Start: 1949 L – End: 2015 L

2022 Service Denied Exercise

1.1 OVERVIEW.

Thank you, Bob. Good evening to the net. Tonight, I'll be giving the net an overview of the
2022 Service Denied exercise. This exercise is scheduled to take place on Saturday October 1st,
2022. It will start at approximately 0730 and will terminate at approximately 1300. It is the
second functional exercise that Pinellas ACS has participated in during this calendar year, and
we are actively looking for volunteers to participate.

1.2 OBJECTIVE

The ***2022 Service Denied*** exercise is designed to evaluate the performance of Florida amateur
and SHARES radio networks during a statewide simulated communication and power
distribution system emergency. It is a multi-county exercise with a total of twenty-three Florida
county ARES® and ACS teams participating. The exercise is designed and administered by the
North Florida Section of the ARRL®. Pinellas County ACS is a participant in this exercise.

The primary objective of this exercise for Pinellas ACS is to evaluate the performance of Pinellas
ACS during a simulated emergency that requires the Pinellas County EOC to be activated,
emergency evacuation shelters to be opened, and one or more ICCs to be deployed.

1.3 EXERCISE SCENARIO OVERVIEW

On October 1, 2022, at approximately 0900 EDT, news stations throughout the state of Florida
will begin reporting widespread telecommunication outages. These outages appear to be
limited in scope to the state of Florida. At first, only access to the internet becomes unavailable;
however, the outages quickly spread to both cellular and traditional voice communication
systems.

As the minutes go by, the situation continues to worsen with sweeping blackouts in various
portions of the state. People begin to panic. Roads become gridlocked as people rush to buy

supplies, groceries, and fuel before all available stocks are exhausted. Lines at banks begin to form due to fears that credit and debit cards may be unusable, and people begin withdrawing cash at an alarming rate.

Emergency Managers within many counties begin level 1 activation activities to open shelters for those impacted by the widespread power outages.

The governor quickly declares a state of emergency in Florida. The Florida Division of Emergency Management broadcasts a message to any monitoring amateur radio operator asking them to send in situation reports from within the state to the State EOC via voice or the Winlink messaging system. Several nets are established to provide communication flow between local counties and the State Division of Emergency Management.

NOTE: *Within Pinellas County, all situation reports will be routed to the Pinellas County EOC, checked for accuracy, combined with information from other available resources, and then forwarded to the state of Florida EOC. Individual ACS operators will not exchange information with the state of Florida EOC unless directed to do so by the ACS RO.*

1.4 EXERCISE OPERATIONAL PERIODS

The exercise has a single operational period that is described below.

1.4.1 Exercise Operational Period 1 – Regional Communications Emergency

This operational period begins at 0730 on Saturday October 1st, and terminates at 1300 on the same day. During this operational period, the Pinellas County EOC is activated, Pinellas County opens several emergency evacuation shelters; and ICC equipment is prepositioned. At 0905, the ACS RO sets activation level one for Pinellas ACS and the ACS Tactical-Resource net is established. The Net Control Station notifies all exercise participants to activate.

a.   **Evacuation Shelters** – Up to six Simulated Shelters will be opened. Each simulated shelter will be staffed with one ACS radio operator who is located at his or her home.

ACS RADOs at each simulated evacuation shelter will demonstrate the ability to exchange informal and formal voice message traffic with the Pinellas County EOC; exchange VHF digital message traffic with the Pinellas County EOC if so equipped; and maintain appropriate ICS documentation throughout the exercise.

b. **Incident Communication Centers** – Two simulated ICCs will be opened. Each ICC will be staffed with up to four ACS radio operators.

The ACS RADOs at each simulated ICC will demonstrate the ability to exchange tactical / formal voice and digital message traffic with the Pinellas County EOC, deployed ACS Resources, partner agencies, and the state of Florida EOC as required to meet mission requirements.

c. **EOC Radio Room** – The EOC Radio Room will be staffed with up to four ACS radio operators. These radio operators will demonstrate the ability to establish and maintain the ACS Tactical-Resource, ACS Shelter, and ACS VHF Winlink nets and then perform the role of net control. They will also participate in the UHF statewide exercise command and control net (SAR net), Florida HF and SHARES nets; and exchange tactical / formal analog voice and digital message traffic with deployed ACS Resources, partner agencies, and the state of Florida EOC as required to meet mission requirements.

If all goes according to the plan, the state-wide exercise will terminate at 1130 and a virtual hotwash will take place between 1130 and 1230 via Zoom. The purpose of the Hot Wash is to provide exercise participants with an opportunity to discuss pros and cons, strengths, and areas for improvement. The information gathered during each hotwash will contribute to the After-Action Report and Improvement Plan (AAR/IP) and any exercise suggestions can improve future exercises.

For those individuals deployed to the Public Safety complex, at 1130 the ICC teams will shut down and pack the CommandRunner™ CRDs™ and then transport them back to the EOC

complex. Once all the equipment and personnel are accounted for, the Pinellas County segment of the exercise will be complete.

1.5 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.

[**PAUSING FOR QUESTIONS**]

1.6 CONCLUSION.

That's all I have for this week's training session. I'll conclude with several important points.

   a.   If you want to participate in the exercise, and we encourage everyone to participate, please contact me no later than Wednesday September 28th so that we can assign you to a team. We need to know how many members will be participating so that we can properly stage the sites.
   b.   I will be sending a copy of the exercise plan to all registered participants on Thursday September 29th.

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'll turn it back to Net Control.

1.7 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	For Winlink traffic originating from a location other than the EOC, will the traffic be sent to the EOC or to a local VHF RMS?	In the simulated environment of the exercise, the internet is assumed to be inoperative within Pinellas County; therefore, only RMS stations that are part of the Radio-Only Hybrid network could be used to pass traffic; however, during this exercise, all traffic will be passed using P2P communications. So local traffic will be sent to the EOC using P2P.
2	KC4SXO	Could the KJ4RUS-10 VHF RMS gateway be configured to act as a store and forward RMS? So that when the internet is down, local users could use it as a mailbox.	Clayton may be able to configure his gateway to act as a local mailbox. We will need to get offline and determine if possible and then test the configuration.
3	KC4SXO	Will likely need relays for Winlink to ensure that all stations can send traffic to the EOC. Could also possibly use digipeaters.	One option is to use P2P between stations to relay Winlink traffic or configure one or more stations as digipeaters. Agree…
4	KN4BRQ	Will the people operating from home as shelters be involved in the hotwash?	Yes, the hotwash will be a zoom meeting so that everyone can participate in the hotwash.
5	W8QFV	Since exercise simulates a power failure, will the Command Runners be operating on back-up power?	Yes, command runners will be operating on back-up power. W4ACS repeater is assumed to be running on battery backup. Since this is an exercise, the schedule is compressed.

No.	Call Sign	Comments	Response
6	KN4BRQ	Should operators at home simulating shelters be operating on battery power?	Assumptions: (1) EOC has a back-up generator with several days of fuel. (2) Operators at evacuation shelters have back-up generators and several days of fuel. So, you do not have to run on back-up power; however, of course, testing your back-up power is aways a good idea.
7	KG4HNS	Where will the details of the exercise be posted?	The details will be posted on the PACS website.
8	KC4SXO	How with the shelter teams receive injects? Will it be by email?	We are working on that right now. We likely use email or a text message.
9	KA4EBX	Exercise team will also be looking at tasks and task books during this exercise, so if you're trying to complete an ARES or AUXCOMM task book bring it along so that it can be signed.	
		No Additional Questions or comments	