**Start: 1943 L – Stop: 1958 L**

# Contingency Mode - Primary Repeater Failure

## 1.1 OVERVIEW.

Thank you, Bob. Good evening everyone. First, I'd like to thank all those who attended the Pinellas ACS monthly membership meeting and took part in our first Table-top Exercise. We had a great exchange of ideas and an opportunity to practice creating Site Activity and Communication logs. It was a productive meeting.

Tonight, I'll be briefing everyone on the upcoming Pinellas ACS training Drill that is scheduled for this Thursday at 1930 hours local. As a reminder, the purpose of a Drill is to exercise specific operational skills, practice voice and digital network operations, and assess both user and ACS performance. Since this is our first Drill, my plan is to start with a scenario that is straight forward; however, as we become more proficient, the complexity of the monthly drills will increase.

This week's drill will simulate a failure of our Primary Repeater (W4ACS) and will require the net participants to implement the appropriate contingency mode for this failure.

## 1.2 DESCRIPTION

The ACS/ARES® Tactical-Resource Net will be established at ACTIVATION LEVEL 1 using the primary ACS repeater system, W4ACS. The Net Control Station (NCS) will notify the net participants that a repeater failure has taken place and then transition the net to the back-up repeater system, WD4SCD.

The procedures documented in the Communications Plan will be used to activate, transition, and deactivate the net. As a reminder, the communications plan is located on the Pinellas ACS web site can be downloaded for your review prior to the Drill.

## 1.3  OBJECTIVES

This drill has two objectives.

a.  Provide training to the membership on contingency mode operation. The first time we try this should not be during a real emergency.

b.  Evaluate the Net Activation, Deactivation, and contingency mode procedures documented in the Communications Plan. Are they any good? Do they need to change?

## 1.4  PROCEDURE

The following procedure will be used to conduct the drill.

**BEGIN DRILL**

1.  AT 1930 hours local on Thursday July 22nd, the NCS will activate the ACS/ARES® Tactical-Resource Net using the procedure for **ACTIVATION LEVEL 1** that is documented in the Communications Plan. The NCS will clearly state that the reason for the activation is a **TRAINING DRILL**.

2.  At the completion of the Net Check-in phase, the NCS will pause for 1 minute and then announce on the W4ACS output frequency (Simplex) that a repeater failure has taken place and that the ACS/ARES® Tactical-Resource net is moving to the WD4SCD back-up repeater system.

*__NOTE__: We are simulating a repeater failure; therefore, from this point forward in the Drill, no one should transmit on the input frequency of the W4ACS repeater.*

*Second, if after net check-in phase you fail to hear the NCS on simplex announcing the repeater failure, (something that could happen during a real failure) users should implement the contingency plan by switching to the back-up repeater.*

*I strongly encourage everyone to review the communications plan before the drill in order to determine the appropriate WD4SCD receive site for their location. Remember, the WD4SCD repeater has multiple receive sites and each site has a difference CTCSS tone.*

3.  The NCS, Alternate NCS, and net membership should transition to the alternate repeater in accordance with the procedure documented in the Communications plan.

4.  Once the NCS has completed the Net Check-in phase on the WD4SCD repeater, the NCS will call on the ACS Training Officer for an announcement.

5.  Following the ACS Training Officer Announcement, the NCS will Deactivate the ACS/ARES® Tactical-Resource Net in accordance with the procedure documented in the Communications plan.

**END DRILL**

## 1.5 SCHEDULE

July 22nd, 2021 @ 1930 Hrs local. Drill duration is scheduled for approximately 1 hour.

## 1.6 RESOURCES

The W4ACS and WD4SCD Repeater systems.

Net Control Station: ***WA1RYQ***

Alternate Net Control Station: ***None has currently been assigned. I'll be working with our net manager Mark, W8QFE, to find an appropriate volunteer.***

## 1.7 AFTER-ACTION REPORT AND ACTIVITIES

The NCS will provide a copy of the NCS log to the training officer.

After the drill and prior to next week's Tuesday training net, all Drill participants are encouraged to send comments, suggestions, and recommendations to the Training Officer via

email. I will compile the responses, report them to the membership during the next regularly scheduled ACS weekly training net, and post the information on the PCACS web site.

The Communications Plan will be updated to incorporate changes if required.

## 1.8   QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS

I'd like to pause here for a minute and ask if anyone has a comment or question about the upcoming drill. If you have a comment or question, please provide me with your call sign, slowly, clearly, and phonetically so I don't make a mistake when I respond. And then ask your question or provide me with your comment.

This is WA1RYQ.

[**PAUSING FOR QUESTIONS**]

## 1.9   CONCLUSION.

That's all I have for this week's training session.

I'd like to remind everyone who is interested in Winlink training that this Wednesday, July 21st, at 1930 hours local, I will be hosting a Zoom training session for Winlink. This week's session will introduce Winlink to the membership, describe how to download, install, and set-up a Winlink Account, how to send an Winlink email via telnet, and describe the hardware elements needed to configure a station for Winlink operations using a VHF or HF radio.

Again, if you are interested in taking part in Winlink digital training, please send me an email. I will be sending a Zoom invite tomorrow morning to everyone who has registers for the training.

I can be contacted via email at WA1RYQ@arrl.net. My contact information is also available on the Pinellas ACS Web site.

Now with that, I turn it back to Net Control.

1.10 QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS.

The following table contains a summary of the comments and questions provided by the membership during the presentation.

| No. | Call Sign | Comments | Response |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | W8QFE | Recommend that we add a transition to a county wide simplex net to the Drill. | Agree. Will update the Drill plan to add a County wide simplex net. |
| 2 | KI4RVU | What is the current version of the Communications Plan and where can I locate a copy of the Drill plan? | The current version of the communications plan is Rev (C). The Drill plan is located on the PACS Web site under the training tab. |
| 3 | KN4BRQ | Is the Repeater and simplex frequency information located on the Radio Operations Tab of the PACS web site correct. | Yes, the information on this tab of the web site is correct. |
| 4 | KA3TKR | Request for assistance with Anderson PowerPole installation. | Asked member to contact me off-line for assistance. |