

18 August 2021 Winlink Training Net

Throughout the remainder of this document, The *Pinellas County ACS/ARES® Winlink Training Plan* document will be referred to as the Training Plan.

Description

The ACS/ARES® Winlink Training Net will be established using the primary ACS repeater system, W4ACS. The three parts of the training net are listed below.

- Part 1: Create and send Winlink Express Check-in Message to Net Control.
- Part 2: Exchange unformatted digital messages between net participants.
- Part 3: Create and send Winlink Express Check-out message to Net Control.

Objectives

This drill has three objectives.

- Provide training to the membership on Winlink Express Check in and Check-out Forms.
- Practice exchanging unformatted digital messages between net participants while operating in a controlled net.
- Provide training of mixed mode voice and digital network operations.

Procedure

The following procedure will be used to conduct the drill.

BEGIN DRILL

1. The NCS will activate the ACS/ARES® Winlink Training Net using the Activation script documented in Appendix B.

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2. Once the NCS has completed the Net Check-in phase, the NCS will announce the following information to the Net:

“Tonight’s Training net is divided into three parts:

During part one, the net control will perform a roll call of the net participants and request that each station in turn send a Winlink Express Check-in Message to Net Control and a copy to the Pinellas ACS Admin Officer (PACS-ADMIN).

Once the roll call is complete, I’ll request that individual stations exchange simple unformatted messages. The messages do not need to have any significant content. A simple hello will work fine. The purpose of this exchange is to practice net operations when we have a limited digital resource, A single Radio Message server.

Finally, the net control will perform a roll call of the net participants and request that each station in turn send a Winlink Express Check-out Message to Net Control and the Pinellas ACS Admin Officer.

*Following phase 3, we will have an open comment and question period.
Are there any questions before we transition to part 1 of tonight’s net?”*

Pause for questions

I will now start the rollcall”

3. The NCS will perform a roll call of all net participants and request that they send their digital traffic.

“This Net Control, <FCC Call Sign> send your digital traffic. Please notify net control when the digital exchange is complete.

This is WA1RYQ.”

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4. Once the NCS has completed the Roll call phase of the net, the NCS will announce the following information to the Net:

“We’re now going to practice exchanging simple unformatted messages between individual stations.

Are there any questions before we transition to part 2 of tonight’s net?”

Pause for questions

“Will now start part two.”

5. **TBD**

“This Net Control, <FCC Call Sign> send your digital traffic to <FCC Call Sign>.

Please notify <FCC Call Sign> when you have completed sending your traffic. <FCC Call Sign> notify net control when you have retrieved your digital traffic.”

This is WA1RYQ.”

6. (Winlink Express Check out Form) The NCS will perform a roll call of all net participants and request that they send their digital traffic.

“This Net Control, <FCC Call Sign> send your digital traffic. Please notify net control when the digital exchange is complete.

This is WA1RYQ.”

7. Once the NCS has completed the Roll call phase of the net, the NCS will announce the following information to the Net.

“That completes tonight’s planned training activities.

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Pause for questions

8. Following the ACS Training Officer Announcement, the NCS will send a Net Report Message to the net manager.
9. After sending the message, the NCS will Deactivate the ACS/ARES® Tactical-Resource Net in accordance with the procedure documented in Appendix D of the Communications plan.

END DRILL

Schedule

August 18th, 2021 @ 1930 Hrs. Net duration is scheduled for approximately 1 hour.

Resources

The W4ACS Repeater system and the KJ4RUS-10 Radio Message Server (RMS)

Net Control Station: **WA1RYQ**

Alternate Net Control Station: **TBD**

After-Action Report and Activities

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

Drill participants are encouraged to send comments, suggestions, and recommendations to the Training Officer via email. The Training Officer 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.

A.1 NET PARTICIPANT PROCEDURES

When notified by the EC/RO or his/her designee that ACS/ARES® Activation Level 1, 2, or 3 has been established, the general membership will perform the following actions.

- a. During net establishment and reestablishment, the NCS will call for check-ins based on call sign prefix. When your prefix is called, check-in with the following information.
 - (1) FCC Call Sign
 - (2) Tactical Call Sign (if applicable)
 - (3) Deployment status (e.g., Currently deployed, available for deployment, not available for deployment.)
 - (4) Traffic List (e.g., no traffic, priority traffic, etc.)

EXAMPLES: (1) “THIS IS (release PTT and pause for 2 seconds) WHISKEY ALPHA ONE ROMEO YANKEE QUEBEC, TACTICAL CALL SIGN IS BOCA CIEGA HIGH, CURRENTLY DEPLOYED, NO TRAFFIC, OVER”.

(2) “THIS IS (release PTT and pause for 2 seconds) WHISKEY ALPHA ONE ROMEO YANKEE QUEBEC, AVAILABLE FOR DEPLOYMENT, ONE PRIORITY, OVER”.

- c. Monitor and copy all bulletins and message traffic passed by the net so that your station can assist with relays if requested to do so by the NCS.
- d. Remain on frequency until release by net control.
- e. If you must leave the net, wait for a break in traffic, call net control, and request authorization to leave the net.
- f. Continue to monitor local news outlets for updated information.

Questions and Comments.

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

No.	Call Sign	Comments	Response

PINELLAS ACS WINLINK TRAINING NET

ANNOUNCEMENT SCRIPT

“CQ, CQ, CQ, this is the Pinellas County ACS/ARES® Winlink Training Net.”

This is (call sign) and my name is (name). I am the Net Control Station for this evening’s Net.”

“The local time is now _____” (Use 24-hour format)

“This is a directed net. Please listen to and follow the directions of Net Control. All stations are asked to remain on frequency until released by net control. If you need to leave the net, please wait for a pause in transmissions, transmit your callsign, wait to be acknowledged, and then request release.”

“This is a mixed mode voice and digital net. To participate in voice segment of the net, your radio must be capable of transmitting a sub-audible tone of 156.7-Hz. The W4ACS Repeater System transmits this sub-audible tone so CTCSS can be used.”

“To participate in the digital segment of the net, members should have a system capable of exchanging Winlink traffic with a VHF, UHF, or HF gateway station. Members who do not yet have an operational RF Winlink capability are requested to use Telnet.”

PINELLAS ACS WINLINK TRAINING NET

ANNOUNCEMENT SCRIPT (Cont.)

“The purpose of this net is to familiarize the Pinellas ACS membership with the Winlink skills needed to support an activation event and to practice digital network operations.”

“Each week prior to the net, the net control station will send a Winlink bulletin to all registered Pinellas ACS Winlink Training Net participants. This bulletin will detail the objectives and planned activities for the net.”

NET CHECK-IN SCRIPT

“This is (call sign). I will now take check-ins for the net. When checking into the net, please provide Net Control with your call sign and Traffic list. Please speak slowly, clearly, and phonetically.”

“If the Alternate Net Control Station is on frequency, please call now.”

(Acknowledge check-ins by call sign)

“Stations with a prefix that begins with the letter A (Alpha) or the letter K (kilo) or the letter N (November). Please call now.”

(Acknowledge check-ins by call sign)

“Stations with a prefix that begins with the letter W (Whiskey). Please call now.”

(Acknowledge check-ins by call sign)

“Stations checking in by EchoLink. Please call now.”

(Acknowledge check-ins by call sign)

“I will now take check-ins from all stations. Please call now.”

(Acknowledge check-ins by call sign)

Not hearing any more stations, we will proceed with the business of the net.”

ACS/ARES® DEACTIVATION ANNOUNCEMENT SCRIPT

“This is (call sign) and I am the Net Control Station for the Pinellas County ACS/ARES® (Winlink Training Net).”

“Do I have any final comments or questions before I secure the Net?”

(Acknowledge comments and questions)

“For additional information about Winlink Training, please download the Pinellas ACS/ARES® Winlink Training Plan. The document is located on the Pinellas ACS web site under the training tab. You can also contact me directly via email at WA1RYQ@ARRL.NET.”

“The local time is now _____” (Use 24-hour format)

“I would like to thank everyone for their assistance and participation in the net. All net participants are free to secure.”