



MINNESOTA MARSGRAM



Information for Minnesota Navy-Marine Corps. MARS Members

October, 2004

Volume 8, Number 10

NNN0ALL Minnesota

by NNN0GAZ Tim

Greetings,

Most of us are by now seeing the peak of fall colors. This time of year is always fun for travelling and marveling at Mother Nature as she ends another cycle and gets us ready for a period of rest and rejuvenation.

With October comes time for the annual Region gathering in Libertyville, Illinois. This year Curt (BJJ) will be representing us at the Region Five Conference in Libertyville. We will be looking forward to his report when he returns.

We've renewed our Intranet site agreement with Community Zero – more on that elsewhere in this issue. Please feel free to visit the site, based on my records we stayed well within our 2500 page view limit. If there are items you would like to see included on the site, please send your requests my way. I'll do my best to get the information posted to the site.

Three members, Al (KZC), Bruce (BQH) and Tim (XEE) participated in the Ohio emergency drill held in September. Ohio reps asked Minnesota members to pass some simulated third party health and welfare traffic. While I realize nice weekend weather keeps most of us from our radios, it would have been nice to see more participa-

tion. Bravo Zulu to these three participants for taking the time to participate. All told, each station probably spent a total of one to two hours on the air.

After our showing at the Ohio drill, I've had to ask myself again "What is it about emergency communications that can clear the air faster than a solar flare?" Our role in this drill was simply to pass simulated health and welfare traffic to the Ohio area. These messages were routine third party messages, not an EEI or a SITREP. From your training as a tango,

"The mission of MARS is to provide Department of the Navy and Department of Defense sponsored emergency communications on a local, national, and international basis as an adjunct to normal naval communications."

Does this mean we are going to get to handle the "exciting, stop the presses" messages – no, not all the time. Sometimes we get to handle traffic that allows friends and families to exhale when they find out that their loved ones are okay – maybe a little shaken, but okay. There is personal satisfac-

tion in delivering those messages.

So the next time you hear about an upcoming emergency drill, please consider making the time to participate. No one is asking you to spend the entire time on the air – if you can spare a quarter or half-hour, join in the net – format and transmit a message. Are you going to make mistakes – sure, but that is how we learn, believe me all three of us participating in the Ohio drill made some mistakes. Others on the net will watch your backside to make suggestions for the necessary corrections – again that is how we learn and become more effective communicators.

Again, thank you for your continued support of Minnesota Navy-Marine Corps MARS. Enjoy this issue of the Minnesota MARSGRAM. BT OVER



Fall behind
Sunday, Oct 31st

Daylight Savings Time

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

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.

EDITOR: Bob Reid NNN0XYA / NNN0GAZ3

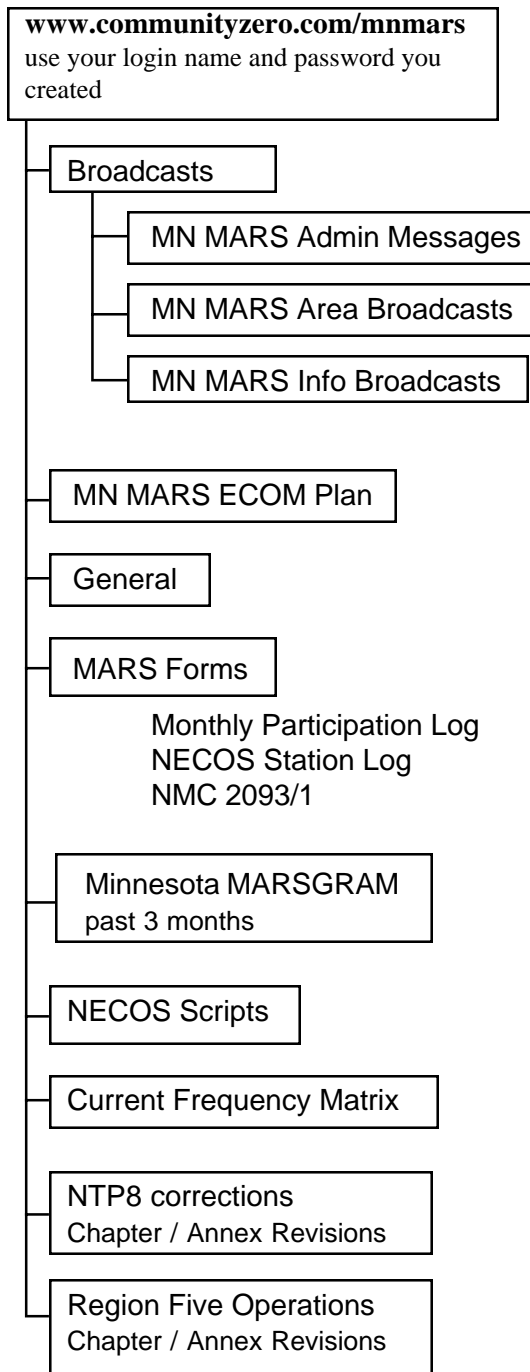
Snail Mail: 13600 Princeton Circle
Savage, MN. 55378-2625

E-Mail: n0bhc@aol.com
Minnesota State Coordinator:

Tim Isom NNN0XEE / NNN0GAZ

Content Contributions Welcomed and Encouraged

**www.communityzero.com/mnmars
Site Map**



Text inside a box indicates a file

Text w/o a border indicates a document

Also available at the MN MARS intranet site:
 Calendar of events
 Membership list
 These are located on the left side of the screen

Community Zero

The Minnesota Navy-Marine Corps MARS intranet site at Community Zero, <http://www.communityzero.com/mnmars> was renewed on October 1, 2004. Member pledges in support of continuing Community Zero have funded the renewal.

For those of you who have paid your pledge, thank you. If you have yet to pay your pledge, please forward your contribution to Tim Isom. If you missed the email asking for support or did not respond, feel free to contribute, no contributions will be refused.

Just to review the service:

- The site administrator has renewed the administrator's membership
- We have paid for page views that will continue to allow you to access all the content on the site without personally having to obtain a membership.

Included with this issue of the MARSGRAM is a map of the site - hopefully following this map will enable you to access the information you desire in an efficient manner and allow us to hold our subscription to 2500 page views per year.

- BT OVER

HELP WANTED

**Asst. to Director
Training**

This position contributes to maintaining the high standards of the MN Navy Marine Corps MARS program by providing advice to correct common procedural errors, and serve as a resource for training information. Responsible for new member's training. Contact NNN0GAZ for more information



Message Handling Drill – Part 2

– Passing the message to the second station and formatting and sending the Service Message

If you review the Message Handling drill described in the September, 2004 issue of the Minnesota MARSGRAM, you will discover that upon your successful passing of the message to another station, you are responsible for sending a service message to the station you received the message from indicating that you have successfully passed the message.

The diagram below is meant to explain and aid in your preparation of the service message.

First in the September MARSGRAM, NNN0XEE passed the message to NNN0XYA. Now NNN0XYA passes his message to NNN0KZC (see below) and NNN0XYA must also prepare and transmit a service message to NNN0XEE indicating the message was passed. Now lets say that NNN0XYA has passed the message below to NNN0KZC.

R 092340Z OCT 04
 FM NNN0XYA
 TO NNN0KZC
 BT
 UNCLAS
 SUBJ: MESSAGE HANDLING EXERCISE
 1. THIS IS A MESSAGE HANDLING EXERCISE MESSAGE
 2. PLEASE PASS THIS MSG, VERBATIM, TO THE NAVY-MARINE CORPS MARS STATION OF YOUR CHOICE USING ANY MARS RECOGNIZED TRANSMISSION MODE.
 3. MY FAVORITE HOBBY IS WOODWORKING.
 4. STATIONS YET TO HANDLE THIS MESSAGE ARE:
 NNN0ACY, NNN0AFU, NNN0AMU, NNN0APD,
 NNN0AQK, NN0BJJ, NNN0BQH, NNN0EMO,
 NNN0JAY, NNN0KZC, NNN0OCF, NNN0PLH,
 NNN0SXU, ~~NNN0XEE, NNN0XYA~~, NNN0YWH
 BT

Paragraph 2

Directions for how the message can reach the next station, any MARS recognized transmission mode means Voice, PACTOR (via the switch or direct), PSK, MT63, etc. Email is not an acceptable means for moving the message to the next station.

Paragraph 3

The contents of this paragraph are left to the transmitting station. It can be the year you were licensed as a ham, the year you started in MARS, what you had for breakfast, etc.

The purpose of this sentence is to add some variety so that the receiver has to listen and copy the contents of the paragraph.

Paragraph 4

As stations receive the message and transmit it to the next station, they remove their callsign from the list in paragraph 4. The last station on this list transmits two service messages – one to the station he received the message to let the sender know the disposition of the message, a second service message to NNN0GAZ indicating the message has reached the last station.

Notes and Instructions for the exercise

Above is a sample message, the second in the series of the Message Handling Exercise. Since NNN0XEE passed the traffic to NNN0XYA and NNN0XYA subsequently passed the message to NNN0KZC, the callsigns NNN0XEE and NNN0XYA are crossed off the list in paragraph four, meaning neither would not be transmitted to the receiving station (NNN0KZC). This will keep paragraph four changing between stations. The message does **not** have to be transmitted according to the order of the callsigns in paragraph four. Once there is only one station left in paragraph four to transmit to, the message is passed to the final station and the final station sends a service message to the transmitting station and to NNN0GAZ.

The Service Message

R 102345Z OCT 04
 FM NNN0XYA MN
 TO NNN0XEE MN
 BT
 UNCLASS SVC
 ZEU R 092340Z FM NNN0XEE ZDF3 AT 102340Z
 OCT 04 NNN0XYA

Everything above the BT looks very familiar, a message precedence, date-time group, an originator (FM) and an addressee (TO).

In a service message, following the UNCLASS is the abbreviation noting that this is a service (SVC) message.

The HEART of the Service Message

ZEU – Exercise (drill) message, followed by the DTG of the original (or in our case the message that started this drill), the originating station (FM NNN0XEE) ZDF3 Message was delivered to addressee by broadcast at DTG the message was passed to the station NNN0XYA passed the message to and this service message is signed by NNN0XYA.

Where do I find this information...

Information necessary to format a service message can be found in NTP8C, Chapter 6 section 611.

Operating signals can be found in Annex C of NTP8C

Notes and Instructions for the exercise

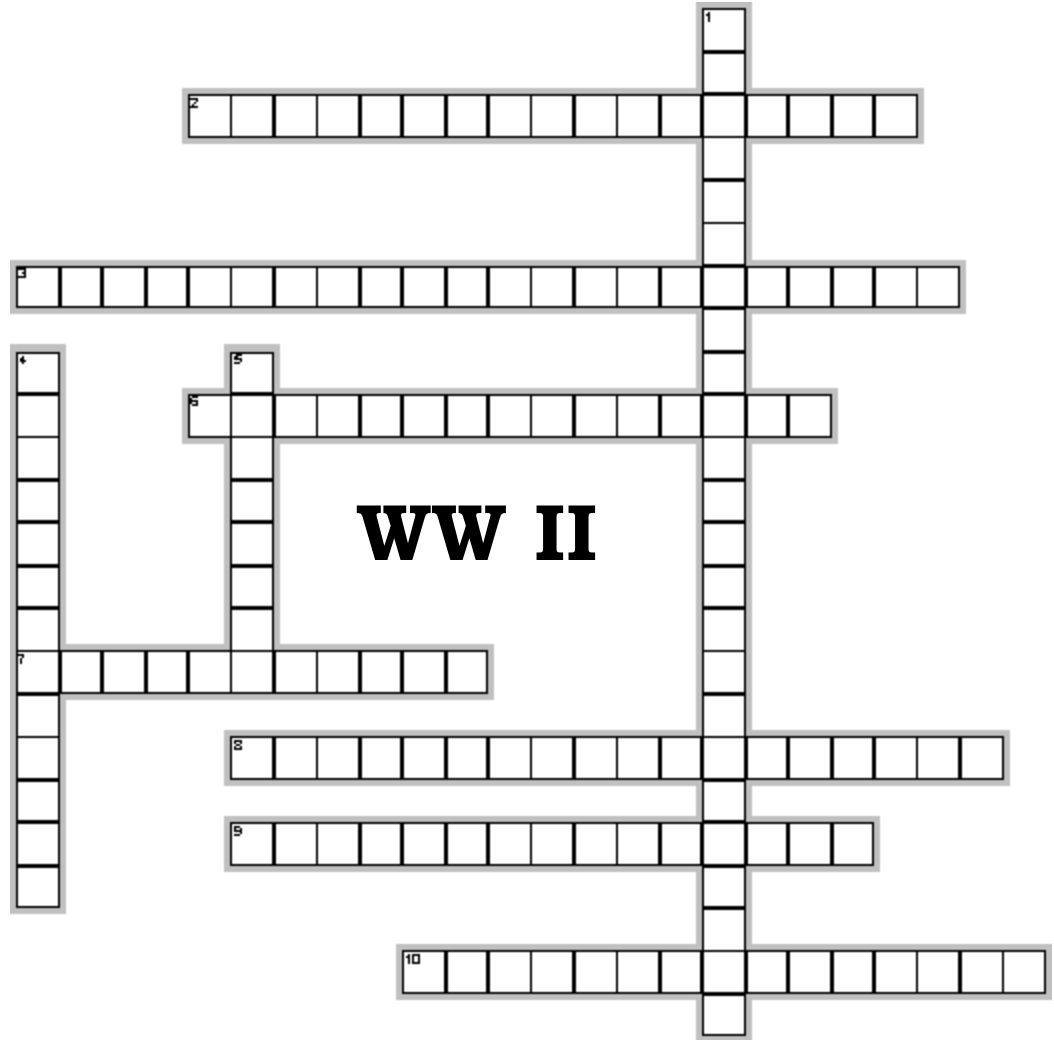
As an addition to this exercise, each receiving station, once it passes the message to the next station (of their choice), will send a service message to the station they received the message from using the appropriate signals to describe the disposition of the message. So in this sample, NNN0XYA will send a service message to NNN0XEE once NNN0XYA passed the message to NNN0KZC.

Acceptable means of transmission – voice, PACTOR (either via the switch or direct), PSK, MT63, etc. Email is **not** an acceptable means of transmission and is not to be used for this exercise. If you transmit to another station via the switch (which means the receiving station must be a switch user or have the equipment to check the switch, an email prompting the receiver that he has a message waiting on the switch would be acceptable)

This is an exercise, no one is going to get everything right and no one is going to get everything wrong. We practice so we can find out where we need to spend our training time. This schematic and the one in the September Minnesota MARSGRAM are meant to act as guides and while they look complicated, the schematics and this exercise are not meant to be complicated or a source of frustration. We have tried to provide you samples – are these samples the way you have to send the message, NO, review the operating signals, you may find one that is better suited to how your message was handled.

Note: it is possible, especially if you are the next to last to receive the message, that you may not be able to pass the traffic. In that case, do not hesitate to format and send a service message that indicates the message is not deliverable. Perhaps the station remaining after you has not been on the air or has submitted a SITREP indicating their station equipment is down.

Expect the message passing exercise to start on or about October 10-12, 2004.



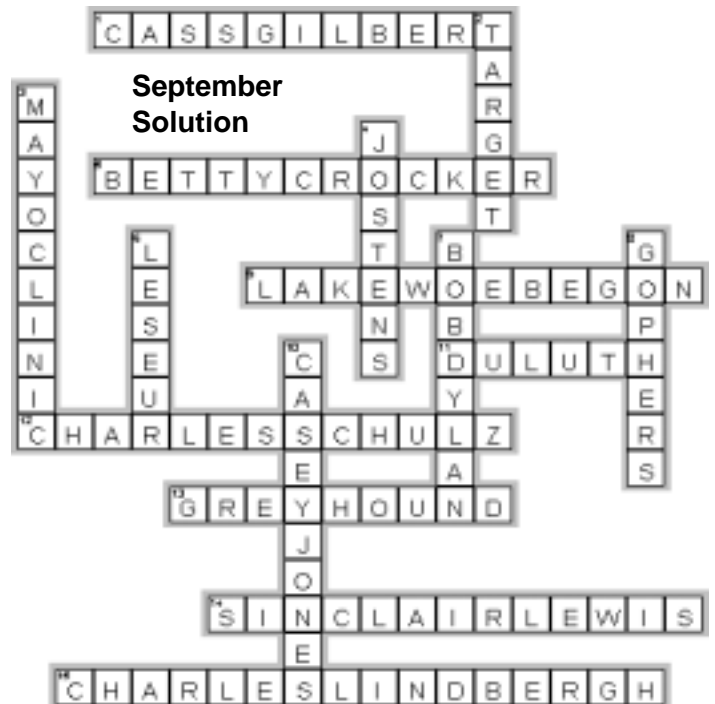
Created with EclipseCrossword — www.eclipsecrossword.com

Across

2. A developing split between the Soviet Union and the U.S. became apparent at this July 1945 wartime meeting.
3. At this meeting, plans were drawn up for an International Bank for Reconstruction and Development to help stabilize the world's currencies after the war.
6. At this meeting of the "Big Three" Allied leaders in 1945, the Soviet Union agreed to wage war against Japan and the U. S. agreed to permit the Soviet occupation of Polish territories.
7. He was the scientific director of the secret Manhattan Project that created the first atomic bomb. (Last name only)
8. FDR's view of the U. S. role in World War II as a supplier of war materials to countries fighting the Nazis and the Japanese.
9. It repudiated the Roosevelt Corollary to the Monroe Doctrine.
10. FDR and Churchill issued this 1941 statement that declared that both nations would support self-determination, freedom of the seas, joint disarmament, and territorial integrity for all after World War II ended.

Down

1. Better known as the "G. I. Bill of Rights," this law aided veterans in setting themselves up in business and providing loans for home mortgages, pensions, and educational opportunities.
4. The U. S. military strategy during World War II in the Pacific in order to reach within striking distance of Japan.
5. This African-American labor leader demanded equal employment opportunities for blacks during World War II (last name only)



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Adobe Reader Fall Tune-up

From *PC magazine*
By Neil J. Rubenking

Our readers frequently ask why Adobe Reader 6 is so slow to load when they open a PDF file. The main reason is that the Reader doesn't load alone—it comes with a crowd of plug-ins. If you watch the splash screen carefully you can see their names flip past. Most people need only a handful of these plug-ins. If you'd like to load PDF files faster, follow these simple instructions:



- Launch Windows Explorer
- Navigate to the Program Files folder, usually C:\Program Files
- Below this, navigate to Adobe\Acrobat 6.0\Reader
- In the right-hand pane, find the folder named plug_ins
- Right-click it and choose Rename, changing it to plug_ins_NOT
- Create a new folder named plug_ins
- From the plug_ins_NOT folder, copy just three files to the new plug_ins folder: EWH32.api, printme.api, and search.api

That's all you need do. The next time you load a PDF file, only those three plug-ins will come along, and you should notice a significant speed improvement. If you need to read encrypted PDFs or if for any other reason you want to undo this change, simply close Adobe Reader, delete the plug_ins folder and rename plug_ins_NOT back to plug_ins.

BT OVER



Pensacola, Fla. (Sept 18, 2004) - Hurricane Ivan sank and stacked boats at Bayou Grande Marina on board Naval Air Station Pensacola. Navy officials reported Sept. 17 that nearly 90 percent of the buildings on the base suffered significant damage. The base is currently restricted except for emergency and disaster relief personnel, as they work to secure downed power lines and remove debris. Ivan made landfall at Gulf Shores, Ala., at approximately 3:15 a.m. EST Sept. 16, with winds of 130 MPH. U.S. Navy photo by Harry White (RELEASED)



Millington, Tenn. (Sept. 15, 2004) - TH-57 Sea Ranger helicopters sit on the flight line at Millington Municipal Airport. Pilots assigned to Training Air Wing Five (TAW-5), stationed at Naval Air Station Whiting Field, Fla., flew approximately 300 training aircraft to Millington to keep them safe from Hurricane Ivan. Ivan made landfall at Gulf Shores, Ala., at approximately 0315 EST with winds of 130 MPH. Twelve deaths are blamed on Ivan as it came ashore. U.S. Navy photo by Photographer's Mate 3rd Class Joseph

NN0DVD update The Minnesota Switch

At this time the NN0DVD switch is off-line. The power supply that supports the radio on frequency NCO suffered a component failure. Efforts to troubleshoot and repair the issue on-site were unsuccessful. The unit has been sent to Ten Tec in Sevierville, TN for repair.



All traffic bound for Minnesota is being routed to NN0DVB, the Wisconsin switch. This switch can be accessed on frequency NDN. Please note, NDN is the frequency used by the Region switch for relay so this frequency is quite busy. Remember most of the transmissions made by switches on these frequencies are hardcoded into the switch software and are not under the control of an operator. Stations serving as Traffic Reps should make sure to check the frequency for activity prior to calling the switch.

As soon as the power supply unit or a substitute is installed, we will have the Minnesota switch back on the air. Thanks for your patience and we apologize for the inconvenience.

BT OVER

5G1B Net Schedule

6:30PM 4007 kHz USB

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

Sat. Rotating Duty (see right)
 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.



NNN0SXU Bob King 10/7
 NNN0YLC Wes Ingram 10/20

Saturday NECOS / TREP Schedule

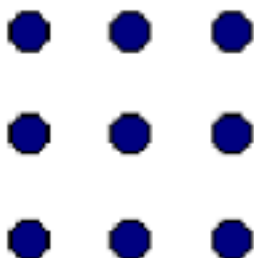
	NECOS	TREP
Oct 2	BQH	BQH
Oct 9	SXU	SXU
Oct 16	ACY	OCF
Oct 23	XYA	XEE
Oct 30	KZC	KZC
Nov 6	XEE	XEE



Naval Base Kitsap, Wash. (Sept. 20, 2004) - The attack submarine USS Parche (SSN 683) returns to port for the final time at the Marginal pier at Naval Base Kitsap, Wash. Parche, the last active Sturgeon-class attack submarine, is due to be decommissioned on October 19, 2004 after serving the fleet since 1973. Parche was configured for research and development from 1987-1991 and was used primary for intelligence gathering and underwater salvage. U.S. Navy photo by Brian Nokell (RELEASED)

Test Your Analytical Skills

Nine dots are placed in three rows of each three dots, as shown in the picture. These nine dots must be connected by four straight, connected lines (i.e. without 'lifting up the pen' in between).



September Test Results

A paramedic named Marcia is the host of a special luncheon for six friends – Alysa, Irene, Rose, Ruth, Sue and Teresa. Their occupations, not in this order, are: auctioneer, author, nurse, professor, saleslady and secretary. Marcia says, "I invited you all to lunch today because I discovered that each of us has the same relationship between her name and her occupation." What is each woman's occupation?

Answer: Alyssa is the saleslady, Irene is the auctioneer, Rose is the professor, Ruth is the author, Sue is the nurse, and Theresa is the secretary. Like Marcia, the paramedic, the letters spelling each friend's name are contained in her occupation.

The Question: How should the four lines be drawn?

Answer in the next issue of the Minnesota MARSGRAM