Start: 1949 L – Stop: 1959 L

Communications Plan

1.1 OVERVIEW.

Thank-you Bob. Good evening to the net. Tonight, I'll present an overview 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 seven nets I'll be reviewing this evening are:

      a.   ACS Tactical-Resource Net

      b.   ACS Traffic Net

      c.   ARES® VHF Traffic Net

      d.   Winlink Digital Data Net

      e.   Statewide Amateur Radio Network

      f.   Florida Statewide HF Emergency Net

      g.   SHARES Coordination Net

1.1.1 ACS Tactical-Resource Net

The Pinellas County ACS Tactical-Resource net will be activated to support 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 ACS Communication Team members, the capabilities of each communications team, and the deployment status of each communications

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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).

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

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

1.1.2 ACS Traffic Net

The ACS Traffic net will _only_ be activated if the PinCo ACS EOC radio room team determines that the volume of traffic on the ACS Tactical-Resource Net cannot be effectively managed using a single repeater. When activated, the mission of the ACS Traffic net is to offload the exchange of formal written **Priority** traffic from the Tactical-Resource Net to a secondary repeater.

The WD4SCD repeater system is the primary repeater used to support the ACS Traffic net. The WD4SCD repeater has a single transmitter site and five receive sites distributed throughout Pinellas County. The repeater receive sites are connected to the transmitter site using UHF communication links. Each communications team should identify the receiving station that is closest to their deployment location and then program their radio with the corresponding Continuous Tone Coded Squelch System (CTCSS) tone documented in the ICS 205.

1.1.3 ARES® VHF Traffic Net

The ARES® VHF traffic net is used to exchange **Routine** and **Welfare** 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 ARES® 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 communications teams 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 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 Tactical-Resource net determines that a more managed form of flow control is required on the Winlink digital net, the 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.

The Winlink computer program maintains a database of all Winlink RMS stations. The database contains the relative location, modes, and frequencies of operation for each station. Within Pinellas County, the W4ACS-10 Winlink RMS is the primary RMS used during ACS 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 PinCo EOC Radio Room will act as a liaison station and all out of region traffic will be sent to the PinCo EOC for relay out of area.

1.1.5 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.

1.1.6 Florida Statewide HF Emergency Net

The Florida Statewide HF Emergency Net will be activated by the Florida Division of Emergency Management during declared states of emergency and used to exchange priority and emergency traffic between Florida County EOCs 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.

1.1.7 SHARES Coordination Network

The SHAred RESources (SHARES) Coordination Network (SCN) is the Department of Homeland Security's High Frequency (HF) Radio System. Its purpose is to provide an additional means for users with a national security and emergency preparedness mission to communicate when landline and cellular communications are unavailable. Local governments, state governments, the federal government, critical infrastructure, and disaster response agencies can use SHARES to coordinate and transmit their emergency messages. The SHARES radio network is available 24 hours a day to provide emergency communications.

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.

<p align="center">ACTION - PAUSING FOR QUESTIONS</p>

1.4 CONCLUSION.

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

1.   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
		No Additional Questions or comments	