



MINNESOTA MARSGRAM



Information for Minnesota Navy-Marine Corps. MARS Members

April, 2009

Volume 13, Number 4

NNN0ALL Minnesota

by NNN0GAZ Tim

Greetings, April is here, but I'm not entirely sure that Mother Nature is happy about it. While I'm writing this, the weatherman is telling me that there is a Winter Storm Watch, with the possibility that I'm actually going to use the snow blower in April. We shouldn't complain, we've had it pretty easy the past few years – it's just a good old-fashioned upper Midwest winter.

Severe Weather Awareness Week, April 20-24, is rapidly approaching. That time of the year is here once again, thunder, lightning, and hail. This may be a good time of year to check out the ready.gov or codeready.org pages on the web. Both have excellent information on how to prepare for natural and man-made disasters.

The Armed Forces Day celebration is just about here. I anticipate sometime within the next two weeks we will get a list of operating stations, dates and times from the Chief. Please plan ahead and if at all possible, participate – at least by contacting NAV 4 at Great Lakes. Once again the crew, including Chief Anderson, Director Central Area, Dave Ouellette, NNN0ASG ONE, retired Senior Chief Stundahl along with other members from Region Five will put NAV 4 on the air again – make

it worth their while. When we do receive the Cross band operations information - please forward this information to your local club, any nets you may participate in, and your amateur radio friends; your help in spreading the word would be appreciated.

Don't forget, we're always looking for contributors to the Minnesota MARSGRAM. If you have an article, brainteaser, training material, or even an idea for an article, we're more than willing to accept the ideas and contributions.

Finally, with warmer weather (soon maybe) and the opportunity to spend more hours outside, please don't forget our evening nets. We need everyone on the roster to participate – don't just be a placeholder on the roster. We're not asking for you to be on the net each and every night – make one net a week – your participation will be appreciated. There is always the need for substitute NECOS and TREP stations – if you haven't tried this, step in when another member needs relief, you will realize a sense of

accomplishment. Don't miss the opportunity to participate in an evening net, an ecom exercise, you will find that checking in to the evening net to enjoy fellowship with your fellow MARS members is definitely worth the time.

Enjoy this issue of the Minnesota MARSGRAM.

BT OVER



EASTER

Sunday April 12th

The MINNESOTA MARSGRAM is published for the benefit of Amateur Radio Operators in Minnesota and other interested individuals. The contents DO NOT reflect official Navy positions.

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Content Contributions Welcomed and Encouraged

MINNESOTA TRAFFIC NETS

Designator	Frequency	Local Times
5G1B	Pri. NCE Sec. NBG Ter. NAR	18:30 Daily

MINNESOTA ADMIN. NET

5G4A	Pri. NCE	19:00 2nd Sunday
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MARS DATA SYSTEM

NN0DVD	Freq. NCO AFSK/USB
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Website <http://www.mnmars.org>

Intranet site <http://www.communityzero.com/mnmars>

Test Your NIMS Knowledge

Each month we take a look at a topic covered in the FEMA on-line courses required of all emergency communications volunteers. See how much you recall from the course.

These levels of the ICS organization may have Deputy positions:

- Branch
- Incident Commander
- ?

- A. Division
- B. Staging Area
- C. Group
- D. Section

Check in next month's MARSGRAM for the answer.

March NIMS Solution

Select the TRUE statement:

- C. Span of control is accomplished by organizing resources into Teams, Divisions, Groups, Branches, or Sections.

BT OVER

“Though no one can go back and make a brand new start, anyone can start from now and make a brand new ending.”

Carl Bard

MN Navy-Marine Corps MARS Staff

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2ND QUARTER EXERCISE

May 20 - 22

Minnesota will conduct a 2nd quarter ECOM Exercise tentatively scheduled for May 20, 21 and 22, 2009 during the time frame of the 5G1B net, 2330Z to 0030Z.

The net designation will be 5G1E and will last no longer than one hour per night. The scenario will be announced prior to the date of the exercise.

All MN MARS members are encouraged to become capable of operating on WINLINK 2000 (WL2K). Emphases will be placed on aiding members with WL2K set-up and operation on the evening net (5G1B at 6:30 p.m.) during the weeks prior to the exercise.

Ability to operate WL2K on TELNET will be the highest priority with RF capability to follow. Training and/or equipment will be provided when and where possible.

One objective of the exercise is for each member to send and receive traffic, SITREPS and EEI messages during the exercise.

During the exercise nets traffic handling using MT-63 and PSK-31 will also be used.

Now is the time to brush up on your digital mode skills and EEI and SITREP message formats. Let's have some fun inn May with the exercise.

BT OVER

**This is
a Drill**



PERSIAN GULF A commercial tanker refuels at Iraq's Khawr Al Amaya Oil Platform. U.S. and Coalition forces guard the Khawr Al Amaya Oil Platform and the Al Basrah Oil Terminal, which account for 90 % of Iraq's gross domestic product. U.S. and Coalition forces also continue to train Iraqi personnel in force protection and search and seizure operations in an effort to turn the oil terminals over to Iraqi control.



April 20 - 24, 2009

The state of Minnesota has conducted a Severe Weather Awareness Week in partnership with the National Weather Service and local governments for more than 20 years. The 2009 Minnesota Severe Weather Awareness Week will be observed from April 20th – 24th. This year the statewide tornado drill will be held on Thursday, April 24th.

The Severe Weather Awareness Week campaign helps teach Minnesotans about weather hazards and provides resources to minimize the risks associated with severe weather. There will be an emphasis on a different aspect of severe weather each day of the week:

Monday – Thunderstorms, Hail, Straight-Line Winds, Lightning

Tuesday – Severe Weather Warnings

Wednesday – Floods, Flash Floods

Thursday – Tornado Drill Day

Friday – Heat

The statewide tornado drill on Thursday will be conducted twice. Most counties will be participating in the tornado drill. The Afternoon drill will take place at 1:45 p.m. This is the time when jurisdictions across Minnesota sound their outdoor warning sirens. Schools, businesses and other facilities are encouraged to conduct a tornado drill at this time to practice their tornado sheltering plans.

The evening drill will be conducted at 6:55 p.m. The reason for a 6:55 p.m. drill is that severe weather, including tornadoes, occurs most often between 3 and 8 p.m. The statewide 1:45 p.m. drill gives institutions, first-shift and day workers a time to practice, but it does not allow second-shift workers the same opportunity. The 6:55 p.m. tornado drill also allows families to practice their sheltering plans.

You can find additional information at the MN Dept of Public Safety website at: <http://www.severeweather.state.mn.us/>

BT OVER



Farm Kid Joins the Corps

A. Nony Moose reporting from MCRD, San Diego, CA

The first letter home from a new recruit.

Dear Ma and Pa,

I am well. Hope you are. Tell Brother Walt and Brother Elmer the Marine Corps beats working for old man Minch by a mile. Tell them to join up quick before all of the places are filled.

I was restless at first because you get to stay in bed till nearly 6 a.m. But I am getting so I like to sleep late. Tell Walt and Elmer all you do before breakfast is smooth your cot, and shine some things. No hogs to slop, feed to pitch, mash to mix, wood to split, fire to lay. Practically nothing.

Men got to shave but it is not so bad, there's warm water. Breakfast is strong on trimmings like fruit juice, cereal, eggs, bacon, etc., but kind of weak on chops, potatoes, ham, steak, fried eggplant, pie and other regular food, but tell Walt and Elmer you can always sit by the two city boys that live on coffee. Their food, plus yours, holds you until noon when you get fed again. It's no wonder these city boys can't walk much.

We go on 'route marches,' which the platoon sergeant says are long walks to harden us. If he thinks so, it's not my place to tell him different. A 'route march' is about as far as to our mailbox at home. Then the city guys get sore feet and we all ride back in trucks.

The sergeant is like a school teacher. He nags a lot. The Captain is like the school board. Majors and colonels just ride around and frown. They don't bother you none.

This next will kill Walt and Elmer with laughing. I keep getting medals for shooting. I don't know why. The bulls-eye is near as big as a chipmunk head and don't move, and it ain't shooting at you like the Higgett boys at home. All you got to do is lie there all comfortable and hit it. You don't even load your own cartridges. They come in boxes.

Then we have what they call hand-to-hand combat training. You get to wrestle with them city boys. I have to be real careful though, they break real easy. It ain't like fighting with that ole bull at home.

I'm about the best they got in this except for that Tug Jordan from over in Silver Lake. I only beat him once.. He joined up the same time as me, but I'm only 5'6' and 130 pounds and he's 6'8' and near 300 pounds dry.

Be sure to tell Walt and Elmer to hurry and join before other fellers get onto this setup and come stampeding in. Your loving daughter, Alice

BT OVER

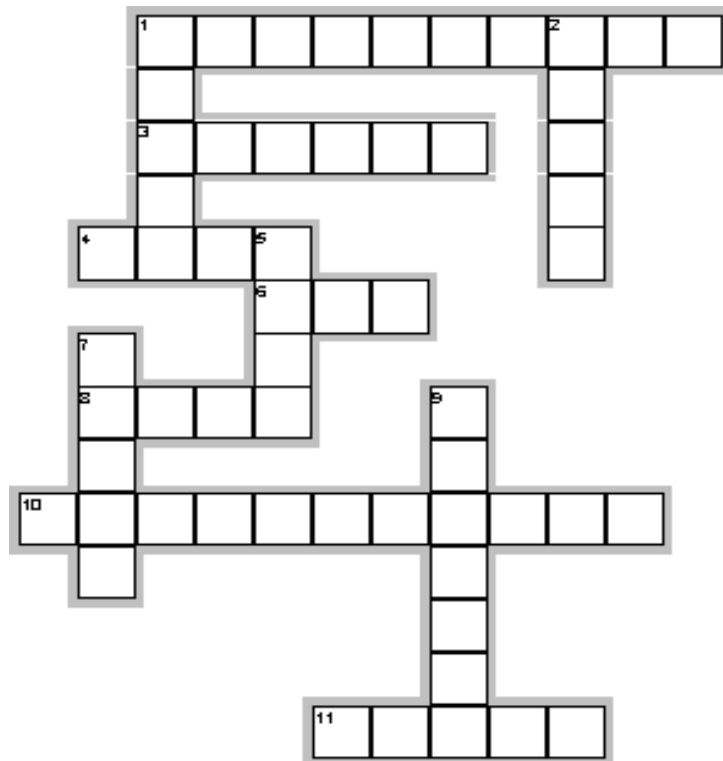
DIRECTED NET OPERATIONS

Across

1. The item in a message preamble that indicates the importance of the message.
3. A _____ is one item you should always have when participating in a directed net.
4. Proword used to indicate punctuation in a message text.
6. Proword used at the end of a transmission when a reply is not expected.
8. Proword used at the end of a transmission when a reply is expected.
10. In station to station contact in a directed net, the station _____ is the first to respond.
11. The item in the message preamble that indicates the number of items in the message text.

Down

1. Another item you should always have when checking into a directed net.
2. Station in charge of a directed net.
5. FCC rules only require you to identify this station: _____ station.
7. Proword indicating I understand your transmission.
9. A message dealing with the condition of Aunt Millie and Uncle Fred.



NORFOLK
A Sailor aboard the guided-missile destroyer USS Ramage (DDG 61) prepares to shift colors as the ship pulls into port after a seven-month deployment. Ramage deployed as a part of the Iwo Jima Amphibious Ready Group supporting maritime security operations and theater security cooperation efforts in the U.S. 5th and 6th Fleet areas of responsibility.

March Crossword Solution ARL Texts

Across

3. ARLSIXTEEN—Property damage very severe in this area.
6. ARLFOUR—Only slight property damage here.
8. ARLFOURTEEN—Situation becoming critical.
11. GREETINGSBYAMATEURRADIO—ARL Fifty
12. SEARCHANDRESCUE—ARL Twenty One
13. MEDICALEMERGENCY—ARL Thirteen

Down

1. ARLTWENTYFOUR—Evacuation of residents from this area urgently needed.
2. ARLEIGHTEEN—Please contact me ASAP.
3. ANXIOUS TO HEAR FROM YOU—ARL Twelve
4. ARRIVED SAFELY—ARL Sixty Four
5. EVERYONE SAFE—ARL One
7. ARLSIX—Will contact you ASAP.
9. ARLTWENTY—Temporarily stranded.
10. COMING HOME—ARL Two

World Amateur Radio Day Recognize Role In Disaster Communications

Each year on April 18, radio amateurs celebrate World Amateur Radio Day. On that day in 1925, 84 years ago, the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) was founded. In 2009, the theme of the event is Amateur Radio: Your Resource in Disaster and Emergency Communication.

"It is not by coincidence that last year's meeting of the IARU Administrative Council chose this subject at this time," said IARU International Coordinator for Emergency Communication Hans Zimmermann, F5VKP/HB9AQS. "While the Amateur Radio Service has traditionally made its contributions to emergency and disaster response ever since its very beginnings almost 100 years ago, this role has gained a lot of importance just in the recent past."

Citing the fact that natural, as well as manmade disasters are on the rise, Zimmermann pointed out that today's modern communication technologies are "increasingly complex, infrastructure-dependent and therefore also increasingly vulnerable. The Amateur Radio Service puts two equally valuable assets at its disposal for emergency and disaster prevention, preparedness and response: A large number of very flexible and mostly infrastructure-independent, local, national, regional and global networks, and a large number of skilled operators, who know how to communicate with often very limited means and to establish communications even under the most difficult circumstances."

Zimmermann continued: "In fact, contributions to emergency and disaster relief are a major argument for the preservation and the extension of the privileges the Amateur Radio Service enjoys in international and national regulations. This is one of the reasons why more and more Amateur Radio operators — through their clubs and their national societies — prepare very seriously for their role in emergencies; however, their skills can be put to use only if they are known by other first responders. Effective response to emergencies can only occur with the work of volunteers in all the various fields, from search and rescue to medical assistance and those who can provide food and shelter. Communication skills are a new, but equally vital commodity."

BT OVER

"You do not lead by hitting people over the head. That's assault, not leadership."

General Dwight Eisenhower

Plain Language for Public Safety

The Dallas Police Department has moved to a new plain-language system that's supposed to make communications more universal and less complicated. No more of those distinctive radio codes or signals.

The department says it's following a nationwide trend, but some call it the end of an era.

Others say the switch is no big deal. Many Dallas police dispatches already include plain language because it's simple. "It's a no-brainer," Dallas Police Senior Cpl. Herb Ebsen said. "It's just common sense. If we start speaking in codes, you have a real chance for a problem or misinterpretation."

The switch became more prevalent after Sept. 11, 2001. During the terrorist attacks, different agencies had problems communicating because they used different codes or their signals had varying meanings.

Federal officials require that plain language be used during major disasters and exercises that involve several agencies or jurisdictions, according to a 2006 government alert. "There simply is little or no room for misunderstanding in an emergency situation," the alert stated.

In a crisis, the codes tend to go out the window, Ebsen said. "Officers who have been there a while learn pretty quickly that if something big is going on, just talk plainly to say what's going on," he said.

Michael Calhoun, a Dallas police dispatcher, said there will be some other benefits to dropping the signals: Rookies probably won't have to memorize all those codes. "It'll make their lives a whole lot easier," he said.

In the 1930s, so-called 10-codes were used to relay details quickly because police radios had only one channel, according to the International Association of Chiefs of Police. Through the years, departments developed their own unique codes or signals that were different from even neighboring agencies. So one department's 10-13 ("officer in trouble") was another department's "request wrecker."

When East Coast officers say "collar," they mean arrest, but in Nevada, officers say "rip," said Tim Dees, a retired police officer and senior editor for lawofficer.com, a law enforcement Web site. With many agencies working together, "if you use the wrong word in the wrong context, people will look at you funny," he said.

As hard as agencies try to scrub out codes and signals, it will be difficult to extinguish something that's been ingrained for decades in police forces, Dees said. "It becomes a matter of pride to use that and to know what those things mean," he said. "There's always going to be an element of jargon there. I expect you'll hear it occasionally creep back.

BT OVER

5G1B Net Schedule

6:30PM 4007 kHz USB

Day	NECOS	Tfc Rep
Sun.	XYA	XEE
Mon.	XEE	XEE
Tue.	BQH	BQH
Wed.	KZC	KZC
Thu.	SXU	SXU
Fri.	???	OCF

Sat. Rotating Duty (see below)

Don't be bashful, if the net has not been called by the net control station within 2 minutes, jump in and start things rolling.

Saturday NECOS / TREP Schedule

NECOS TREP

Apr 4	XEE	XEE
Apr 11	BQH	BQH
Apr 18	KZC	KZC
Apr 25	SXU	SXU
May 2	XYA	XEE
May 9	XEE	XEE

Test Your Analytical Skills

Attenuation of Harmonic Emission

A ship radiotelephone transmitter operates on 2738 kHz. At a certain point distant from the transmitter, the 2738kHz signal has a measured field of 147 millivolts per meter. The second harmonic field at the same point is measured at 405 microvolts per meter. To the nearest whole unit in decibels, how much has the harmonic emission been attenuated below the 2739 kHz fundamental?

Answer in the next issue of the Minnesota MARSGRAM

Solution for March Test

Velocipede Race

Courtesy of Ask Marilyn, Parade Magazine

Lancelot is training for the annual velocipede race through his kingdom, yesterday, he rode at 15 mph and covered the distance in 2 hours and 24 minutes. Today he cut his time by 24 minutes. How fast did he ride?

Answer: 18mph

Day 1 – Rode for 2hours and 24 minutes = 144 minutes.

Today he rode for 120 minutes.

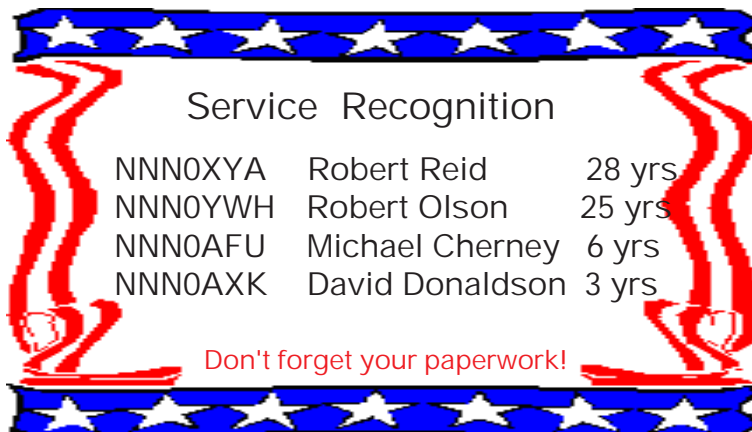
$$\frac{15}{X} = \frac{15}{144}$$

This is 15 times 144 = 2160

X = 2160 divided by 144 = 18mph



NNN0XYA	Bob Reid	4/18
NNN0KWS	Bill Strong	4/25
NNN0KZC	Al Doree	4/27



Service Recognition

NNN0XYA	Robert Reid	28 yrs
NNN0YWH	Robert Olson	25 yrs
NNN0AFU	Michael Cherney	6 yrs
NNN0AXK	David Donaldson	3 yrs

Don't forget your paperwork!



Tax Freedom Day 2009

Arrives on April 15 in Minnesota

Tax Freedom Day will arrive on April 13 this year, according to the Tax Foundation's annual calculation using the latest government data on income and taxes. Tax Freedom Day is the day when Americans finally have earned enough money to pay off their total tax bill for the year.

This is eight days earlier than in 2008, and a full two weeks earlier than in 2007, for two reasons: (1) the recession has reduced tax collections even faster than it has reduced income, and (2) the stimulus package includes large temporary tax cuts for 2009 and 2010. Nevertheless, Americans will pay more in taxes than they will spend on food, clothing and housing combined.

Tax Freedom Day answers the basic question, "What price is the nation paying for government?" An official government figure for total tax collections is divided by the nation's total income. The answer this year is that taxes will amount to 28.2 percent of our income, and the stretch of 103 days from January 1 to April 13 is 28.2 percent of the year. Income and tax data are then parsed out to the states, yielding 50 state-specific Tax Freedom Days.

In 2009, Minnesota taxpayers had to work until April 15 (ranked 9th highest nationally) to pay their total tax bill, two days after national Tax Freedom Day (April 13). The Tax Freedom Days of neighboring states were: Wisconsin, April 13 (ranked 12th nationally); Iowa, April 4 (39th nationally); North Dakota, April 1 (46th nationally); and South Dakota, March 29th (47th nationally). More information is available at the TAX Foundation website: www.taxfoundation.org/taxfreedomday.