

**DATE: 24 OCT 2013 1330Z – 2100Z (0830 – 1300 local)**

**EXERCISE NAME: BAD BUG**

**SCENARIO NARRATIVE:**

*A virus of unknown origin is cascading throughout the Illinois Section. This virus causes extreme confusion and sudden onset of severe amnesia in victims. The infection rate is 100%. This EXERCISE joins the event on the fifth day of the outbreak, by which time the contagion has infected and disabled 95% of the population of the Illinois Section. Critical infrastructure in the Section is failing or has already failed. A serum has been developed which counteracts the virus, but, there is no way to inform the public of it's availability as no mass communications media are operational. ARES groups are asked to work with their local agencies and healthcare providers to provide critical communications for vaccination stations.*

**All major and most secondary highways are impassable owing to the number of wrecks caused by confused drivers are blocking the roadways.**

**Radio and television outlets are silent. There are no broadcast outlets. Their announcers and engineers are incapable of performing their tasks.**

**EAS systems are on tape loops which simply tell people to stay tuned for more info. No updates have been added to the loops since day TWO of the event**

**The Internet is not available. Satellite systems are unavailable. Telephone service, including cellular, is unavailable. PSAP's (911 systems) are unavailable as there are no personnel available to dispatch, and, only a select, few first responders – EMS/fire/police are working.**

**All power generating facilities, including nuclear power plants, are operating sporadically, meaning that AC power is only available intermittently at any given location.**

**Food outlets – those that haven't been looted – have only a few items left.**

**Potable water supplies are available in some communities, but not all.**

**Public service communications systems died when generators exhausted their fuel sources.**

*The only people not infected are those who have refrained from contact with persons outside their homes.*

## **TIMELINE:**

All of the above has been worsening in the days PRECEDING the opening of the drill. We join this scenario on the FIFTH day of the event and the virus is, at this point, winning, not just the battle, but, the war. Fortunately, the Illinois ARES volunteers, being particularly well informed and wise, sheltered in place and are, therefore, not infected. A small percentage of public service personnel, healthcare providers and first responders in your jurisdiction have, likewise, avoided infection.

## **DISCUSSION OF THE SCENARIO:**

This scenario is completely, and obviously fictitious, and unless you're a reader of Michael Crichton's novels, unthinkable. Now, having said that, virus infections are a real threat, they do mutate, are not easily tamed, and have caused catastrophic numbers of fatalities throughout our history. It hasn't been that long ago that incurable viral infections dominated the worlds' news cycles. Bioterror is a real threat, and, our human enemies notwithstanding, Mother Nature has her way of demanding our attention with contagions from time to time. Is it possible to create a 'memory virus?' Good question. But, then, who'd have thought, 50 years ago, that something called 'Ebola' would break out of the plains of Africa and threaten large populations around the world with an incurable, horrific disease.

## **PURPOSE OF THIS EXERCISE:**

The purpose of this Simulated Emergency Test is to encourage ARES Emergency Coordinators, their staffs and members to plan for and execute a communications response plan (or plans) to meet the perceived needs of their served agency or agencies and their communities in the event of a disaster. As always, the scenario in this exercise is simply a canvas to be used by local ARES groups as a backdrop for deployment, operations, equipment, and, training exercise. It is hoped that, a) the SET will be useful in pointing out strong and weak points in local ARES emergency communications plans, b) provide training to our cadre of volunteer communications, and, c), be fun for all involved.

## **EXERCISE OBJECTIVES:**

- To test ARES organizations' abilities to communicate strictly using RF means
- To test ARES organization's abilities to move data from their local communities to designated recipients

## **GUIDELINES FOR EXERCISE PLAY:**

As each local ARES organization's members, singly and collectively, possess unique abilities, and each organization has a unique roster of served agencies, demographic and geological features and challenges, all participating EC's are free to work within the framework of the scenario to add elements, injects, and/or challenges as they see fit. The statewide exercise scenario is a framework and defines the general exercise parameters. How this type of disaster would affect a particular local community depends upon the community and each participating ARES group will determine the nature of the needs in their respective area. \

Having said that, EC's are strongly encouraged to look outside their own jurisdiction to determine how they can help their neighboring jurisdictions and ARES groups, i.e., offering mutual aid.

ARES organizations are also encouraged to play this as a real event. In the first few hours of such an event, HF communications by voice will be the norm. As the event wears on, however, the need for data comm's will become apparent, and, digital communications between local agencies and state agencies will become of primary importance. For that reason, each participating ARES organization is asked to field at least one station capable of sending traffic via digital means.

**THE CHALLENGE IS FOR EACH PARTICIPATING ARES GROUP TO BE ABLE TO FORMAT AND SEND A MESSAGE ADDRESSED TO MULTIPLE ADDRESSEES.**

Your message should be sent to:

Your DISTRICT EC and any one of the ASECS (Assistant Section Emergency Coordinators) in the Illinois Section. For a list of our ASECS, refer to [www.ilares.org](http://www.ilares.org) and click on 'ABOUT US.' Since the Internet won't be available to you on the day of the exercise, you might want to do your homework in advance.

The easiest way to send these messages is using Winlink (Winmor or Pactor) on HF or, if available in your area using a VHF Winlink Packet RMS, but, you may send your message by any means available to you.

Note that the Internet WILL be available outside the Exercise area, and, thus, Winlink RMS Gateways outside Illinois may be used to send messages.

If there is no digital capability in your group, then the message(s) may be sent using the National Traffic System (Illinois Sideband Net or Illinois CW Net), or, by checking into the C&C net where arrangements will be made to receive your message traffic.

Message format may be ARRL Radiogram or ICS 213, if sending directly by digital means. If messages are sent via the NTS, then, ARRL Radiogram format is to be used.

*NOTE: Those of you who do have Winlink capabilities are encouraged to upgrade your copies of RMS Express and install the Winlink HTML forms (message templates) in your RMS Express directories. Having those available to you makes preparing and sending an ICS213 message OR a RadioGram as simple as filling out the blanks in a prepared, computerized message form. Then, when the info is sent, only the data in the blanks needs to be sent which materially reduces the workload on your station's transmitter and speeds up the message transfer process.*

For more info on Winlink forms, go to: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SWuBmkCK\\_CQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SWuBmkCK_CQ)

Exercise messages should begin and end with the words, "EXERCISE EXERCISE EXERCISE" so that intercepted communications may not be misinterpreted by non-participants. In the event of a real emergency during the exercise, the words, "ACTUAL EMERGENCY" should precede and follow the emergency message.

Message content should include the jurisdiction of the originating ARES group, the name or names of and the (total) number of acute care patient beds in the hospital or several hospitals in your area (a combined total will suffice). This number can usually be obtained from the hospital websites, or a quick call to the hospital can answer the question. We're not talking about how many unfilled beds they have on the day of the exercise, but, how many acute care beds are licensed by the facility.

Here's the text of a sample message:

**EXERCISE EXERCISE EXERCISE**

**HEADER XXX**

**FRANKLIN COUNTY ARES X EIGHT**

**MEMBERS X FRANKLIN HOSPITAL THIRTY**

**FOUR BEDS**

**BT**

**SIGNED XXX**

**EXERCISE EXERCISE EXERCISE**

**REPORTING REQUIREMENTS:**

An After Action Report sent to [w9fx@winlink.org](mailto:w9fx@winlink.org) or [w9fx@arrl.net](mailto:w9fx@arrl.net) and cc'ed to your District EC (DEC) is requested from each participating entity. A sample AAR can be viewed in the FILES section of the Illinois\_ARES groups.yahoo.com website.

#### **FREQUENCIES OF OPERATION:**

The Illinois ARES HF Net will be operating on 3.905 MHz, primary, 7.230 MHz, alternate. This will be the command and control (C&C) net.

Additional frequencies may be utilized depending upon the traffic load on the primary. These will be announced as needed on the C&C net.