antennas patch panel training. KJ4QOP, N4SAR, AK4NQ



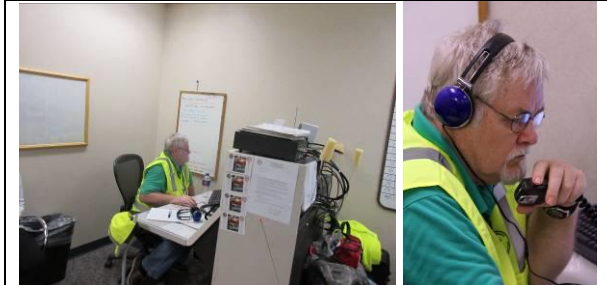
New ARES member is running the Emergency Net. Net Control is KK4ZTX and Logger is KC4ZNX.



KF4DVF is logging the ARES nets check-ins. E-mail, D-RATS, and WebEOC programs are visible on the computer monitors.



KJ4QOP and AK4NQ are monitoring the Santa Rosa and Okaloosa ARES nets.



AJ4NA is the HF radio operator. Checking into the Northern Florida ARES net.



At the end of the exercise, KF4DVF and KC4ZNX are logging the additional check-ins that are being passed from the off-site net control station NR4DR.





Training on Message Handling by N4SAR. The PowerPoint presentation is on the large monitor/TV. KC4ZNX, K4LFG, KK4ZTX, KF4DVF, KJ4QOP, and N4SAR.



More people during the Message Handling training. KJ4QOP, N4SAR, KJ4GFU, AK4NQ, K4DJC, KK4EUL, AJ4NA, KK4ZTX.



KK4EUL, K4DJC, KK4ZTX and KJ4GFU is preparing to send other agencies message traffic. N4SAR is providing instructions.



KC4ZNX (talking on HT), KJ4GFU, and KJ4QOOP copying message traffic.



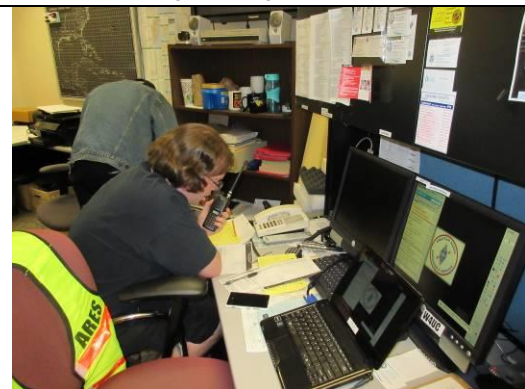
Left: KK4EUL verifying message traffic.



N4XXO sending message traffic.



KJ4GFU copying message traffic.



AK4NQ sending "airport crash fire trucks needed" message.

# 2014 EC SET Report

FORM A

**\*PLEASE PRINT\***

Please fill out this report in triplicate (one copy to ARRL Headquarters, one copy to your SEC or DEC, one copy for your files). Attach newspaper clippings, photos, remarks, suggestions and any other material to be used in the write-up. Deadline for reporting is February 3, 2015.



**ARRL Section:** Northern Florida (NFL)  
**Area of Jurisdiction:** Escambia County  
**DEC's or EC's Call sign:** KF4DVF, Assistant EC, Escambia County  
**E-mail address:** [EscambiaCountyARES@live.com](mailto:EscambiaCountyARES@live.com)  
**Date of local SET:** 10/4/2014

	Computation of score:			Points
A	Number of amateurs who participated in the test	42	X 2	84
B	Number of new amateurs (licensed since 2010) participating	9	X 3	27
C	Number of formal 3rd party written traffic messages originated or delivered during the SET on behalf of served agencies	10	X 1	10
D	Were TACTICAL communications conducted on behalf of served agencies? (1 hour or more, score 20 points; 1/2 hour to 1 hour, score 10; less than 1/2 hour, score 5.)	0	N/A	0
E	Number of stations on emergency power during the test	12	X 2	24
F	Number of emergency-powered repeaters used during the test • Give call signs of repeaters:	0	X 10	0
G	Is <i>dual</i> membership in ARES and RACES actively encouraged? If YES, score 10 points.	10		10
H	Was liaison maintained during the SET with an NTS section or local net? If YES, score 10 points. • Give call signs of station(s) performing liaison: W4UC	10		10
I	Were digital modes utilized at any time during the exercise? If YES, score 10 points • Name the digital modes utilized: Winlink, D-RATS	10		10
J	Number of different agencies for which communications were handled	12	X 5	60
K	Number of communities in which agencies were contacted. (If none, score MINUS 10) • Name the community(ies) served: Escambia County	1	X 10	10
L	Was a press release submitted? If YES, score 10 points, attach copy.	0		0
M	Bonus: Number of participating stations that made at least 5 contacts in the ARRL Centennial QSO Party on October 4 to 5.	2	X 3	6
<b>TOTAL NUMBER OF POINTS</b>				<b>251</b>



ICS 211A CHECK IN LIST (COMMUNICATIONS)		1. INCIDENT NAME: Escambia County Simulated Emergency Test Exercise Fall 2014				2. DATE: 10/4/2014		
5. INFORMATION								
PERSONNEL NAME	CALL SIGN	LOCATION and POSITION	AGENCY	Emergency power	New Ham 2010 or later	Time In	Time Out	Hours
<b><u>Escambia EOC</u></b>								
Jim Walters	N4SAR	EOC - Operations Chief	Escambia ARES	Y		0715	1215	5
Joe McLemore	KF4DVF	EOC - Planning Chief	Escambia ARES			0715	1215	5
James Bowser	KJ4QOP	EOC	Escambia ARES	Y		0745	1200	4.25
John Greene	AJ4NA	EOC - Incident Commander & HF radio operator	Escambia ARES			0749	1215	4.43
Jim Boldizar	KC4ZNX	EOC – Net Control	Escambia ARES	Y		0800	1215	4.5
Debbie Carter	K4DJC	EOC – other agencies	Escambia ARES	Y	Y	0800	1200	4
David Van Hoose	AK4NQ	EOC – other agencies	Escambia ARES	Y	Y	0805	1200	3.92
Donato Salvitti	KK4ZTX	EOC – Net Control	Escambia ARES	Y	Y	0815	1200	3.75
Ken Lewis	KJ4GFU	EOC	Escambia ARES	Y		0824	1200	3.6
Skip Bollens	N4XXO	EOC – other agencies	Escambia ARES	Y		0830	1200	3.5
Larry Grindrod	K4LFG	EOC				0845	1200	2.25
Janet Walsh	KK4EUL	EOC – other agencies	Escambia ARES	Y	Y	0930	1130	2
<b><u>Other EOCs</u></b>								
Santa Rosa ARES	K4SRC	Santa Rosa EOC	Santa Rosa ARES			0835		.1
Okaloosa Digital Operations Group	KO4EOC	Okaloosa EOC	Okaloosa ARES			0805		.1
<b><u>Shelter</u></b>								
Joel Muncie	W0DRC	Azalea Trace	Escambia ARES			0830	0845	.25
Les Lester	K4HL	Azalea Trace	Escambia ARES			0830	0845	.25
Azalea Trace Amateur Radio Club	KN4VY	Azalea Trace						
<b><u>Check-ins – EOC (W4UC) is Net Control</u></b>								
H.Banks Edwards	WA5GTJ	Home	Escambia ARES			0830	0845	.25
Don Risavy	NR4DR	Home – Off-site Net Control Station	Escambia ARES			0830	1152	3.37
Frank Butler	W4RH	Ft Walton Beach	ARRL Honorary Vice President			0830	0845	.25
Pamela Stephens	W4PCS		Escambia ARES	Y	Y	0830	0845	.25
Robert Van Hoose	ND3H		Escambia ARES	Y		0830	0845	.25
Perry Stephens	WW4SS		Escambia ARES	Y		0830	0845	.25
Ken Williams	AJ4XL	Home	Escambia ARES			0830	0845	.25
Fred Friedl	WX4US		Escambia ARES			0830	0845	.25
<b>ICS 211A ARES</b>	<b>6. NUMBER OF PAGES:</b> _____1_____ of _____2_____		<b>7. PREPARED BY (RESOURCE UNIT):</b>					

ICS 211A CHECK IN LIST (COMMUNICATIONS)		1. INCIDENT NAME: Escambia Simulated Emergency Test Exercise Fall 2014					2. DATE: 10/4/2014		
5. INFORMATION									
PERSONNEL NAME	CALL SIGN	LOCATION and TACTICAL CALL	AGENCY	Emergency power	New Ham 2010 or later	Time In	Time Out	Hours	
<b><u>Check-ins after Net Control was transferred Off-Site to NR4DR</u></b>									
Donna Berkley	KK4YOK		Escambia ARES		Y			.1	
Dave Root	WA4MVH		FFARA					.1	
Mike Jacobus	N4DIA		Escambia ARES					.1	
Don Nicholson	N4DGN	Navarre ?	Santa Rosa ARES					.1	
Steve Richbourg	KO4TT		Escambia ARES					.1	
Fred Davis	W3FD		Escambia ARES					.1	
Cris Caraballo	AF4UI		Escambia ARES					.1	
Michael Wooley	K5EFY	Navarre	Santa Rosa ARES		Y			.1	
John Wingo	WA4RA		Escambia ARES					.1	
Robert Ferson	KJ4CHK		Santa Rosa ARES					.1	
Mark Pokroy	K4MMP	Navarre	Santa Rosa ARES					.1	
James Bledsoe	KK5GG	Gulf Breeze						.1	
Olivia Bledsoe	KM4EQZ	Gulf Breeze			Y			.1	
Joshua Anderson	K7GTA	Navarre	Santa Rosa ARES					.1	
James Burrows	N4LRM		Escambia ARES					.1	
Nicholson Bledsoe	KM4ERA	Gulf Breeze			Y			.1	
<b><u>Other Agencies</u></b>									
Skip Bollens	W4GTF	Mobile	ESAR	Y				.1	
<b>TOTAL Hours (estimated)</b>									
<b>ICS 211A ARES</b>		<b>6. NUMBER OF PAGES:</b> _____ 2 _____ of _____ 2 _____		<b>7. PREPARED BY (RESOURCE UNIT):</b>					