Cherokee County ARES AAR

2022 Simulated Emergency Exercise (SET)

01OCT2022

Mission Objectives

- Cherokee County ARES conducted the Annual Simulated Emergency Training Exercise which will be referred to as SET on 1 October 2022.

- The objective of this exercise was to ensure our teams had that basic skills and knowledge to stand up a NET, communicate, pass formal traffic via various modes, exercise our operations manual and procedures, and identify areas of improvement.

- Cherokee has many new amateur radio operators, and this event allowed these personnel to step outside their comfort zone and attempt new tasks and challenges that were assigned.

Task & Purpose by Team

1. Various team members operated on various modes including UHF/VHF Phone/Voice via multiple repeaters in Northwest Georgia as well as SIMPLEX frequencies. These members passed requested traffic assigned during the exercise.

2. Various team members communicated on HF 10M Voice and passed requested traffic.

3. Various team members operated on HF Phone/Voice and passed traffic to the NWGA District, GA ARES, and GA AUX-COM.

4. Various team members operated on DSTAR, DRATS, APRS, and Winlink and passed requested traffic while exercising the various modes that Cherokee ARES must be able to operate in order to communicate within our County, our District, our State, and our Region, as necessary.

5. A team of 4 personnel operated from the Cherokee County Emergency Operations Center. While at the EOC, ICS214's and Significant Events were logged into our Cherokee County's WEB EOC under Incident: Amateur Radio (SET) Simulated Emergency Training Exercise 2022.

6. A team of 2 personnel deployed and operated on high ground while on emergency power, in the vicinity of North Side Cherokee Hospital and Highway 20. This team ensured that communications between the EOC and our participants in Cherokee County and the NW GA District, could effectively communicate without out the aid of a repeater (SIMPLEX) and consistently pass traffic.

7. All remaining personnel operated from their home stations or via mobile as the exercises unfolded.

Follow stairs down to the first door. Just don't go thru fence.

Park over here

DO NOT PARK in the FRONT, if you are looking at this sign then you are in the front... We will be entering in the rear (Blue Arrow) and parking on the side (Red Arrow)

Execution Overview

1. The Formal NET and Exercise began at 09:00 and the NET was closed at 11:03 on 1 October 2022.

2. 22 Personnel participated on the SET for 82 Training Hours.

3. At the conclusion of the exercise, all members submitted ICS214's and After Acton Reviews.

4. The EOC Team conducted additional training at the EOC and identified areas to improve our capability and working environment.

Lessons Learned

1. ICS217 changes needed and implement post exercise.

2. Deployment Checklists required to be successful:

    1. Ensure all required equipment is on hand

    2. Weather contingencies (If windy, t-ape measure Yagi antenna may not be suitable)

    3. Ability to setup Antenna in a parking log (Asphalt versus having trees and ability to hang with cord)

3. EOC maintenance and equipment needs

    1. HF Antenna Tuner burned out- had to bring personal

    2. Additional headsets and splitters, ensuring no ARES radio external speakers are used as this will not be available during an EOC Activation due to distractions with other EOC teams.

    *** EOC team was prepared due to RECON conducted by KJ4UC and W1JKU prior to Exercise and required personal equipment was brought in to address the gaps

    ** EOC working to purchase additional items to improve our operations

Items to Sustain

1) Participation and motivation of our members. Everyone worked together to accomplish the mission. Members stepped out of their comfort zone and volunteered to take on a role/responsibility they have not previously performed for Example Net Control Operator, Alternate Net Control Operator, Passing Traffic between Stations, etc.

2) Command and Control (C2). NET Control established the tone and discipline of the net ensuring ITU Phonetics, clear spoken language and no abbreviations or Q-CODES were utilized. Net Control obtained and maintained accountability of all stations as they entered or exited the NET, and when required solicited and accepted relayed traffic from other participants.

3) Tasks to be accomplished along with predesignated timelines to perform tasks was used to drive this exercise and maximize our members participation while minimizing non-productive time.

Recognition

Thank you for your Support, Participation, and Commitment to Cherokee County and Emergency Communications