

## ALACHUA DISTRICT ARES EXERCISE PLANNING NEEDS ASSESSMENT

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	<b>Functions Most Requiring Rehearsal</b>
1	<p><b>Antennas</b> -- We had held building sessions, installation sessions, tuning sessions but some people don't partake of the training opportunities and then were unable to make an antenna work at the last actual shelter staffing event. Enormous studies have been written about inadequate antennas at the EOC, but there have been no improvements to date. Likewise, we have plans for improvements at shelters but there have been no actual antennas emplaced. In contrast, we have built &amp; placed high antennas at the homes of T.C., R.J, G.G, A.G, and on the tops of both Beaty Towers and were involved with the Dental Tower. Its is time for skills to be demonstrated in an exercise scenario for volunteers' skills to be evaluated.</p>
2	<p><b>Simplex Repeater</b> -- With marginal antennas at key government and NGO sites, there is an over-dependence on “high-perch” analog/digital repeaters in great contrast to the impressive assets developed by several private residential volunteers. If high-perch repeaters are lost for any reason, a simplex repeater placed highly at Shands Hospital or the Seagle Building or Ayers Building will provide very significant comms abilities. Usage is almost obvious. We should rehearse actually taking advantage of this potential resource, while using a safer position such as in a window of such a building.</p>
3	<p><b>WINLINK</b> -- We have already held a remarkable number of training efforts on the use of the WINLINK system, and to date we have added three VHF packet servers as a result, with some volunteers demonstrating remarkable grasp of WINLINK EXPRESS client software. It is time to allow these skills to be utilized in a real exercise.</p>
4	<p><b>Backup Power Supplies</b> -- The Red Cross inexplicably does not have backup electrical power and some of our volunteers have limited experience (despite the Field Day exercises held locally) -- need to give volunteers a good chance at exercising generators / inverters / storage batteries, etc.</p>
5	<p><b>Changing location</b> -- We are aware that the Red Cross might move location during a larger disaster, furthermore we have multiple hospitals locally with whom we hope to develop agreements, but don't have them yet. Thus the ability to move to a previously unprepared location (practiced at Field Day for example) is another skill that can be rehearsed</p>
6	<p><b>“InLine Digital”</b> --- We have held multiple training sessions involving FLDIGI; it is time to give our volunteers a chance to use in an exercise.</p>
7	<p><b>PACKET CHAT</b> --- We are now holding simultaneous CHAT sessions with local emergency practice voice nets, and we need to test this modality in an exercise.</p>

	<b>Potential Exercise Participants</b>
1	Our normal ARES meeting participants
2	We are experiencing growth from new volunteers who seem interested in our digital developments -- these new volunteers are a great resource to join in this exercise
3	We do not expect significant cooperation from Red Cross or EOC employees unless we conduct exercises during normal working hours, which is more problematic for some of our working volunteers
4	Gainesville Amateur Radio Society members --- potential for recruiting some of them for “evaluators” who would gain a much better understanding of the needed skills from simply watching them be exercised

	<b>Existing Exercise Requirements &amp; Capabilities</b>
1	Our last Hurricane Exercise was a simple exercise where the group operated an HF SSB transceiver to join a voice net, and then practiced some packet-based WINLINK efforts.
2	We held a mock competition with a few members of the Ocala group to test ability to conduct a radio-based connection to any WINLINK server --- and were delighted to pick up two new “more active” volunteers who succeeded through their own efforts!
3	During a Weather Station drill we worked on HF contacts as well.

	<b>Plausible Hazards &amp; Priority Levels</b>
Priority Level	
1	Hurricane -- Being fairly inland, we get high winds but not often do we have the proverbial “Storm of the Century” --- however, we have underserved areas on the Nature Coast who can experience massive devastation and we might be called upon to offer services. Tornadoes are also a risk associated with Hurricanes.  Beyond hurricanes, most of the remaining hazards are associated with national attack.
2	Nuclear attack --- would probably involve attacks to nearby Tampa, Jacksonville (Mayport

	& Kings Bay nuclear submarine base); and Orlando. Gainesville would receive life-threatening fallout via winds aloft in 1-3 hours. Pandemonium would ensue.
3	Cyber grid attack (or Coronal Mass Ejection) -- loss of grid power, such as portions of Ukraine experienced in 2015 (and was theorized by Ted Koppel in his bestseller book, <u>Lights Out</u> )
4	Electromagnetic Pulse Attack -- Still unlikely but possible if terrorists gain access to a SCUD missile and a small fission weapon. As North Korea increases its ballistic missile range, and Iran pushes its nuclear development further, the risk grows.