Start: 1948 L – Stop: 2003 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/NAC[1] needed to participate in the net. The eight 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.   Florida Statewide HF Emergency Net

      h.   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

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[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).

capabilities of each participant, and the deployment status of each participant. This net will also 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 when the Pinellas County EOC issues an evacuation order and the NCS of the Tactical-Resource net determines that a secondary net for shelter traffic is required to prevent the Tactical-Resource net from being overloaded.

When activated, the ACS/ARES® Shelter net will 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® Tactical-Resource net will be used to notify Winlink digital net participants that digital traffic has been sent to the Radio Message Server (RMS).

If the NCS for the ACS/ARES® Tactical-Resource 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/ARES® Tactical-Resource 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. In most cases, the Pinellas County EOC will be assigned the role of Winlink liaison station.

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 Florida Statewide HF Emergency Net

The Florida Statewide HF Emergency net is an Auxiliary Communications net used to maintain communications between impacted counties and the state of Florida EOC.

When activated, an incident action plan (IAP) will be posted on the Florida Auxiliary Communications Website. The plan will include net activation times and operating frequencies.

1.1.8 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.   Pinellas ACS has created a group on the Groups.io website. The name of the group is PinCoACS. Instructions for joining the group are located on the Pinellas ACS website.

2.   The next Winlink training net is scheduled for next week, June 25th, 2023. A message will be posted to the PinCo ACS Groups.io website on Sunday June 25th. The message will contain instructions describing the week's training. Each participant can complete the training task at their own pace. The deadline for submitting the training task to the net control station is 1900 on Thursday June 29th. If you are interested in participating in Winlink Training, please send me a note via Winlink at WA1RYQ or via email at WA1RYQ@arrl.net

3.   I strongly encourage everyone to provide comments and suggestions for future training activities. I can be contacted via Winlink at WA1RYQ, via email at WA1RYQ@ARRL.net, or you can send me a message using our groups.io web site.

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	KQ4FPS	I am concerned about the Skyway repeater for SARnet. The repeater has intermittent problems. What is plan for repairing this repeater.	I know the SARnet team is aware of the problem but do not have an ETA for repair.
2	KO4OIB	Will there be any additional Winlink training coming up in the future?	I will be addressing this in just a few minutes.
		No Additional Questions or comments	