

Start: 1950 L – Stop: 2001 L

Communications Plan

1.1 OVERVIEW.

Thank-you Bob. Good evening to the net. Tonight, I'll present an overview of some of the radio nets that Pinellas ACS could potentially use during an activation event. The document used to identify the radio nets planned for use during an activation event is the ICS 205, Incident Radio Communications Plan. In addition to identifying the radio nets, the ICS 205 will also document the frequencies, modes, tones/NAC¹ needed to participate in the net. The seven nets I'll be reviewing this evening are:

- a. ACS/ARES Tactical-Resource Net
- b. ACS/ARES Shelter Net
- c. Local VHF Traffic Net
- d. Winlink Digital Data Net
- e. Automatic Packet Reporting System®
- f. Statewide Amateur Radio Network
- g. Hurricane Watch Net

1.1.1 ACS/ARES® Tactical-Resource Net

The Pinellas County ACS/ARES® Tactical-Resource net will be activated to support both emergency and non-emergency events. When activated, the net has two main functions. First, as a tactical net, it will be used to manage the flow of real-time ACS tactical communications within the county. Second, as a resource net, its NCS will keep track of all net participants, the capabilities of each participant, and the deployment status of each participant. This net will also

¹ The receive Continuous Tone Coded Squelch System (CTCSS) subaudible tone, Digital Coded Squelch (DCS), Network Access Code (NAC), Radio Access Number (RAN), or Color Code (CC) for the receive frequency as the mobile or portable radio would be programmed. If no tone/code is required, the field will indicate that the radio should use Carrier Squelch (CSQ).

be used to issue assignments; locate needed equipment and supplies; and dispatch repair crews as needed. To keep the frequency open for tactical exchanges and resource management, whenever possible, formal written traffic will be redirected to the Winlink Digital Data net, the Pinellas VHF traffic net, or the ACS/ARES® Shelter net, as appropriate, for servicing.

The W4ACS repeater system is the primary repeater used to support the tactical-resource net.

1.1.2 ACS/ARES® Shelter Net

The ACS/ARES® Shelter net will be activated anytime the Pinellas County EOC issues an evacuation order. The mission of the ACS/ARES® Shelter net is to provide communications between each county evacuation shelter and the county EOC. The WD4SCD repeater system is the primary repeater used to support this net.

1.1.3 Local VHF Traffic Net

The local VHF traffic net is used to exchange formal message traffic between stations within Pinellas County and as a gateway for traffic destined for or received from locations outside of the Tampa Bay region. A Section/Regional traffic net liaison station will be assigned to this net to expedite delivery of out of region traffic. The WA4AKH repeater system is the primary repeater used to support the local VHF traffic net.

1.1.4 Winlink Digital Data Net

The Winlink Digital Data Net is used to exchange both informal and formal message traffic between deployed ACS/ARES® users and the Pinellas EOC.

Digital message flow control will be performed by manual collision avoidance; each user waiting for the frequency to become available before sending or receiving traffic. The ACS/ARES® Shelter net will be used to notify Winlink digital net participants that digital traffic has been sent to the RMS.

If the NCS for the ACS/ARES® Shelter net determines that a more managed form of flow control is required on the Winlink digital net, the Shelter NCS will take control of the digital net and

users will be required to request permission before connecting to the RMS to deliver or retrieve message traffic.

Within Pinellas County, the W4ACS-10 Winlink RMS is the primary RMS used during ACS/ARES® activation.

If Winlink message traffic is required to leave the Tampa Bay region during an event where internet access has been lost throughout the Tampa Bay area, the ACS Shelter NCS will assign an HF capable Winlink station to act as a liaison and all out of region traffic will be sent to the liaison station for relay out of area.

1.1.5 Automatic Packet Reporting System®.

The Automatic Packet Reporting System® (APRS®) can be used to report position data from ACS/ARES® units in the field, real-time weather information from amateur radio weather stations, and distribute bulletins of interest to the community. APRS® also supports a text messaging capability between APRS® enabled units. Computer software, such as APRSIS32, can be used to display this information on a map of the region.

Several APRS® digipeaters operate continuously throughout the Tampa Bay region including the NI4CE repeater system, KK4ONE digipeater at Rocky Point, and the KK4EQF digipeater in Belleair.

1.1.6 Statewide Amateur Radio Net

The Statewide Amateur Radio Network (SARnet) is a network of linked UHF voice repeaters that serves the entire State of Florida. During a significant emergency event, SARnet may be called upon for support through an official state emergency request. During such an emergency, a controlled net will be established between the effected county EOC's and state EOC. Within Pinellas County, we can access the SARnet repeaters located in Tampa, Sarasota, and the Skyway bridge.

1.1.7 Hurricane Watch Net

“The primary mission of the Hurricane Watch Net is to disseminate tropical cyclone advisory information to island communities in the Caribbean, Central America, along the Atlantic seaboard of the U.S., and throughout the Gulf of Mexico coastal areas. [The Net will] also collect observed or measured weather data from amateur radio operators in the storm affected area as well as any post storm damage, and convey that information to the Hurricane Forecasters in the National Hurricane Center via the amateur radio station in the center ([WX4NHC](#)).“

1.2 SUMMARY

For additional information about network operations, please refer to the *Pinellas ACS/ARES® Emergency Communications Plan and Standard Operating Procedures* Document. This document is located on the Pinellas ACS website.

1.3 QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS

I’d like to pause here for a minute and ask if anyone has a comment or question about tonight’s presentation. 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.

ACTION - PAUSING FOR QUESTIONS

1.4 CONCLUSION.

That’s all I have for this week’s training session. Let me conclude with a couple of announcements.

1. Starting in February, I will be conducting two Winlink training sessions each month. The first Winlink training session each month will be designed for beginners and those with

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little or no previous Winlink experience. The second session will be a mixed mode voice and digital radio net designed for more experienced users so that they can practice the Winlink skills needed to support ACS/ARES® activation.

With that in mind, the next Winlink Training session is scheduled for Wednesday February 2nd, 2022, at 1930 hours local. This will be an on-line zoom presentation. It is designed for those individuals who would like to learn more about Winlink, understand how Winlink can be used during an activation event, how to install the Winlink computer program, and how to create a Winlink account. No Winlink experience is required. I would encourage everyone who is interested in Winlink to attend. If you're interested in attending this training session, please send me an email at WA1RYQ@arrl.net and I will send you an invitation.

2. An updated release of the *Pinellas ACS/ARES® Emergency Communications Plan and Standard Operating Procedures* document is scheduled for release and will be uploaded to the PACS Website later this week or the weekend. An update to the *Pinellas ACS/ARES® Winlink Training Plan* is scheduled for release during February and will be distributed for review and comments next week.
3. Finally, I strongly encourage everyone to provide me with comments and suggestions for future training activities. I can be contacted at WA1RYQ@ARRL.net.

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

1.5 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
		No Additional Questions or comments	