



# MINNESOTA MARSGRAM



Information for Minnesota Navy-Marine Corps. MARS Members

September, 2004

Volume 8, Number 9

## NNN0ALL Minnesota

by NNN0GAZ Tim

Greetings,

What the State Fair is here already? The first day of school is here and the leaves are already changing color, antenna work season can't be far behind. We've had an unusual summer; one wonders just how accurate the Farmer's Almanac may be with its winter prediction this year.

If you're like me, some projects got put off to watch the Olympics. Around our house the swimming and gymnastics events were the attractions, I've got one swimmer and one gymnast wannabe living under the same roof. I am also thankful that the athletes were safe during their stay in Athens and that people around the world could listen and watch the games without fearing a repeat of Munich in 1972. The planning and preparation of security forces appears to have paid off.

As I write this month, SHARES has increased its operational level in support of the second political convention, much as they did earlier this summer for the convention in Boston. Amazing how the world and the way we live have changed in four years. I anticipate that as elections in November draw closer we will see additional operational level changes in SHARES and perhaps even MARS as well as increased security nationwide.

Now may be the time to review emergency communication procedures and check your emergency power capabilities. Besides being a good idea, you need to do this anyway before that white stuff starts to fall – and based on the weather this year the start of the official snow season in Minnesota may be closer that we want to admit.

The Region Five conference planning is underway. More details are elsewhere in the newsletter. If you have nominations for the Region Five Member of the Year and/or Communicator of the Year, please forward them to me so that we can get the necessary documentation prepared and sent off to the Region Five Director and Central Area Coordinator.

Finally, as the days get shorter and the evening temperatures are a little colder, remember the 5G1B meets every evening at 2330Z. Don't miss the opportunity to participate in an evening net, an ecom exercise, or just a friendly round of comments and conversation with your fellow MARS members.

Enjoy this issue of the Minnesota MARSGRAM.

BT OVER

## HELP WANTED

Volunteers to make a fall inspection of the MN Switch antenna installation. This work detail shouldn't take more than two hrs. Refreshments provided! Will be scheduled before the snow flies. Contact NNN0XEE to make reservations.



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

## 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	<a href="http://www.communityzero.com/mnmars">http://www.communityzero.com/mnmars</a>

## Region Five Conference

Region Five Conference will be held on October 9, 2004 at the Hitch Inn Post motel in Libertyville, IL. The Hitch Inn Post has a new restaurant and improved facilities. All members staying at the Best Western Hitch Inn Post should advise the Region Five Director by message or by email.

### Room Reservation Information

Region Five has 25 rooms blocked under the MARS program until September 29, 2004. If your reservation is not made by that time, you may not get a room. The rates are:

1-Bed 1/2 Persons \$53.10

2-Bed 2 Persons \$69.00

Pool Side \$79.00

Rates do not include Illinois state and local taxes. Reservations can be made directly to the Hitch Inn Post at 847-362-8700. Please be sure to mention that you are with the MARS program to ensure you get the above room rates. We need to fill a minimum of 20 rooms to qualify for the free meeting room.

### Conference Agenda

Region Staff are working on the agenda. If you have input on topics and/or MARS members who would like to contribute, please promptly contact the Minnesota State Director GAZ who will relay your thoughts to AS5.

### MARS Banquet

This is the same great feast as last year! The cost of the banquet meal is \$14.00 per person, again the same as last year. Please contact Dave Ouellette NNN0EPY-MI to reserve your place for the banquet. Dave will collect all banquet funds directly. Please contact Dave ASAP so that he will have a count to provide to the caterer. You can mail your payment to Dave or pay him at the banquet.

### Additional Information

Information about the conference including maps are posted on the Region Five web site.

Please forward to your State Director as soon as possible, your name and MARS call sign if you plan to attend the Region Five Conference. Names and calls are also needed for the gate pass at Great Lakes Friday or Saturday afternoons.

### Awards

Please forward to the State Director your nominations for the Region Five Communicator of the Year and Member of the Year awards. These awards will be presented during our Region Five Banquet

**COMMUNICATOR OF THE YEAR:** The Communicator Of The Year is usually more technically oriented, active in the nets, equipment, helping setting up stations and antennas, training on the nets, etc.

**MEMBER OF THE YEAR:** The Member Of The Year is a professional who is involved in the Region, who has a significant impact on training, day to day operations, public affairs, and is an all around professional. If you know someone who fits these categories, AS5 will need a nomination package from the State Director with a summary of all their activities.

### NAV Four

NAV-4 will be open. Be prepared to show a photo ID and your auto registration at the gate to enter the base. If you have a DOD ID, this is a good time to use it.

### GREEN DOD ID CARDS

Only those attending the Conference will be able to get an updated or new green DOD ID card. You must bring a 1 inch by 1 inch "head and shoulders" color photo. Chief MARS will have the cards and preparation materials.

*BT OVER*



## Troubleshooting Phone Problems

An elderly lady phoned her telephone company to report that her telephone failed to ring when her friends called and that on the few occasions when it did ring, her pet dog always moaned right before the phone rang.

The telephone repairman proceeded to the scene, curious to see this psychic dog or senile elderly lady. He climbed a nearby telephone pole, hooked in his test set, and dialed the subscriber's house. The phone didn't ring right away, but then the dog moaned loudly and the telephone began to ring.

Climbing down from the pole, the telephone repairman found:

1. The dog was tied to the telephone system's ground wire via a steel chain and collar.
2. The wire connection to the ground rod was loose.
3. The dog was receiving 90 volts of signaling current when the phone number was called.
4. After a couple of such jolts, the dog would start moaning and then urinate on himself and the ground.
5. The wet ground would complete the circuit, thus causing the phone to ring.

Which goes to show that some problems can be fixed by pissing and moaning.

*BT OVER*

## Community Zero

Community Zero is where the Minnesota Navy-Marine Corps MARS web presence started. Inside this site, <http://www.communityzero.com/mnmars>, we are storing secure documents, forms and other material of interest to Navy-Marine Corps MARS members in Minnesota. A schematic of this site is available at the site.

The site at Community Zero was originally established in July, 2001. Community Zero by Ramius Corporation was, at the start, a free Intranet hosting site. As with many other dotcoms, Ramius Corporation, found that the popularity and subsequent demand for the site required additional resources in terms of equipment, programming and personnel. Their premium subscription services could no longer subsidize the free

intranet operation and in October, 2002 those customers wishing to continue having Community Zero host their intranet site were required to purchase a subscription.

To determine the feelings of the Minnesota Navy-Marine Corps MARS membership, a poll was conducted in September 2002. Of those responding to the poll, 80% said they were willing to contribute funds to maintaining the site. With the results of the poll, Minnesota Navy-Marine Corps MARS elected to keep the Community Zero site and purchase a subscription. The most economical plan was to purchase one platinum membership for the site administrator and 2500 page views per year for use by the members. The breakdown in expenses is \$29.95/year for the platinum membership and \$49.95/year for 2500 page views, a total of \$79.90/year.

To fund the subscription, members were asked to donate an amount that each member deemed affordable and appropriate for their pocketbook. Most donations received were in the ten to twenty dollar range. The original funds collected provided enough funding for two years worth of subscription service.

Access to the Community Zero site is by invitation. When the website was started and again when the site was changed to subscription service, the site administrator sent an invitation to all members who had an email address. Subsequent invitations have been sent to Tango members as they reached a point in their training where they needed to access documents stored at the site and that the confidence that the

Tango member would complete training and move to full membership.

Since our original web presence at Community Zero, Minnesota MARS has established an open web presence at 1and1.com. This web presence is a basic web page [www.mnmars.org](http://www.mnmars.org) with links to the area, region and national web sites, basic emergency communications information,

and Minnesota Area newsletters. No secure material is at this site, only general information. The [mnmars.org](http://mnmars.org) site was established as the result of a promotion by 1and1.com to host web sites, free of charge, for three years. The only expense incurred was the domain name registration of \$5.99 per year. At this time, we have a little over two years left in this

free hosting agreement, however, domain registration is a continuing cost for which we are responsible. At the conclusion of three years (approximately January 2007), area staff and members will have to make a decision concerning the continuation of this web site.

Why all this information about websites and such? In October, 2004 our subscription to Community Zero will be up for renewal. The original funds collected have been used to maintain the site for the past two years, ie. no member has been asked to contribute funds since September 2002. Now it is time to make a decision to maintain the Community Zero site and collect donations or close the site. There are advantages to maintaining the Minnesota MARS intranet site at Community Zero, even with the cost, these are

- at the Community Zero site, security is the responsibility of both the host and the registered member. Members who are subscribed have their own login name and password. There is no need to periodically change the site access password.
- To our knowledge, there has been no downtime in the Community Zero site and typically any information about downtime has been distributed to the site administrator on a timely basis and passed to the membership.
- The 2500 page views have been well used and members, to date, have not exceeded the page view count.
- The storage available at Community Zero, 5 MB, has



## Community Zero cont'd

not been exceeded.

- The site allows for a calendar of events, polls, and group messaging.

Yes, we could move our secure material to the mnmars.org site, in the process there would be some work involved

- If the secure material were moved to the mnmars.org site, staff members would have to establish secure folders, create and distribute passwords for those folders to the membership. In an effort to maintain security, it may be necessary to periodically change and redistribute site passwords.

Other items to consider:

- At the pace that changes are made to NTP8C as well as upcoming changes in the Area Operating Plan, maintaining up-to-date documents on the "open" web site in secure folders will be time consuming. Maintaining the same information on the intranet site is somewhat easier and straight forward.
- The mnmars.org site does not have a calendar feature or mass mailing/messaging.
- At the end of the three year promotion that we are currently in, 1and1 will review our setup, evaluate our needs and propose a package and price to continue hosting the site.

Here is a cost breakdown

At the time the Minnesota MARS site at Community Zero was established, we had 14 members registered, the cost, \$79.90/year, was spread across those registered and amounted to \$5.71/member, divide this amount across 12 months and the cost per member is \$.48 per month. At this time we have 19 members registered, the cost would now be \$4.20/member/year or \$.35/month.

In this article we have tried to provide you, the member, with enough information to make an informed decision about continuing the Minnesota MARS intranet site at Community Zero. Now it is time for the membership to decide. If you want the intranet net site maintained then please let us know. If you are willing to contribute to maintain the site, we need to know what you feel you can contribute. You mail your response to wd9hdq@arrl.net, if you want to contribute funds to maintaining the site, also include the following in your email

Yes, I would be willing to contribute funds to maintaining the Community Zero or a web site. I am willing to contribute (select only one of the following to be included in your return email):

\$0      \$1-\$5 annually    \$5-\$10 annually    \$10-\$15 annually  
           \$15-\$20 annually

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Tim Isom, NNN0GAZ.

BT OVER



A Sherpa precision cargo parachute system approaches its drop zone outside Camp Korean Village, Iraq, on Aug. 9, 2004. The Sherpa is a commercially-produced system guided by the Global Positioning System that can steer itself from nearly five miles high to within 200 meters of a targeted drop point, enabling pilots to stay out of the range of enemy fire. Two Sherpa systems made their debut flights and precision landings in a combat zone Aug. 9. The 1st Air Delivery Platoon, which is part of Combat Service Support Battalion 7, received the Sherpas from Multinational Corps - Iraq, in Baghdad. The platoon rigs loads of supplies for troops in far-flung locations. CSSB-7, part of the Corps' 1st Force Service Support Group, provides logistical support to I Marine Expeditionary Force troops throughout the western part of Iraq's Al Anbar Province.

Photo submitted 08/15/2004 Taken by Staff Sgt. Bill Lisbon

Flags fly at half-staff on Patriot Day in honor of those who gave their lives as victims of terrorists and defenders of freedom



## Message Handling Drill

R 222340Z AUG 04  
 FM NNN0XEE  
 TO NNN0XYA  
 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 HIGH SCHOOL NICKNAME WAS IKE.
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 starting the Message Handling Exercise. Since NNN0XEE transmitted the message, the callsign NNN0XEE is crossed off the list in paragraph four, meaning it would not be transmitted to the receiving station (NNN0XYA). 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.

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 passes the message to the next station.

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, a 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.

## DON'T TREAD ON ME

### A Note to Terrorists

"THE FIRST NAVY JACK WILL BE FLOWN ON BOARD ALL U.S. NAVY SHIPS IN LIEU OF THE UNION JACK DURING THE GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM.

TO HONOR THOSE WHO DIED DURING THE ATTACK OF 11 SEP 01, ALL AFLOAT COMMANDS WILL COMMENCE FLYING THE FIRST NAVY JACK AT MORNING COLORS ON 11 SEP 02."

From SECNAVINST 10520.6

The following excellent history of the "Don't Tread on Me" First Navy Jack flag is excerpted from UNDERSEA WARFARE, the magazine of the U.S. Navy Submarine Force.

A Brief History of the U. S. Navy Jack

by COR Michel T. Poirier

In the fall of 1775, as the first ships of the Continental Navy readied in the Delaware River, Commodore Esek Hopkins issued a set of fleet signals.

Among these signals was an instruction directing his vessels to fly a striped Jack and Ensign at their proper places. The custom of the jack-type flag had originated with the Royal Navy in the 15th century or earlier; such was the likely source of Hopkins' inspiration. This first U.S. Navy Jack has traditionally been shown as consisting of 13 horizontal alternating red and white stripes with a superimposed rattlesnake and the motto "Don't Tread on Me." The rattlesnake had long been a symbol of resistance to British repressive acts in Colonial America; its display on the new jack of the fledging Continental Navy fit naturally with the fervor of the times.

According to Dr. Whitney Smith of the Flag Research Center, the traditional design of the First Navy Jack has never been accurately determined. Historians inferred the design from Hopkins's message and a color plate depicting a slightly different "Don't Tread Upon Me" flag used as a Navy Ensign in Admiral George Henry Preble's 1880 book, History of the Flag of the United States. Historians' widely copied Preble's rare color plate, thus providing the probable source of the traditional design of the First Navy Jack.



The first U.S. Navy use of the Union Jack (a flag replicating the canton i.e. white stars on a blue field of the U.S. Flag) probably occurred soon after the adoption of the First Stars and Stripes Law on June 14, 1777. The First Stars and Stripes Law stated that the Flag of the United States be 13 stripes alternating red and white and that the union be 13 white stars in a blue field representing a new constellation. Although the date of introduction of the Union Jack is not precisely known, a 1785 engraving of the frigate USS Philadelphia clearly depicts the Union Jack flying from her jackstaff.

As the number of states increased, the Union Jack was altered to conform to the canton of the national flag. General orders were issued from time to time by the Navy Department when a change in the number of stars was necessary.

Navy Regulations, first promulgated in 1865, prescribed the use of the jack. It is displayed daily from the jackstaff of all U.S. naval vessels in commission, from 8 a.m. to sunset while the ship is at anchor. Additionally it is flown to indicate a court martial is in progress, and as the President's and Secretary of the Navy's personal flag.

There have been two instances where the traditional First Navy Jack has been used in lieu of the Union Jack. In 1975, the Secretary of the Navy directed that the First Navy Jack be flown in lieu of the Union Jack during the United States Bicentennial Year as a colorful and historic reminder of the nation's and the Navy's origin. In 1980, the Secretary of the Navy specified that the ship with the longest total period of active service display the First Navy Jack until decommissioned or transferred to inactive service, at which time the flag shall be passed to the next ship in line with appropriate honors. Since 1998, the USS Kitty Hawk (CV-63) has proudly flown the First Navy Jack.

- BT OVER



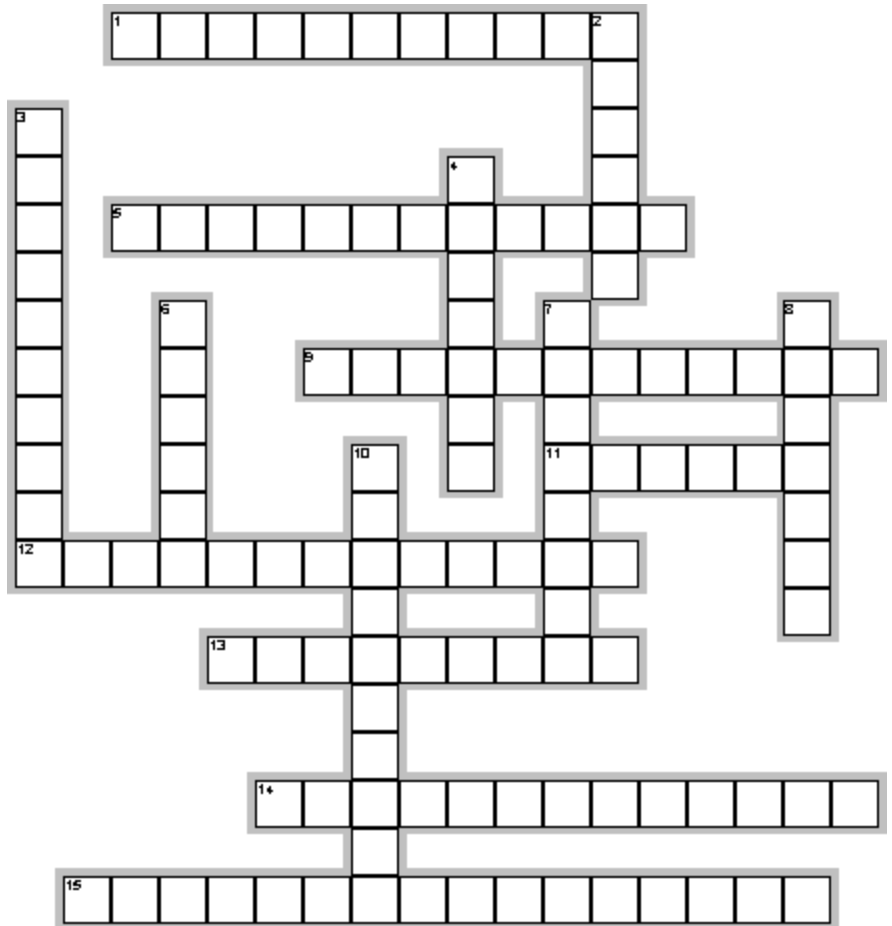
# Minnesota Trivia

## Across

1. Architect who designed the Minnesota Capitol, the U.S. Supreme Court Building and the Woolworth Building in New York.
5. Fictional spokeswoman created by General Mills of Golden Valley.
9. Fictional Minnesota town popularized by Garrison Keillor on Prairie Home Companion
11. Largest freshwater port in the world
12. Minnesota native who created the Peanuts comic strip
13. Famous bus line started as a taxi service when the town of Hibbing, MN had to be moved for iron mine expansion
14. First American to win the Nobel Prize for Literature
15. First Minnesotan to fly solo across the Atlantic to Europe

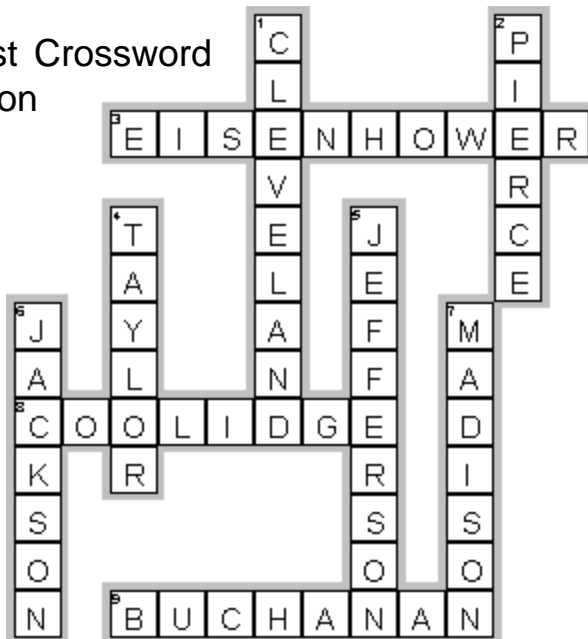
## Down

2. National discount store which has its headquarters in Minneapolis
3. Famous medical clinic located in Rochester
4. Minnesota company that manufactures Super Bowl rings
6. Home of the Jolly Green Giant
7. Stage name of former Duluth recording artist Robert Zimmerman
8. Nickname of the University of Minnesota football team
10. Heroic engineer of the train "Old No. 201" on display in Owatonna, MN



Created with EclipseCrossword — [www.eclipsecrossword.com](http://www.eclipsecrossword.com)

## August Crossword Solution



Created with EclipseCrossword — [www.eclipsecrossword.com](http://www.eclipsecrossword.com)



WASHINGTON, D.C. — The Chemical Biological Incident Response Force, 4th Marine Expeditionary Brigade (Anti-Terrorism), negotiates their way under a city bridge in a Landing Craft Air Cushion during an incident response simulation here Aug. 11. Photo by: Cpl. Sharon E. Fox

## 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.



NNN0BQH	Bruce Meyer	9/17
NNN0PLH	Larry Groom	9/21
NNN0EMO	John Oehenschlager	9/28

## Saturday Schedule

	NECOS	TREP
Sep 4	ACY	OCF
Sep 11	XYA	XEE
Sep 18	KZC	KZC
Sep 25	XEE	XEE
Oct 2	BQH	BQH
Oct 9	SXU	SXU

## Submarine Force Moves Forward in IP Connectivity for Fleet

NORFOLK, Va. (NNS) — The Submarine Force achieved a major step toward FORCEnet capability July 1, with the completion of the first of three steps toward full Internet Protocol, or IP-based, communications, achieving forcewide IP connectivity.

This is an important step for the Submarine Force and the fleet.

“The submarine architecture is a baseline to begin this process,” said Vice Adm. James D. McArthur Jr., commander, Naval Network Warfare Command. “The Submarine Force, due to its size and particular communication paths, is leading the charge.”

A key concept and enabler of FORCEnet is the ability to share and exchange information quickly and easily across diverse platforms and distances. Legacy systems have enabled part of this vision but limit the type of information (usually text) and are point-to-point exchange events. Transition to IP-based information exchange removes these limitations and offers other benefits, including path independence, increased capability and return on investment.

Submarines will have full access to IP-based services, including tactical information exchange, Web browsing,

e-mail, file transfer, etc., while operating at sea, a task that was extremely cumbersome, if not impossible, in the recent past. This is the first step toward completing the migration to full IP-based communications and eventually achieving FORCEnet objectives.

For the submarine, IP-based information exchange has distinctly improved capability. The installation of Automated Digital Network System enables all submarines to connect to the SIPRNET via a reliable radio frequency (RF) path, namely Extremely High Frequency and Ultra High Frequency. IP Connectivity links existing shipboard tactical and non-tactical networks to the worldwide fleet and shore network infrastructure.

For the submarine crews, it means better communication with their families back home. The crew can send personal email via the Sailor-mail system. Previous communication with families was limited to Familygrams, 50 word telegrams sent from home. Each crew member received eight to 10 of these Familygrams per deployment due to the physical limitations of the legacy systems used for transmitting these messages.

The Submarine Force IP transition plan will be integral to the Chief of Naval Operations-directed Fleet Assured IP plan. This initiative toward the common architecture of RF links and network paths will be important for the submarine's future success as a member of the fleet and as a joint warfighter.

BT OVER

## Test Your Analytical Skills

### Who Are We

Courtesy of Parade Magazine, Ask Marilyn.

A paramedic named Marcia is the host of a special luncheon for six friends – Alys, 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 in the next issue of the Minnesota MARSGRAM*



## August Test Answers

Courtesy of WorldRadio October 1991 by Kurt N. Sterba

This is a True or False Test

Okay, here are the answers. Ready?

All are **True!** Now, all who want to argue, write to Pat Barthelow, AA6EG, who wrote all that in the publication of the Naval Postgraduate School ARC. I can tell you that those guys at the NPS are real smart.