

**Start: 1947 L – Stop: 2008 L**

## **Record Keeping**

### **1.1 OVERVIEW.**

Thank you, Bob. Good evening to the net. When I reviewed the documentation set we produced during the hurricane Amaranth exercise, there were two tasks that I felt we needed to practice more often. The first was sending and receiving formal message traffic and the second was maintaining station records. So, tonight, I would like to talk about record keeping during an activation event.

### **1.2 RECORD KEEPING**

Record keeping is an important component of any exercise, event, or activation period. It provides a historical record of the events and actions that occurred during the activation period and will be instrumental in the creation of after-action reports and improvement plans. County, state, and federal officials will also likely make use of this information during their own after-action analysis.

#### **1.2.1 Site Activity Log ICS 214**

There are two logs that should always be maintained during an activation event or exercise. The first is the ICS 214 Activity Log. The ICS 214 is a standard National Incident Management System (NIMS) form. It is used to record all significant events that occur during an exercise, event, or activation period. A link to the PDF version of this form is located on the Pinellas ACS Web site or can be accessed directly from the FEMA web site.

The ICS 214 has eight numbered fields. The six fields at the top of the form are unique to the activation event, site, and operational period.

- a. **Incident Name (Block 1):** This field contains the name of the Incident/activation event that is associated with the ICS 214 It will be provided by the Net Manager by the Radio Officer or his designee.

- b. **Operational Period (Block 2):** This field contains the start date (month/day/year) and time (24-hour local time) and end date and time for the activation event. This is the period over which the ICS 214 is applicable.

Blocks three through six are designed for use by standard ICS organizations and are not fully applicable to Pinellas ACS. So, although I'll discuss these fields, the Radio Officer may request that users modify these entries based on the type of activation event or location being supported.

- c. **Name (Block 3):** This field contains the name of the facility being supported by Pinellas ACS. For example, if the individual is supporting an emergency evacuation shelter, the name of the shelter should be entered into this field.
- d. **ICS Position (Block 4):** This field identifies the job being performed by the organization completing the form. In almost all cases users should enter **Radio Operator**.
- e. **Home Agency (and Unit) (Block 5):** This field contains the name of the organization completing the form. For us, always enter **Pinellas ACS**.
- f. **Resources Assigned (Block 6):** This field contains the Name and FCC call sign of the individual that is associated with the ICS 214. Now, it is important that each individual maintain a personal ICS 214; however, if a site ICS 214 is also being maintained, the name of each individual at the site should also be listed.

Once the top of the form is complete, users will enter significant events into Block 7. When entering information onto the form, time should be entered using a 24-hour format. Entries should be in local rather than Universal Coordinated Time (UTC).

Examples of the significant events that should be recorded include:

- a. All departures and arrivals. Include odometer readings for personally owned vehicles.
  - (1) Home
  - (2) Deployment locations

- (3) Intermediate sites (e.g., EOC to pick up shelter radio kit, gas stations, etc.)
  - b. Arrival and departure of ACS/ARES® personnel
  - c. Shift and operator changes
  - d. Changes to station operational availability. Include addition or loss of specific bands, modes, power, etc.
  - e. Changes in utility status (e.g., shore power, internet, cell service, water, etc.)
  - f. Events that could impact the ability of the deployed location to perform its defined mission (e.g., Generator failures, supply shortages, structural damage, overcrowding, unrest, etc.)
  - g. Meetings and Briefings
  - h. Issues with personnel
  - i. Injuries
  - j. Rumors
  - k. Task assignments and completions

The final block at the bottom of the form, Block 8, contains the name, title, and signature of the individual completing the form. Once complete, the time and date that the form was closed should also be entered. The completed form must be provided to the Pinellas ACS Admin Officer.

### **1.2.2 Site Communications Log ICS 309**

The second log that should be maintained is the ICS 309. The Communications Log records the details of all event specific message traffic and is maintained by each ACS operator. These logs provide the basic reference from which to extract communications traffic history. The information on this form should not duplicate the information on the ICS 214.

Since the ICS 309 is not a standard NIMS ICS form, you may encounter slightly different variants during a deployment. To help mitigate this problem, I have posted a PDF version of an ICS 309 on the Pinellas ACS Web site for users to download. The ICS 309 shown on the website is the same form shown in our emergency communications Plan.

The ICS 309 has eight numbered fields. The four fields at the top of the form are unique to the activation event, site, and operational period.

- a. **Incident Name (Block 1):** This field contains the name of the Incident/activation event that is associated with the ICS 309. It will be provided by the Net Manager by the Radio Officer or his designee.
- b. **Operational Period (Block 2):** This field contains the start date (month/day/year) and time (24-hour local time) and end date and time for the activation event. This is the period over which the ICS 309 is applicable.
- c. **Radio Net Name / Tactical Call Sign / Location (Block 3):** The content of this field is dependent on the position being filled by the Radio Operator.
  - (1) NCS/ANCS: This field will contain the name of the radio net being managed by the NCS and ANCS.
  - (2) Net Participant: This field will contain the tactical call sign of the net participant. If no tactical call sign has been assigned, this field will contain the location of the participant.
- d. **Radio Operator (Block 4):** This field contains the name and FCC call sign of the primary radio operator.

Once the top of the form is complete, users should log all incoming and outgoing formal message traffic, regardless of precedence into block 5. When exchanging informal/tactical message traffic, users should log any message with a precedence of Emergency or Priority. Additional tactical message traffic can be logged at the user's discretion. Each entry in block 5 is divided into the five fields listed below.

- a. Time: The time each message was sent or received. Use 24-hour format (Local Time).
- b. Call Sign/ID FROM: The FCC call sign or Tactical Call Sign of the station sending the message. When the sending station is the local station (i.e., the station identified in blocks 3 and 4), the field can be left blank.

- c. Call Sign/ID TO: This field will contain the FCC call sign or tactical call sign of the station directly receiving the message. When the receiving station is the local station, the field can be left blank.
- d. Msg # / Precedence / Origin: This is the field we had the most difficulty with during the exercise.
  - (1) Formal message – This field will contain the message number, message precedence, and the FCC call sign of the station that *originated* the message.
  - (2) Informal message – This field will contain the message precedence.
- e. Message Subject/Notes: This field should contain the subject of the message and any additional information that will help identify or track the message.

The final three blocks at the bottom of the form contain the name of the individual completing the form and the time and date that the form was finalized.

- a. **Prepared by (Block 6)**: Enter name and FCC call sign of the person completing the log.
- b. **Date and Time Prepared (Block 7)**: Enter the time and date that the log was finalized and ready for delivery to the PACS Admin Officer.
- c. **Page \_\_ of \_\_ (Block 8)**: Sequentially number all pages for the operational period covered by the log. Page numbers start over at one at the beginning of each new operational period.

And, like the ICS 214, The Site Communications Log is provided to the Pinellas ACS Admin officer at the conclusion of the exercise, event, or activation period.

### 1.2.3 Additional Records

In addition to the Activity Log (ICS 214) and Site Communications Logs (ICS 309), users should also retain:

- a. Copies of all ICS documentation provided to the deployment team (e.g., Incident Action Plan (IAP), ICS 201 (Incident Briefing), ICS 202 (Incident Objectives), ICS 204 (Assignment List), ICS 205 (Incident Radio Communications Plan), etc.)
- b. Copies of all formal messages sent and received. This includes all ARRL radiograms and ICS 213 messages. Messages should be kept in numerical order (if possible) to simplify later location if a response to a message is received or if retransmission or clarification is required.
- c. Net Control Logs should record the call sign, tactical call sign, location, and status of each station that checks into the net. The log should also list all traffic that is passed and any significant issues that were encountered.

These records should be provided to the Pinellas ACS Admin officer at the conclusion of the exercise, event, or activation period.

### 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 reminders.

1. The next Winlink training net is scheduled for this Wednesday at 1930 hours local. This will be a mixed voice and data net with the voice segment taking place on the WD4SCD repeater.

A Winlink bulletin describing the planned net activities will be sent to all registered Winlink net participants tomorrow morning. I apologize for the late delivery. A copy of the bulletin and detailed instructions for creating the planned messages exchanged during the net will also be posted on the Pinellas ACS Website.

2. I have posted all the exercise documentation on the Pinellas ACS website. It's located under the training tab and is labeled "Exercise". In addition to the exercise plan and after-action report, I have also included the exercise evaluation guides. These guides include the task-by-task grading that was performed during exercise analysis. I strongly encourage everyone to review the material and provide feedback. I hope to finalize the After-Action report and improvement plan by the end of this month.
3. I can be contacted at [WA1RYQ@ARRL.net](mailto: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
1	KC4SXO	When exchanging Winlink messages, would it appropriate to send a copy of all messages to the PACS admin officer rather than printing a hard copy of each message and then providing the paper copy to the admin officer?	Yes. This is the best method for providing Winlink information to PACS Admin. I would also recommend that each user also create a Winlink ICS 309 and send that as well to PACS Admin.
2	KN4BRQ	When submitting a personal ICS 214 to PACS Admin or Pinellas County, is it best to provide them with the original or a copy of the original?	Response by Clayton, KJ4RUS. Always keep your original document. Provide PACS Admin and/or the county with a copy or scanned PDF. That way, if PACS Admin or the county misplaces the document, you always have the original.
		<b>No Questions or comments</b>	