

NEW YORK CITY GROUP
COMMUNICATIONS INTEROPERABILITY TABLETOP
EXERCISE

MISSION NUMBER 16-T-5057

28 MAY 2016

AFTER ACTION REPORT &
IMPROVEMENT PLAN

2 JUNE 2016

Approvals:

NYCG Project Officer (OIC): Capt. Barry A. Schwartz, CAP 31 May 2016

NYCG Communications Officer: Capt. Barry A. Schwartz, CAP 31 May 2016

NYCG Group Commander: Maj. Michael Woolfolk, CAP 31 May 2016

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Group CC, DC, and OPs Officer

Wing CC, DC, and OPs Officer

Region CC, DC, and OPs Officer

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President, NYC ARECS

1. EXERCISE SUMMARY

The New York City Group communications exercise Interoperability Tabletop Exercise (TTX) was developed to test CAP's response and interoperability capabilities. The exercise planning team consisted of Charles Hargrove, President, New York City Amateur radio Emergency Communications Service (NYC ARECS), Capt. Luis Ramos, Jr., Brooklyn Tech Composite Squadron Communications Officer, Capt. Barry A. Schwartz, NYC Group Communications Officer, and Capt. Andrew Woodbridge, Commander, Floyd Bennett Composite Squadron. The exercise planning team developed the following objectives for the Interoperability TTX:

- Objective 1: Respond to a cybersecurity issue
- Objective 2: Determine interoperability with an Amateur Radio organization
- Objective 3: Determine effectiveness of providing shadow communications to client agencies

There were twenty-three (23) participants in the TTX, as listed on the attached WMIRS file report, as follows: Two (2) observers, one from the Office of New York State Senator Roxanne Persaud, and one from the City of New York Police Department Aviation Unit, two members of NYC ARECS (four if we count 2Lt Fred Knox and Capt Barry A. Schwartz, who are also NYC ARECS members), eleven (11) CAP officers, and eight (8) CAP cadets. All cadets were credited with MRO qualification elements and appropriate MSA elements. Officers were credited variably with elements in MRO, CUL, MSA, MSO, and PIO/LO.

The purpose of this report is to analyze exercise results, identify strengths to be maintained and built upon, identify potential areas for further improvement, and support development of corrective actions.

1.1 Major Strengths

The major strengths identified during this exercise are as follows:

- Trained communications personnel provide effective radio communications and procedures
- Trained emergency services personnel provide accurate reports on local conditions
- Trained personnel relay and execute messages to and from client agencies

1.2 Primary Areas for Improvement

Opportunities for improvement and recommendations in New York City Group's ability to respond to the incident were identified. The primary areas for improvement, including recommendations, are as follows:

- Increase the number of personnel trained in emergency communications and emergency services
- A need for mission staff trained as Liaison or Public Information Officers
- A full and permanent operational mission base must be built or secured for New York City Group.

2. ANALYSIS OF CAPABILITIES

This section of the report reviews the capabilities to be exercised identified in section 1 above and evaluates performance of the New York City Group. It must be noted that it is not Civil Air Patrol's responsibility or jurisdiction to comment on the New York City Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Service's areas for improvements. We most respectfully leave this assessment to the officers and members of NYC ARECS. NYC ARECS is more than welcome to use this document for their internal purposes.

2.1 Capability

2.1.1 Capability Summary: New York City Group, with a strength of 300 officers and cadets, is able to provide limited and carefully planned communications to clients on a priority basis. Our Federal client agencies have precedence, with State and Local agencies as secondary clients. It is believed that New York City Group may wish to develop a particular relationship locally with the New York City Emergency Management and the City of New York Police Department Aviation Unit, upon improvement of its own capabilities.

2.1.2 Activity:

Observation 1.1: STRENGTH

Analysis: Communicators fully trained in the Intermediate Communications User Training (ICUT), and in specialty qualifications such as Mission Radio Operator and Communications Unit Leader, provide the highest level of radio communications. Members trained in Emergency Services, particularly ground teams within the geographical boundary of New York City areas also supplement the effectiveness of the delivery of client services.

Recommendations: Focus on completion of ICUT, communications training, and emergency services training. In addition, an emphasis should be made in other ground-based mission staff functions, such as Liaison and Public Information Officers.

Observation 1.2: AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT

1.2.1 Analysis: Observation that members need a better understanding of radio communications procedures.

1.2.2 Recommendations: Further training in communications procedures is warranted.

1.2.3 Analysis: Securing a permanent Mission Base would improve response and capabilities.

1.2.4 Recommendation: Ongoing efforts in this area must continue and all avenues must be explored with local governmental resources. New York City Group would function more effectively and with full capabilities if this was accomplished.

Learned

1.1 Lesson 1: The Amateur Radio emergency communicators and CAP communicators worked well together, without incident, and had a meaningful and productive time working on this TTX

1.2 Lesson 2: We understand the need to improve our radio communications techniques and systematic relay of messages

1.3 Lesson 3: We understand that further exercises are warranted to hone our mutual capabilities

4. ACTION ITEMS

4.1 Action Item 1: Communications and Emergency Services Training

4.1.1: What must be done? Improve understanding of radio communications procedures and ground team procedures

4.1.2: Assigned to: NYCG Communications and Emergency Services Staff

4.2 Action Item 2: Plan and develop additional tabletop and field response exercises.

4.2.1: Assigned to: NYCG Communications and Emergency Services Staff

4.3 Action Item 3: Obtain additional communications equipment

4.3.1: Assigned to: NYCG Communications Staff

4.4 Action Item 4: Secure permanent Mission Base/Base of Operations

4.4.1: What must be done? Continue efforts exploring all possible resources to obtain a building/property to establish a permanent mission base/base of operations for New York City Group.

4.4.2: Assigned to: NYCG Commander and appropriate Command Staff

5. CONCLUSION

New York City Group has demonstrated that under critical conditions, interoperability between well-trained communications groups can be accomplished. An understanding exists that only Civil Air Patrol can use its US Air Force-assigned frequencies and NTIA-compliant equipment, and that an Amateur Radio group can only use its Federal Communications Commission assigned frequencies and specific type equipment. One group can turn to another to ask for relay of specific messages or information in a declared emergency situation, especially where safety of life and preservation of property is at stake.

Acknowledgements to:

- Mitchell Partnow, Chief of Staff, Office of NY State Senator Roxanne Persaud, 19th Senatorial District
- Sergeant Ed Aylward, NYPD Aviation Unit
- Members of the New York City Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Service
- Officers and Cadets of the New York City Group and Squadrons

We must also note the continued and gracious support of the Floyd Bennett American Legion Post #1060.

Name	Unit	Rank	SignedIn_String	SignedOut_String	Location	PersonalEquipment	SignedInBy	SignedOutBy
Partnow, Mitchell - Sen Persaud	Not a Member	Assistant	28 May 2016 15:05	28 May 2016 16:49			Luis R Ramos Jr	Luis R Ramos Jr
Zuckenberg, Lawrence M - 507031	NY-379	Capt	28 May 2016 14:22	28 May 2016 16:52	Floyd Bennett Composite Squadron		Luis R Ramos Jr	
Levy, Roger A - 423158	NY-379	Maj	28 May 2016 14:21	28 May 2016 16:55	Floyd Bennett Composite Squadron		Luis R Ramos Jr	
Jones, Ristan A - 516718	NY-373	C/MSgt	28 May 2016 14:49	28 May 2016 16:56	Floyd Bennett Composite Squadron		Luis R Ramos Jr	
Pinello, Steven F - 271168	NY-379	Capt	28 May 2016 14:49	28 May 2016 16:57	Floyd Bennett Composite Squadron		Luis R Ramos Jr	
Metallinos, Billy - 177118	NY-379	1st Lt	28 May 2016 14:57	28 May 2016 16:58	Floyd Bennett Composite Squadron		Luis R Ramos Jr	
Cerjak, Matthew Nicholas - 548785	NY-147	C/MSgt	28 May 2016 14:30	28 May 2016 16:58	Floyd Bennett Composite Squadron		Luis R Ramos Jr	
Cerjak, John Michael - 553202	NY-147	C/MSgt	28 May 2016 14:39	28 May 2016 16:59	Floyd Bennett Composite Squadron		Luis R Ramos Jr	
Aylward, Joe - NYPD	Not a Member		28 May 2016 14:40	28 May 2016 16:59			Luis R Ramos Jr	Luis R Ramos Jr
Andrews Jr., Benjamin - 565611	NY-147	C/SSgt	28 May 2016 14:56	28 May 2016 17:01	Floyd Bennett Composite Squadron		Luis R Ramos Jr	
Bernandez, George - 502998	NY-373	1st Lt	28 May 2016 14:49	28 May 2016 17:21	Floyd Bennett Composite Squadron		Luis R Ramos Jr	Luis R Ramos Jr
Perez, Cesar - NY-ARECS	Not a Member		28 May 2016 13:00	28 May 2016 17:21			Luis R Ramos Jr	Luis R Ramos Jr
Hargrove, Charles - NYC-ARECCS	Not a Member		28 May 2016 13:42	28 May 2016 17:21			Luis R Ramos Jr	
Blato, Amely Carmel - 551562	NY-373	C/A1C	28 May 2016 15:27	28 May 2016 17:22	Floyd Bennett Composite Squadron		Luis R Ramos Jr	
Groh, Carter Andrew - 565344	NY-147	C/SSgt	28 May 2016 14:38	28 May 2016 17:22	Floyd Bennett Composite Squadron		Luis R Ramos Jr	
Hernandez III, Mariano D - 486045	NY-379	2d Lt	28 May 2016 14:19	28 May 2016 17:27	Floyd Bennett Composite Squadron		Luis R Ramos Jr	
Knox, Fred - 508740	NY-379	2d Lt	28 May 2016 14:49	28 May 2016 17:27	Floyd Bennett Composite Squadron		Luis R Ramos Jr	
Morgan, Louis E - 397830	NY-384	Maj	28 May 2016 15:25	28 May 2016 17:27	Floyd Bennett Composite Squadron		Luis R Ramos Jr	
Watts, Ashley Nicole - 553195	NY-373	C/SrA	28 May 2016 14:49	28 May 2016 17:28	Floyd Bennett Composite Squadron		Luis R Ramos Jr	
Wheeler, Jonathan N - 539767	NY-373	C/SMSt	23 May 2016 12:15	28 May 2016 17:28	Floyd Bennett Composite Squadron		Luis R Ramos Jr	
Ramos Jr., Luis R - 219272	NY-384	Capt	28 May 2016 14:46	28 May 2016 17:28	Floyd Bennett Composite Squadron		Luis R Ramos Jr	
Schwartz, Barry A - 249845	NY-373	Capt	23 May 2016 12:15	28 May 2016 17:29	Floyd Bennett Composite Squadron	Kenwood TK2160	Barry A Schwartz	
Woodbridge, Andrew J - 323245	NY-373	Capt	28 May 2016 15:21	28 May 2016 17:29	Floyd Bennett Composite Squadron		Luis R Ramos Jr	