



MINNESOTA MARSGRAM



Information for Minnesota Navy-Marine Corps. MARS Members

May, 2009

Volume 13, Number 5

NNN0ALL Minnesota

by NNN0GAZ Tim

Greetings. My hope is that newsletter finds you all well. I had high hopes of sitting down to write this during the last week in April and having the newsletter in your boxes on May 1. Unfortunately that was but a dream. The last week in April started and ended dealing with the news of a new flu virus.

These certainly are interesting times – while news of a new virus, to which we humans have no immunity – is certainly scary, we also have to be careful not to over-react. This was a week for local emergency management organizations to determine their course of action and follow that course, making adjustments as new developments and information became available. By most accounts, it appears that while the virus continues to spread, the public has done a good job at taking the news in stride, is more inclined to practice good hygiene and for the most part hasn't gone into panic mode.

The Armed Forces Day celebration is just about here. The list of military stations participating in Armed Forces Day was covered in a message from Chief MARS 151900 April 2009 parts 1 thru 4. Last year, despite awful propagation conditions, which seem to

directly correspond with this event, NAV 4 managed over 500 contacts. This year 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. 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. Try to make contact with NAV 4 on May 9/10. The past five years the Central Area has finished ahead of all other military participants in the number of QSOs, lets keep the tradition going.

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 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.



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.

Select the TRUE statement:

- A. Formal communication is used in reporting progress of assigned tasks.
- B. Informal communication is prohibited within the Incident Command System.
- C. Formal communications requires the use of written reports to document all interactions.
- D. Informal communications is the preferred method for communicating resource needs.

Check in next month's MARSGRAM for the answer.

April NIMS Solution

These levels of the ICS organization may have Deputy positions:

- Branch
- Incident Commander
- ?
- D. Section

Fishing Opener May 9th



BT OVER

MN Navy-Marine Corps MARS Staff

Minnesota State Director

NNNOGAZ - Tim Isom - NNNOXEE

Assistant to the State Director

NNNOGAZ ONE

Al Doree - NNN0KZC

Assistant to the State Director: Em. Comm.

NNNOGAZ TWO

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Assistant to the State Director: Net Ops/Rpts

NNNOGAZ THREE

Bob Reid - NNN0XYA

Assistant to the State Director: Training

NNNOGAZ FOUR

Robert King - NNN0SXU

Statewide Flu Immunization Program

2nd Qtr Exercise



This is a Drill

The 2nd quarter 2009 will be conducted on June 3rd and 4th from 2330Z to 0130Z on the NCE net frequency (the usual 5G1B net).

The scenario will involve a statewide immunization program.

The flue bug N1H7.4, a new but common flu like virus, was carried to this country by sailors who were bitten by mosquitoes from the deep jungles of South America.

It is thought that the mosquitoes and virus infected sailors on cargo ships that came down the St. Lawrence Seaway and to Duluth. The ship was stranded in Duluth harbor for several weeks, thus allowing the virus to spread through out Minnesota.

Although the virus is new to this country, it is quite common and thus there is a vaccine for it. The vaccine is being distributed to all hospitals in the state.

The Minnesota Department of Health has asked the MNMARS operators to assist in documenting when the vaccine has reached all the hospitals and health departments.

The shipments of vaccine will be delivered to major distribution points in the state and each hospital and health department will send a truck to pick up their supplies. The supplies will consist of the vaccine (code word Hot Shot) and face masks (code word Stone Wall).

The MARS members are asked to monitor the hospitals and health departments in their area and report by message the vehicle license number (use fake number system) and the time and quantity of supplies delivered. The messages can be transmitted by any of the modes listed below.

All stations are asked to compose and transmit EEI and SITREP messages. They can be transmitted by voice on the net, by PSK 31 and MT 63 when the digital part of the net is declared.

If you have the capability of WINLINK 2000, you can transmit them either by RF means or TELNET mode. This is preferred as all MN MARS members are required to be WL2K compliant as soon as possible.

More information on the format of the messages will be forwarded at a later date.

BT OVER



Training Corner

Situation Reports (SITREPS)

by: Bob, NNNØGAZ FOUR

An ECOM exercise is scheduled for June 3rd and 4th during the time framed for the 5G1B net, 2330Z to 0030Z. An important part of the exercise is the preparation and sending of SITREPS by voice, and by digital modes.

During an emergency, situation reports (SITREPS) pertaining to MARS communications shall be sent at intervals specified by the area director (intervals shall not exceed six hours) or sooner, if warranted. SITREPS shall be sent to the

cognizant area, region and state director by stations(s) at the scenes(s) of the disasters(s). The area/region director will in turn consolidate reports and make a report to Chief, NAVMARCORMARS (NNNØASA) and the Assistant to CHNAVMARCORMARS for Emergency Communications (NNNØASZ) every six hours. These SITREPS should also be sent to the area, region and state assistants for ECOM for

information. SITREPS may be used to change the COMCON level.

SITREPS will be sent using the following format:

P (DTG) Z (Mo.) (Yr.)
 FM NNNØ___ (Station call sign and state)
 TO NNNØ___ (Area Director call sign and state)
 NNNØ___ (Region Director call sign and state)
 INFO NNNØ___ (State Director call sign and

state)
 NNNØ___ TWO (Area ECOM assistant call sign and state)

NNNØ___ TWO (Region ECOM assistant call sign and state)

NNNØ___ TWO (State ECOM assistant call sign and state)

BT
 UNCLAS EXERCISE (name)
 SUBJ: SITREP (One, Two, Three, etc.)

1. (Brief resume of situation in disaster state)
2. (Designator(s) of Net(s) and number of stations participating in the emergency)
3. (Advisory information, recommendations,

needs, etc., be brief.)

4. (Prognosis for next two hours)

5. (Other pertinent information - problems, equip-

ment performance, etc.)
 EXERCISE (name)

BT
 NNNN

The subject of the first or initial SITREP will be SITREP ONE; the next SITREP TWO, etc. They will be numbered consecutively until the emergency is over. The last SITREP will be FINAL SITREP. This will facilitate correlation of the reports by higher echelons.

Standard categories of information 1 through 5 in the text of a SITREP will not be omitted. Lack of information or a negative report will be made by using the following terms:

- (1) NO CHANGE - used to indicate that the item is the same as previously reported.
- (2) NEGATIVE - used to indicate this category not applicable, not being used, or nothing to report.
- (3) NOT AVAILABLE - information requested by this category is not available at this time.

Example message:

```
DE NNNØ___
P (DTG) (MO.) (YR.)
FM NNNØ___ MN
TO NNNØASG IL
NNNØAS5 MN
NNNØGAZ MN
NNNØASG TWO AL
NNNØAS5 TWO MI
NNNØGAZ TWO MN
BT
UNCLAS EXERCISE (name)
SUBJ: SITREP ONE
1. STORMS IN NORTHERN GEORGIA CON
  TINUE TO INTERRUPT COMMUNICATIONS.
2. 4D1E/FOURTEEN
3. GEORGIA EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
  AGENCY (GEMA) ADVISES THAT CREWS
  ARE WORKING TO RESTORE COMMUNICA
  TIONS. ESTIMATE TIME TO REPAIR (ETR)
  TWELVE TO TWO ZERO HOURS
4. NO CHANGE
5. NEGATIVE
EXERCISE (name)
BT
NNNN
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Ref. NTP 8(D) ANNEX D Para D730
 MINNESOTA AREA EMERGENCY COMMUNICA-
 TIONS PLAN ANNEX E., ECOM Worksheets, SITREPS
 Worksheet: EXERCISE

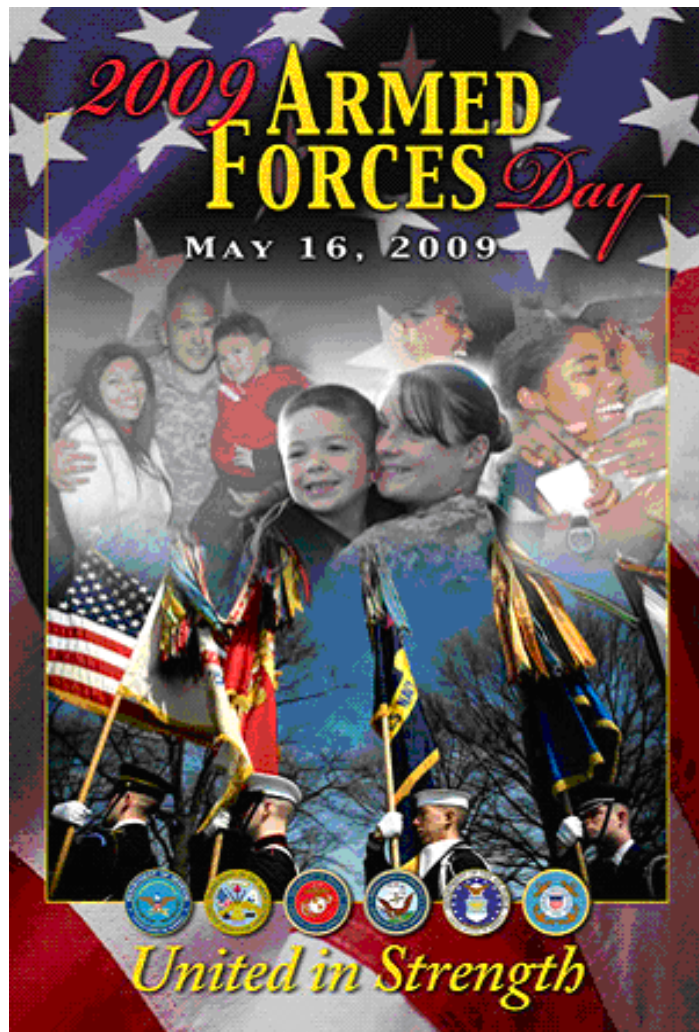
Armed Forces Day

"United in Strength"
Saturday, May 16, 2009

President Harry S. Truman led the effort to establish a single holiday for citizens to come together and thank our military members for their patriotic service in support of our country.

On August 31, 1949, Secretary of Defense Louis Johnson announced the creation of an Armed Forces Day to replace separate Army, Navy, Marine Corps and Air Force Days. The single-day celebration stemmed from the unification of the Armed Forces under one department — the Department of Defense.

BT OVER



Armed Forces Day 2009

Crossband Contact Activity

The Army, Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard are co-sponsoring the annual Military/Amateur Radio communications test in celebration of the 59th Anniversary of Armed Forces Day. Although the actual Armed Forces Day is celebrated on Saturday, May 16, 2009, the Armed Forces Day Military/Amateur crossband communications test will be conducted one week earlier on May 9, 2009. The reason is so that the AFD Military/Amateur crossband communications test will not conflict with the Dayton Hamvention (15-17 May 2009) which is on the same weekend as the actual Armed Forces Day.

The annual celebration features traditional military-to-amateur crossband communications SSB voice test and the Secretary of Defense message receiving test. These tests give amateur radio operators and shortwave listeners an opportunity to demonstrate their individual technical skills and receive recognition from the Secretary of Defense and/or the appropriate military radio station for their proven expertise.

QSL cards are available to those making contact with military stations. Special commemorative certificates will be awarded to anyone who receives and copies the digital Armed Forces Day message from the Secretary of Defense.

Participating military stations will transmit on selected MARS frequencies and listen for Amateur Radio stations in Amateur bands indicated. Military station operators will announce specific amateur frequencies being monitored. Duration of each voice contact should be limited to 1-2 minutes. Some stations may not operate the entire period, depending on propagation and manning.

The Secretary of Defense message will be transmitted via digital modes to including RTTY, PACTOR, AMTOR, PSK-31, MFSK, and MT63. All frequencies listed for this message are listed for center of intelligence. Offset as appropriate for your TNC. Sound card modes will use standard factory settings. Transcripts of the RTTY, PACTOR, AMTOR, PSK-31 or MT63 receiving test should be submitted as received. No attempt should be made to correct possible transmission errors. Provide time, frequency and call sign of the military station copied, and include the name, callsign, and complete address of the individual submitting the entry. This information must appear on the sheet containing the test message. Each year a large number of acceptable entries are received with insufficient information, or necessary information was not attached to the transcriptions and was separated, thereby precluding issuance of a certification.

Armed Forces Day 2009 Stations and Frequencies

SSB
ARMY Stations
AAZ: 1400Z 9 May to 0300Z 10 May
LSB: 4038.9 (80M), 6913.0 (40M)
USB: 14402.0 (20M), 13996.0 (20M), 18211.0 (17M),
CW: 7577.0 (40M), 13507.0 (20M)
RTTY: 7639.5 (40M)
MT-63: 13512.5 (20M)
Point Of Contact: Mr. Dewayne Smith
Address: COMMANDER NETCOM/9TH ASC
ATTN: NETCOM-OPE-M (MARS) (31)
2133 CUSHING STREET
Ft. Huachuca, AZ 85616-7070

AAC: 1300Z 9 May to 0100Z 10 May
LSB: 3348.5 (80M), 7363.0 (40M)
USB: 13910.0 (20M), 9180.5 (30M)(MT63)
Point of Contact: Barry Jackson
Address: HQ 1st BDE, 100th Div (IT) MARS STATION
Barrow Army Reserve Training Center
1051 Russell Cave Pike
Lexington, KY 40505

AAV: 1300Z to 2000Z 9 May
LSB: 4038.9 (80M), 7360 (40M)
USB: 13963.5 (20M)
Point of Contact: William Fitzsimmons
Director Region 2 N2LMU@juno.com

ABH: 1600Z 9 May to 2300Z 10 May
LSB: 3195(80M), 3360(80M), 4440(80M), 4466(80M),
7360(40M), 7720(40M), 8040(40M), 8094.5(40M)
USB: 14483.5(20M), 14489.5(20M), 17443.0(17M),
17592.5(17M), 20978.0(15M), 20559.0(15M)
Point of Contact: WO1 William Pemberton
Location: Schofield Barracks, HI
Address: Commander, 396th Signal Company
30th Signal Battalion, 96857

ALM: 1600Z 9 May to 2300Z 10 May
LSB: 4003.5 (80M), 7317.0 (40M)
USB: 13741.5 (20M)
Point of Contact: CW4 Roderick Mitchell
Address: Commander, 507TH SIG CO
Fort Wainwright 99703

WAR: 1200Z 9 May to 2400Z 10 May
LSB/CW: 4020.9 (80M), 7504.0 (40M),
USB/CW: 13512.5 (20M), 20518.5 (15M)
Point of Contact: Capt Rick Low, USN
Address: PO Box 2322
Arlington VA 22202

WUG-231: 1300Z 9 May to 0200Z 10 May
LSB: 4032.9 (80M), 7360.0 (40M)
LSB/CW: 6826.0 (40M)
USB: 14486.0 (20M)
USB/CW: 14663.5 (20M), 20973.5(15M)
Point of Contact: Mr. Jim Pogue
Address: USACE Memphis District Office
ATTN: Jim Pogue
Public Affairs Office Room B-202
167 N. Main St
Memphis, TN 38103-1894

Air Force Stations
AIR: 1200Z to 2400Z 9 May
USB: 4517.1 (80M), 6996.1 (40M), 13985.1 (20M), 20737.6
(20M)
Point of Contact: Robert William Stroh, A1C, SCORB, ASG
Global System Radio Operator
Address: 89 CS/ 89 ASG
Andrews AFB, MD 20762-6116

AIR-2: 1200Z to 2400Z 9 May
USB: 4590.1 (80M), 7540.1(40M), 13993.1 (20M)
Point of Contact: Mr. Al Eiermann
Address: AFCA/AF MARS
203W Losey St.
Scott AFB, IL 62225

Navy-Marine Corps Stations
NAV: 1200Z to 2330Z 9 May
LSB: 4010.0 (80M), 7348.0 (40M)
USB: 14478.5 (20M), 20994.0 (15M)
Point of Contact: Bo Lindfors
Address: HQ NAVMARCORMARS Radio Station NAV
Cheatham Annex Bldg 117
108 Sanda Ave
Williamsburg VA 23185-5830

NAV-3: 1200Z 9 May to 0400Z 10 May
LSB: 4014.0 (80M), 7394.5 (40M)
USB: 13974.0 (20M), 20997.0 (15M)
Point of Contact: ITSC(SW) Brown
Address: NAVMARCORMARS Radio Station NAV3
9035 Ocean Drive Suite 3A
Corpus Christi TX 78419-5234

NAV-4: 1200Z 9 May to 0400Z 10 May
LSB: 7376.5 (40M)
LSB/MT-63: 4011.5 (80M)
USB: 14467.0 (20M), 21758.5 (15M)
Point of Contact: ITC(SW/AW) Stephan Anderson
Address: NAVMARCORMARS Radio Station NAV4
615 Preble Ave
Camp Barry, Bldg 153
Great Lakes, IL 60088-2850

NBL: 1200Z 9 May to 0400Z 10 May
LSB: 4041.5 (80M), 7371.5 (40M)
USB: 14391.5 (20M), 20623.5 (15M)
Point of Contact: Robert Veth, Director Region One
Address: NAVMARCORMARS Radio Station
4 Lantern Lane
Chelmsford MA 01824-1316

NPL: 1500Z 9 May to 0400Z 10 May
LSB: 4003.0 (80M), 7351.5 (40M)
USB: 14463.5 (20M), 20936.0 (15M)
Point of Contact: ITC(SW) Tighe
Address: NAVMARCORMARS Radio Station
937 North Harbor Drive
San Diego, CA 92132-5100

NUW: 1500Z 9 May to 0400Z 10 May
LSB: 4044.0 (80M), 7381.5 (40M)
USB: 13528.5 (20M), 20952.5 (15M)
Point of Contact: Mr. Digger O'Dell
Address: NAVMARCORMARS Radio Station
260 W. Pioneer FSC Bldg
NAS Whidbey Island WA 98277

Secretary of Defense Message Test Via Digital Modes

Stations copying AAZ or WAR send entries to:
 Armed Forces Day Celebration
 Commander NETCOM/9th ASC
 Armed Forces Day Celebration
 ATTN: NETC-OPE-MA (MARS)(31)
 Fort Huachuca, AZ 85613-5000

Stations copying AIR-2 send entries to:
 Armed Forces Day Celebration
 AFCA / Chief, AF MARS
 203W Losey Street
 Scott AFV, IL 62225

Stations copying NAV, NAV-3, NAV-4,
 NBL, NPL or NUW send entries to:
 Armed Forces Day Celebration
 Chief, Navy-Marine Corps MARS
 Cheatham Annex Bldg 117
 108 Sanda Ave
 Williamsburg, VA 23185-5830



MIDDLE EAST An F/A-18F Super Hornet from the "Jolly Rogers" of Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 103 refuels in flight with a U.S. Air Force KC-135 over Afghanistan during a mission supporting coalition forces. VFA-103 is part of Carrier Air Wing 7 embarked aboard the aircraft carrier USS Dwight D. Eisenhower (CVN 69). The Eisenhower Carrier Strike Group is underway on a scheduled deployment supporting Operation Enduring Freedom and the on-going rotation of forward-deployed forces to support maritime security operations and operate in international waters across the globe.

kHz	Mode	Date/Time	kHz	Mode	Date/Time	kHz	Mode	Date/Time	
AAZ			NAV			NBL			
6988.0	RTTY	10 May/0110Z	7346.5	RTTY 75 Baud	9 May/2340Z	7370.0	RTTY	9 May/2340Z	
	PACTOR FEC	10 May/0130Z		AMTOR FEC	10 May/0010Z		PACTOR FEC	10 May/0010Z	
	MT63	10 May/0220Z		MT63	10 May/0040Z		AMTOR FEC	10 May/0040Z	
	PSK-31	10 May/0250Z	14480.0	RTTY 75 Baud	9 May/2340Z	14393.0	RTTY	9 May/2340Z	
14402.0	RTTY	10 May/0110Z		AMTOR FEC	10 May/0010Z		PACTOR FEC	10 May/0010Z	
	PACTOR FEC	10 May/0130Z		MT63	10 May/0040Z		AMTOR FEC	10 May/0040Z	
	MT63	10 May/0220Z	NAV-3			NPL			
	PSK-31	10 May/0250Z	7393.0	RTTY	9 May/2340Z	7350.0	RTTY	10 May/0240Z	
WAR				AMTOR FEC	10 May/0010Z		PACTOR FEC	10 May/0310Z	
6988.0	OLIVIA	9 May/1700Z	13975.5	MT-63	10 May/0040Z	14465.0	AMTOR FEC	10 May/0340Z	
		9 May/2300Z		RTTY	9 May/2340Z		RTTY	10 May/0240Z	
	MT63	9 May/1715Z		AMTOR FEC	10 May/0010Z		PACTOR FEC	10 May/0310Z	
		9 May/2315Z	NAV-4	MT63	10 May/0040Z	NUW		AMTOR FEC	10 May/0340Z
4020.9	PACTOR FEC	9 May/2330Z	7375.0	RTTY	10 May/0240Z	7380.0	RTTY	10 May/0240Z	
		9 May/2345Z		AMTOR FEC	10 May/0310Z		PACTOR FEC	10 May/0310Z	
14440.0	PACTOR FEC	9 May/1730Z	14468.5	MT63	10 May/0340Z	13530.0	AMTOR FEC	10 May/0340Z	
	RTTY	9 May/2345Z		RTTY	10 May/0240Z		RTTY	10 May/0240Z	
AAV				AMTOR FEC	10 May/0310Z		PACTOR FEC	10 May/0310Z	
3243.5	MT63	10 May/0030Z		MT63	10 May/0340Z		AMTOR FEC	11 May/0340Z	
7358.5	RTTY	10 May/0100Z							
AIR-2									
7831.1	RTTY	9 May/1930Z							
	MT63	9 May/2030Z							
	MFSK	9 May/2100Z							
14877.1	RTTY	9 May/2130Z							
	MT63	9 May/2230Z							
	MFSK	9 May/2300Z							

“Never lose sight of the fact that the most important yardstick of your success will be how you treat other people.”

Barbara Bush

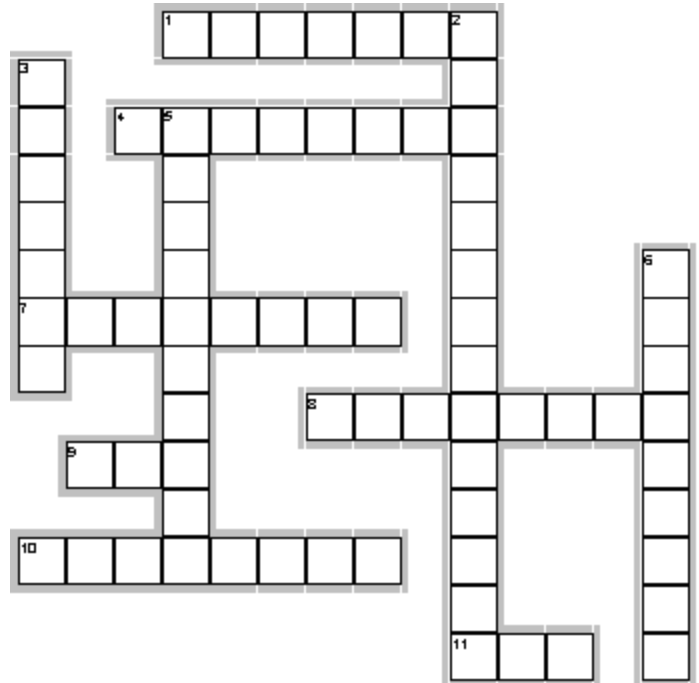
ARL TEXTS

Across

1. ARL TWENTY FIVE Furnish as soon as possible the _____ conditions at your location.
4. ARL TWENTY Temporarily _____. Will need some assistance.
7. ARL FOURTEEN Situation here becoming _____. Losses and damage from flood increasing.
8. ARL _____ Medical emergency situation exits here.
9. ARL _____ Coming home as soon as possible.
10. ARL ONE _____ safe here. Please don't worry.
11. ARL _____ Will contact you as soon as possible.

Down

2. ARL NINE Additional four _____ needed to assist with emergency at this location.
3. ARL EIGHTEEN Please _____ me as soon as possible



5. ARL _____ Evacuation of residents from this area urgently needed. Advise plans for help.
6. ARL _____ Help and care for evacuation of sick and injured from this location needed at once.

April Crossword Solution

Across

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

Down

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



ARABIAN SEA Three U.S. Navy ships sharing the same hull number, the aircraft carrier USS Dwight D. Eisenhower (CVN 69), the guided-missile cruiser USS Vicksburg (CG 69), and the guided-missile destroyer USS Milius (DDG 69), are underway in formation in the Arabian Sea. The three ships are underway supporting the on-going rotation of forward-deployed forces to support maritime security operations and operate in international waters across the globe.

“Forbidden fruit creates many jams.”

A. Nony Moose

Ham Radio Q and A

ARRL PR Reflector

David A. Lane, KG4GIY, ARES Emergency Coordinator and RACES Officer for Prince William County, VA takes a look at some typical questions about amateur radio. David says, "I have spend most of my career in the hobby answering them in a logical and direct manner and it isn't hard to cite examples."

Here are some of the questions he routinely receives:

Q: "What useful purpose does amateur radio provide today when people can so easily communicate over the internet or phone?"

A: David's answer to this is a group of "people" named: Bonnie, Katrina, Gaston, Ivan and Charlie. I could throw in Andrew as well. Or some F class tornadoes. Also, the Internet requires power (as do cell phones) and people in New York and the entire Northeast corridor can tell you how useful cell phones can be in a black out. Locally I point out that during our Dulles airport drills, within an hour most cell phones have gone dry and since the people using them are so far from a power source, they generally stay dry (unless they are lucky enough to find an amateur operator who has a deep-cycle battery they can charge off of).

Q: "Isn't amateur radio dying out, with mostly old guys left?"

A: At the last exam session I participated in, we licensed 20 new amateurs all under the age of 20. The hobby is getting younger as people realize they cannot rely on the technology.

Q: "Doesn't this hobby cost an inordinate amount of money to practice (that stuff looks expensive)?"

A: You can enter the hobby for as little as \$150. For less than \$1000, you can talk to the world. Most PCs cost \$600-\$2000.

Q: "Aren't antenna towers unsightly and damaging to the community viewscape?"

A: Yes, we generally find cell towers to be quite ugly.

Q: "Doesn't amateur radio cause interference to others?"

A: Amateur radio causes less interference to others than they cause to our operations. Especially during emergencies.

Q: "I hear that radio spectrum is in critically short supply these days...can't amateur radio bands put to better use in some other way?"

A: Radio spectrum is very plentiful and outside of the amateur and military spectrum, quite badly allocated.

Q: "Haven't hams died falling off towers and trees or electrocution?"

A: Sure. So have home owners and linemen. Accidents happen when you do not take proper precautions.

Q: "What about that child who suffered head injuries from climbing and falling off of a neighbor's ham tower; why

cont'd col. 2

A New Search Engine

The biggest internet revolution for a generation will be unveiled this month with the launch of software that will understand questions and give specific, tailored answers in a way that the web has never managed before.

The new system, Wolfram Alpha, showcased at Harvard University in the US last week, takes the first step towards what many consider to be the internet's Holy Grail – a global store of information that understands and responds to ordinary language in the same way a person does.

Although the system is still new, it has already produced massive interest and excitement among technology pundits and internet watchers.

Computer experts believe the new search engine will be an evolutionary leap in the development of the internet. Nova Spivack, an internet and computer expert, said that Wolfram Alpha could prove just as important as Google. "It is really impressive and significant," he wrote. "In fact it may be as important for the web (and the world) as Google, but for a different purpose.

Wolfram Alpha will not only give a straight answer to questions such as "how high is Mount Everest?", but it will also produce a neat page of related information – all properly sourced – such as geographical location and nearby towns, and other mountains, complete with graphs and charts.

BT OVER



don't hams do more to protect kids?"

A: Trespassing is illegal in most states in the union. What sort of additional protection would you suggest? It wouldn't be any different if it had been a TV antenna like back in the 60s and 70s.

Q: "Why is there an exception for hams in our recent laws against using hand-held mobile phones while driving?"

A: This one is tough to answer. Frankly there is the "emergency" aspect of what we do that is the best answer but I personally have an issue with the exemption in non-emergency situations. The ARRL offers this distinction: "Two-way radio use is dissimilar from full-duplex cellular telephone communications because the operator spends little time actually transmitting; the time spent listening is more similar to, and arguably less distracting than listening to a broadcast radio, CD or MP3 player. There are no distinctions to be made between or among Amateur Radio, public safety land mobile, private land mobile or citizen's radio in terms of driver distraction. All are distinguishable from mobile cellular telephone communications in this respect."

BT OVER

5G1B Net Schedule

6:30PM 4007 kHz USB

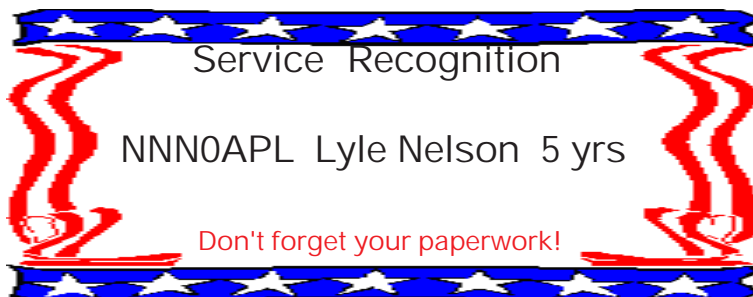
Day	NECOS	Tfc Rep
Sun.	XYA	XEE
Mon.	XEE	XEE
Tue.	BQH	BQH
Wed.	KZC	KZC
Thu.	SXU	SXU
Fri.	???	OCF

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.



NNN0APL Lyle Nelson 5/16



Saturday NECOS / TREP Schedule

	NECOS	TREP
May 2	XYA	XEE
May 9	XEE	XEE
May 16	BQH	BQH
May 23	KZC	KZC
May 30	SXU	SXU
Jun 6	XYA	XEE



Test Your Analytical Skills

One Half, ETC

What is the number that is one -fifth of one-sixth of one-tenth of one half of 3,000?

Answer in the next issue of the Minnesota MARSGRAM

Solution for April Test

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: 51 Db

2738 kHz signal = 147×10^{-3} volt

5476 kHz signal = 405×10^{-6} volt

db attenuation = $20 \log \frac{147}{405} \times 10^{-3}$

db = $20 \log 363$

db = 20×2.55991

db = 51.1982



GRAND BARA, Djibouti A Marine Corps CH-53E Super Stallion helicopter assigned to Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron (HMH) 461 approaches an Air Force C-130P aircraft from the 81st Rescue Squadron during a helicopter air refueling mission. 13,800 pounds of fuel was delivered to the helicopter during the 45-minute mission. Both aircraft are assigned to the Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa area of responsibility.

Memorial Day

Monday May 25, 2009