



MINNESOTA MARSGRAM



Information for Minnesota Navy-Marine Corps. MARS Members

June, 2006

Volume10, Number 6

NNN0ALL Minnesota

by NNN0GAZ Tim

Greetings, To all of you who participated in the Armed Forces Day celebration, Thank You. Despite awful propagation conditions, which seem to directly correspond with this event every year, NAV 4 managed the most contacts of all the Navy-Marine Corps MARS stations on the air for the celebration. This year Chief Jeffries and retired Senior Chief Stundahl along with other members put NAV 4 on the air again – they learned some valuable lessons in the absence of NNN0ASG One.

The Central Area Conference is just around the corner. In two weeks Al and I, along with our spouses will head for Great Lakes to meet with other members from Region Five and Region Four. We will have an opportunity to meet with Chief Navy-Marine Corps MARS, Bo Lindfors.

For those unable to attend, we will provide a summary in the next newsletter and probably present some additional information at the Minnesota Area Conference – which is tentatively scheduled for July 29 (*hint- mark your calendars*) the location for the conference is yet to be determined. Al has indicated we may be able to go back to Waite Park – but if there are members

with other suggestions – we're willing to hear them.

Over the past year I have been pushing for members to investigate the FEMA website, particularly the on-line education section. In the past two months, those of us in emergency management have been able to see how the new federal requirements will affect those that respond to emergencies. By October 1, 2006, those persons considered first responders to incidents will be required to have completed IS-700, *National Incident Management System (NIMS), An Introduction*; ICS-100, *Introduction to Incident Command System*; and ICS-200, *ICS for Single Resources and Initial Action Incidents*. For communities that apply for grants to fund training and exercises meeting these requirements will be crucial. Without evidence of personnel having completed these courses funding for exercises and training can be denied. There also exists the possibility that without evidence of completion of these courses – even if you possess a DoD Green Card, you may not be allowed onto an incident scene.

These requirements apply to the obvious – police,

fire, emergency management and now extend to include personnel in public works, city administration – basically anyone that will respond in an emergency in any role – even communications personnel.

In May, I attended training to become a MnIMS (Minnesota Incident Management System) instructor. We are fortunate in Minnesota – the Minnesota Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management has been ahead of the curve in terms of development and implementation of the Minnesota Incident Management System as well as developing curriculum to keep personnel in the state compliant with the new federal regulations. My training in May included training to teach the IS-700, ICS-100 and ICS-200 courses. The courses can all be taken on-line through FEMA – you don't have to attend the course in a classroom format. I've taken the on-line courses – they are worthwhile and the bonus of taking them on-line through FEMA – when you satisfactorily complete the course,

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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

	Frequency
NN0DVD	NCO AFSK/USB
Intranet site	http://www.communityzero.com/mnmars

GAZ *cont'd from pg. 1*

FEMA sends you a certificate of completion – i.e. evidence of training. With the new requirements, I urge each of you to visit the FEMA education site and complete the courses.

Finally, with warmer weather and the opportunity to spend more hours outside, please don't forget our evening nets. We would like to hear for you during the spring and summer months. 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

Graduation Day

Annapolis, Md. (May 26, 2006) - A newly commissioned Marine Corps 2nd Lieutenant shows off his diploma. Vice President Dick Cheney delivered the commencement address to nine hundred-eighty Midshipmen who will be commissioned as Navy Ensigns or Marine Corps Second Lieutenants, at the U.S. Naval Academy's 2006 Graduation and Commissioning Ceremony. The Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) Adm. Mike Mullen and Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corp

Gen. Robert Magnus administered the Oath of Office at the 156th traditional graduation ceremony. U.S. Navy photo by Chief Photographer's Mate Johnny Bivera

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Ham Ingenuity in Katrina Response

A Mississippi radio amateur and broadcaster who braved the fury of Hurricane Katrina to keep his ham radio club's low-power FM (LPFM) broadcast station WQRZ-LP on the air was one of three recipients to receive the Small Business Administration (SBA) Phoenix Award. The SBA honored ARRL Member Brice Phillips, KB5MPW, of Bay Saint Louis, for "Outstanding Contributions to Disaster Recovery by a Volunteer."

"We are proud to be the first Amateur Radio organization-owned broadcast facility in the US—and proud Mississippians—to serve our state and as a model to the country as the first broadcast station to be attached to an emergency operations center," Phillips says. He notes that the station lost everything to the storm except "our lives and our commitment to the community."

Owned and operated by the Hancock County Amateur Radio Association, WQRZ-LP (103.5 FM) was built and is operated by

WQRZ-LP
103.5 FM
Kiln, MS.

volunteers with disabilities. Before Hurricane Katrina hit, Phillips and WQRZ-LP Program Director Christine Stach, KC5RIC, relocated the station from a small shed next to their house in Waveland to the Hancock County Emergency Operations Center (EOC), which was forced to move twice.

As the storm surge waters reached the building's second level, Phillips braved the elements and rigged car batteries to power the station's broadcasts of search-and-rescue and other emergency information. WQRZ was one of only four of the more than three dozen Gulf Coast radio stations—and the only one in Hancock County—to stay on the air during the early days after Katrina struck. Phillips also was among the many radio amateurs providing emergency communication in the storm-stricken region.

FEMA distributed 3000 FM radios to Hancock County storm survivors so they could tune to WQRZ-LP and learn where to get food, water, ice, tarpaulins, help from the Red Cross and The Salvation Army and other survival assistance.

Normally solar-powered, WQRZ-LP serves the Bay Saint Louis, Waveland, Diamondhead and Kiln areas of Mississippi. WQRZ-LP's licensee, the Hancock County Amateur Radio Association, is a non-profit IRS 501(c)(3) organization.

-BT OVER



THE NATURE OF DISASTERS AND IMPLICATIONS FOR AMATEUR RADIO

Part Two

By Tom Cox VE6TOX

(Editor's Note: This is Part Two of a three part series covering a presentation to the Communications Academy 2006, April 1, 2006, Burien WA)

CHARACTERISTICS OF DISASTER RESPONSE

Emergencies are taken care of on a local level - it is what emergency services are staffed and trained to do. By definition, anything that is beyond the capabilities of the local services or severely impacts the local emergency services requires outside help. As well, disasters often cross local jurisdictional boundaries. This means that you will have multiple organizations responding. You have no idea what that means until you see it! [In a Detroit plane crash, there were 69 fire departments and a total of 288 different organizations which eventually responded.]

Convergence of Responders. Everyone and their (Search and Rescue) dog comes. This includes off-duty, retired, probationary, volunteer, fired and wanna-be personnel.

Convergence of Organizations - Red Cross, Salvation Army, church groups, Disaster Child Services, SPCA, ARES, RACES, CERT.... Dozens or hundreds of organizations will arrive.

Convergence of Media - local outlets are augmented by regional, national and international media looking for unique stories.

Convergence of Relatives - especially if children are affected, every relative will come looking for missing family members.

Convergence of Volunteers - emergency services will be overwhelmed with something they rarely allow otherwise with the addition of volunteers.

Convergence of Equipment and Supplies - because the exact needs are unknown, supplies will be ordered approximately three times more or three times less than what is actually required. The lack of information on the scope of the disaster, the numbers of people affected and the most severely affected areas means that supplies will be poorly allocated.

Convergence of Spectators. They will interfere with the responders trying to reach the scene.

"Who is in charge" becomes a major issue. Legal requirements, multi-jurisdictional devastation, multiple agencies, conflicting priorities mean much time is spent initially picking the top person or much more time will be spent debating and working against one-another. Situation reports

are given infrequently and are not updated. Emergency organizations may know that their situation has changed, but they rarely advise outside organizations, agencies or the public because they never do it on a regular basis.

Rumors start in the absence of reliable government or response agency information. Spontaneous sources of information will spring up in the absence of a widespread, easily accessible official source of information. Emergency services will turn to these ad-hoc sources because they too are not getting all the information they need.

Logistics issues become huge. Not only does the over- or under-supply of scarce resources cause problems, but the transportation issues become huge. Which roads are blocked? What bridges are out? What streets are gridlocked by fleeing evacuees and responding agencies and relatives?

Logistics issues become huge with the allocation of scarce resources. Who gets the ten generators when there are thousands of needs? The hospitals? The reception centers? The fire halls? The water supply? The gas stations to supply fuel for the fire trucks? The utility companies? The Red Cross? The Amateur Radio operators?

Financial issues are ignored until later. There is an attitude in the disaster response of "someone will pay for this." At the end of the day, the government says "Let's see the purchase order. Let's see the receipts. Let's see the authorization." Issues like "If everyone else is donating meals for the responders, why should McDonalds be the only one to get paid?" or "Why are urban firefighters being paid seven times the amount of forest fire fighters for doing the same job side-by-side?"

With fire trucks destroyed, roads blocked, water mains broken, emergency response becomes very, very creative. This creates unusual responses and unusual locations. Whatever works!

Unusual responses include things like:

- Firefighters using bulldozers or helicopters rather than ladders and hoses.
- Inmates being used to cook for the first responders.
- Garbage dumpsters used to transport essential supplies.
- Naval vessels being used to power reception centers.
- Trains being run down streets with no rails in order to supply power to reception centers and government buildings.

Disaster *cont'd from pg. 3*

- Firefighters using heavy dump trucks to reach flood victims.

Unusual responses result in unusual locations being used, for example:

- Airport terminals used as hospitals.
- Burger joints being used as police headquarters
- Breweries used to supply water for hundreds of thousands of people.
- Highways and roads used as landing pads and jails.

Incident Command will be used to organize the response. It is the best system in the world at this time for disaster response and deals directly with many of the most critical management, safety and logistical issues that arise in every disaster.

There will be confusion because different agencies use different versions of incident command, agencies take only the parts of incident command that they like and disregard the rest, and new positions and titles are added to keep people happy or reflect their normal organizational structure.

If there is one phone left in the entire country, responders will attempt to make communications by phone because that is what they know and that is what they are comfortable with. In a disaster, there is no time to learn how to use a satellite phone, a radio or any other type of communications system.

At the end of the day, there will be a huge effort to list the "lessons learned". This will be given to the people who have just learned the lessons of this once-in-a-lifetime experience and will be ignored by those who are about to go through a disaster.

Next month the third and final installment will deal with the Nature of Amateur Radio in disasters.

- BT OVER -



Flag Day

June 14, 2006

These colors don't run!

Training Corner

Handling Traffic

Using Prowords: I Spell

Only smart people can read this.

I don't believe that I could accurately understand what I was reading. The phenomenal power of the human mind!

According to research at Cambridge University, it doesn't matter in what order the letters in a word are, the only important thing is that the first and last letter be in the right place. The rest can be a total mess and you can still read it without a problem.

This is because the human mind does not read every letter by itself, but the word as a whole. Amazing huh? Yeah and I always thought spelling was important!

Well, I wouldn't say that only smart people can read that paragraph but it does show how we do a great job of unconsciously filling-in-the-blanks. This is an interesting exercise when it arrives via e-mail, however this ability can be a disaster when passing information in an emergency situation. Effective emergency communications rely on accuracy and speed.

If you were to send the first line of the paragraph by voice you would be tempted to say, "Only smart people can read this." You would be wrong!

The only way the first line could be accurately sent is by using the prowords "I Spell" as follows; "I SPELL Oscar Lima November Yankee, I SPELL Sierra Romeo Mike Alpha Tango, I SPELL Papa Oscar Echo Lima Papa Echo, can I SPELL Charlie Alpha November, can, I SPELL Romeo Alpha Echo Delta, I SPELL Tango India Hotel Sierra".

Notice how the prowords I SPELL indicate the start of a new group of characters except in the case of the word "can". When phonetically spelling a specific word that may have sound-alike variations, the procedure is, you say the word, say I SPELL, spell the word phonetically, and then say the word a second time. This technique would be critical in defining the words; to, too, two, or the numeral two.

Complicated or high precision information requires the use of high precision techniques in accurately passing the information to the proper recipient.

BT OVER

History of the Courage Handiham System

By: Patrick Tice, WA0TDA, Manager, Courage Handiham System

(A note from WA0TDA: Is it time for "revisionist history"? Next year will mark our 40th anniversary. We are updating the official Handiham history, and want to know if our readers and listeners have any recollections that should be included. It seems odd to "update" a history, but you never know what people might be able to recall, so here it is)

The Courage Handiham System was "born" in Rochester, Minnesota in 1967; the idea of Ned Carman, W0ZSW. Ned worked for a clinic, and, in the course of his work, would visit people with severe physical disabilities. As he spoke with his clients, who often had few opportunities to leave their homes, he realized that Amateur Radio would be the perfect hobby for them. Here was a hobby that could open a window to the world! A person with the most severe disabilities could stand as an equal with fellow hams in the world of Amateur Radio!

Ned enlisted the help of a group of local nuns, the Sisters of St. Francis, on April 30, 1967. Although their first action was as weather watchers during a thunderstorm that passed through Rochester that day, the Sisters were committed to helping Ned with his new project, and several received their



licenses. Among them was Sister Alverna O'Laughlin, WA0SGJ, the former Educational Coordinator for the Handiham System, now retired. The first Handiham was Edna (Eddy) Thorson, N0YL, who took her General Class license exam in December, 1967.

Very soon the Rochester, Minnesota Amateur Radio Club, and a little later the PICONET of South Eastern Minnesota took up the torch of service that Ned had lighted. Word of the Handiham System spread rapidly throughout southern Minnesota and northern Iowa.

By 1969 it was very evident that the expansion of Handiham services could not continue without some rather substantial financial support. This support came from the non-profit Minnesota Society for Crippled Children and Adults (whose name would later change to "Courage

Center"). The Society granted full affiliate status to the fledgling System and helped with money and equipment.

Word of the Handiham System spread throughout the Upper Midwest, then across the country, and around the world. It became impossible to continue the work of the System as a volunteer organization. Something had to be done, or Handihams would be a victim of its own success. The answer emerged when Courage Center agreed to accept the System as a program, and in 1975 the Minnesota Handiham System merged with Courage Center to become a full service, providing help wherever there was a need.

The Courage Handiham System, now a fully integrated service of Courage Center, is able to call on the resources of its parent organization, from accounting and counseling to rehabilitation medicine and physical therapy, in order to better serve its students and members.

Everyone knew by the early 1990's that ham radio had become a much more complicated activity, with personal computers appearing in the typical ham shack, and radios incorporating many new functions and modes of operation. An "operating skills" course was added to Handiham training to make sure that Handiham members would be able to operate their equipment safely, legally, and effectively. Assistive technology, including screenreading computing for blind users, is incorporated in Handiham Radio Camps and in Handiham online education.

From the earliest days, there were people who could not attend a Radio Camp session or travel to a Handiham class. There was a need to serve people with disabilities with ham radio training at a distance, so the Handiham System became one of the earliest "distance education" programs. Cassette tapes came into use to help teach blind and other members who could not easily attend a regular ham radio class or use regular printed books. Today, the program still emphasizes amateur radio education. In 2003, "CHU, or "Courage Handiham University" was added as a website service to deliver audio lectures via the Internet.

Regular Monday Handiham Nets on the HF bands are active, but we do not know the date these began. If anyone can help us out with this information, we would be most grateful. The nets date back to at least the 1980's.

A regular Handiham EchoLink worldwide net was added in 2003, and has been gaining in popularity as the sunspot cycle continues its decline and HF band conditions are less reliable. Handiham stations are now in operation at Courage St. Croix, Stillwater, MN; Camp Courage, Maple Lake, MN; Courage

Test Your MARS skills: Sending Mixed Groups

Choose the correct method of communicating, by voice, the following mixed group:
12BA6.

- A. FIGURES ONE TWO BRAVO ALPHA SIX.
- B. FIGURES ONE TWO I SPELL BRAVO ALPHA FIGURES SIX.
- C. FIGURES TWELVE BRAVO ALPHA SIX
- D. FIGURES ONE TWO BOSTON AMERICA SIX.

Test Your MARS skills May Solution

Your State traffic net has just begun. The NECOS of the net is NNN0ZMT. He has asked for stations 'with traffic to indicate precedence and destinations of messages when checking aboard'. You hold one message for the Marine Corps Recruit Depot, San Diego, California. Your call sign is NNN0WBTT. Which is the correct transmission to make when checking into this net?

B. NNN0ZMT (un-key and listen)THIS IS NNN0WBTT. I LIST ONE ROUTINE SAN DIEGO CALIFORNIA. OVER.

Handiham *cont'd from pg. 5*

North, Lake George, MN; Courage Center in Golden Valley, MN, and in California during the winter Radio Camp session. In 2005, testing began in remotely-controlled HF station access, and a worldwide audio podcast was added to the long list of Handiham services.

Radio Camp sessions in Minnesota and California and other Handiham services serve members from everywhere in the United States and around the world. Members learn radio, electronic theory, and computing, but they also learn that they can accomplish what they set out to do! Ned Carman is a silent key, but the Courage Handiham System's headquarters station bears his callsign, W0ZSW, and an organization of volunteers and paid staff carries on his good work of sharing Amateur Radio with people who have physical disabilities.

(Editor's Note: Want more information about Handiham? Start by visiting the website, <http://www.handiham.org>, and look over the menu options. Sign up for the weekly email newsletter and don't overlook the "DONATE" link. You can be assured your donation of dollars and / or equipment will be put to good use.)

- BT OVER -

Naval Trivia May Crossword Solution

Across

9. Boot Pusher - Senior enlisted personnel who returns to boot camp to instruct and train new recruits.
10. Admiral Rickover - Who was the 'father' of nuclear propulsion in the US Navy?
11. USS City of Corpus Christi - Of the Los Angeles class of submarines this is the only one with the words 'City of' as part of its name.
12. Shellback - A person initiated into the "Ancient Order of the Deep".
13. Pollywogs - One who has never crossed the equator
14. Deepsix - To throw something overboard
16. USS Constitution - What is the oldest commissioned US Navy ship?
17. Boomer - Ballistic missile submarine
18. Military Sealift Command - The Naval Fleet Auxiliary Force is run by this organization.

Down

1. USS Enterprise - World's first nuclear powered aircraft carrier
2. Flattop - Aircraft carrier
3. Jack o the dust - This person issues provisions to the cooks as needed
4. Ballistic Missiles - Submarines: what is the difference between an SSN sub and an SSBN?
5. General Quarters - Another name for "Battle stations"
6. Guided Missile Destroyers - Ship having a hull number beginning with DDG are what type of ship?
7. SS Nautilus - The first US nuclear submarine
8. Thomas Jefferson - Which US President depicted on Mt. Rushmore does NOT have a US aircraft carrier named after him?
15. Captains Mast - Minor infractions, such as AWOL, insubordination, etc., by enlisted sailors are heard here.

BT OVER



June 24 - 25, 2006

NIMS

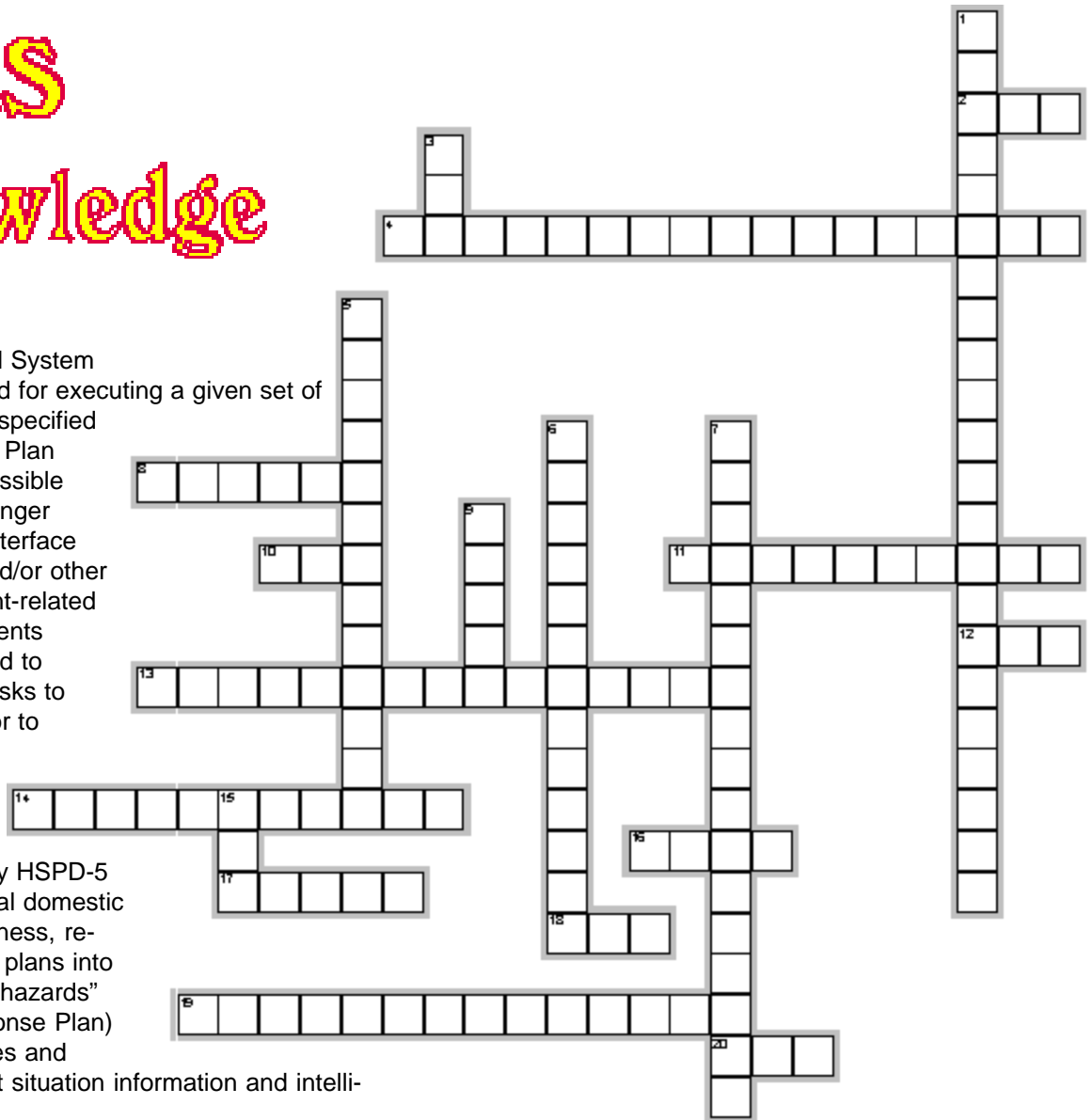
Knowledge

Across

2. Incident Command System
4. The time scheduled for executing a given set of operation actions as specified in the Incident Action Plan
8. An indication of possible violence, harm, or danger
10. Responsible to interface with public, media and/or other agencies with incident-related information requirements
11. Activities designed to reduce or eliminate risks to persons or property or to lessen the actual or potential effects or consequences of an incident
12. Plan mandated by HSPD-5 that integrates Federal domestic prevention, preparedness, response and recovery plans into one all-discipline "all-hazards" plan. (National Response Plan)
13. Collects, evaluates and disseminates incident situation information and intelligence to the IC
14. Location established where resources can be placed while waiting for tactical assignment
16. System mandated by HSPD-5 that provides a consistent nationwide approach for Federal, State and local governments, private-sector and NGOs to work together to prepare for, respond to and recover from domestic incidents
17. Acronym used to remember the function sections involved in ICS: Command, Finance, Logistics, Operations and Planning
18. Member of the command staff responsible for coordination representatives from cooperating and assisting agencies
19. An application of the ICS used when there is more than one agency with incident jurisdiction or when incidents cross political jurisdictions
20. The physical location for the coordination of information and resources to support Incident Management activities

Down

1. Integrates incident information and public affairs into a cohesive organization designed to provide consistent, coordinated, timely information during crisis or incident operations
3. Oral or written plan containing general objectives reflecting overall strategy for managing an incident.
5. Monitors incident operations and advises IC on all matters of operational safety, including health and safety of emergency responder personnel.
6. The number of individuals a supervisor is responsible for
7. Coordinates overall incident activities
9. Minnesota Incident Management System
15. Provides strategic direction for and oversight of the NIMS



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.	ACY	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.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

NNNOVIN Newell Thomas 6/5
NNNOACY Mike Warren 6/20
NNNOJAY Cal Fuhrman 6/21

Service Recognition

NNNOAPD Robert Ross 17 yrs

Don't forget your paperwork!

Saturday NECOS / TREP Schedule

	NECOS	TREP
Jun 3	XYA	XEE
Jun 10	XEE	XEE
Jun 17	KZC	KZC
Jun 24	BQH	BQH
Jul 1	SXU	SXU
Jul 8	ACY	OCF

Vietnam Veterans Memorial



Washington, D.C. (May 28, 2006) - The Vietnam Veterans Memorial recognizes and honors the men and women, who served in one of America's most divisive wars. The memorial grew out of a need to heal the nation's wounds as America struggled to reconcile different moral and political points of view. The Vietnam Veterans Memorial is a place where everyone, regardless of opinion, can come together and remember and honor those who served. By doing so, the memorial has paved the way toward reconciliation and healing, a process that continues today. The Vietnam Veterans Memorial accomplishes these goals through the three components that comprise the memorial: the Wall of names, the Three Servicemen Statue and Flagpole and the Vietnam Women's Memorial. U.S. Navy photo by Journalist 1st Class Kristin Fitzsimmons

Deer Ticks

Reported by Anon Y. Moose

I usually don't forward warnings like this on but felt this was important since summer will be approaching. Remember to be safe!



If someone comes to your front door saying they are conducting a survey on deer ticks and asks you to take your clothes off and dance around with your arms up, DO NOT DO IT!!

IT IS A SCAM; they only want to see you naked!

I wish I'd gotten this yesterday. I feel so stupid now !!

BT OVER

May Solution: Stopping for a Cool Drink

By Joe Risse

Several groups of professional people dropped into a local place of refreshment for a cool drink. There were four different groups of people. There were 50 technicians, 40 engineers, 36 public relations directors, and 24 purchasing agents.

Altogether they spent \$266.00.

Percentage wise, 10 technicians spent as much as 8 engineers, 24 engineers spent as much as 18 PR directors, and 12 purchasing agents.

How much did each group spend?

Answer: Group 1, \$61.58; Group 2, \$61.58; Group 3, \$71.42; Group 4 \$71.42

Test Your Analytical Skills

Marbles

Courtesy of The Parade, Ask Marilyn

Say that a bag of marbles contains 100 marbles: 30 red, 30 blue, 30 green, plus a mix of 10 yellow and orange marbles. To be certain that you have 10 marbles of the same color, what is the minimum number you would need to remove (without looking) from the bag?

Answer in the next issue of the Minnesota MARSGRAM