

City of Barrie and South  
Simcoe ARES Group  
8 Debra Ct  
Barrie, ON L4N 3T1

23 September, 2008

Director, Simcoe County Ham Radio  
Emergency Communications Group  
County of Simcoe Administration Centre  
1110 Highway 26  
Midhurst, Ontario L0L 1X0

## **POST-EXERCISE REPORT**

### **EXERCISE WATER BLAST 13 SEPTEMBER, 2008**

#### **INTRODUCTION**

On the 23rd of July, 2008, the County of Simcoe authorized the participation of the Simcoe County Ham Radio Emergency Communications group (SCHREC) in Exercise WATER BLAST.<sup>1</sup> A joint county, Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) and Town of New Tecumseth (New Tec) exercise, the once-in-five-years exercise was designed to test a wide range of response procedures in accordance with Emergency Management Ontario directives. The Director SCHREC subsequently requested that the City of Barrie and South Simcoe ARES (Group) provide auxiliary communications support at the incident scene and at the alternate County Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) located at Beeton.<sup>2</sup> The participating volunteer Amateur Radio Operators (ARO) are listed at Annex A.

#### **PRE-EXERCISE PREPARATIONS**

The initial group, consisting of members of the Royal Victoria Hospital Emergency Amateur Radio Team (HEART, a subset of the Barrie ARES group), met on 24 July to assess response requirements and design a training programme. Additional AROs with packet radio experience or in possession of specialized radio equipment were added as the deployment requirements were better defined. The group continued to meet weekly in a series of classroom and open-air practical sessions designed to familiarize the AROs with the county portable Amateur Radio (AR) stations, practice setting up a range of portable radio antennas, and to familiarize themselves with the Incident Management System, Incident Command System (ICS), and the ICS series of formatted documents. In addition, the group was familiarized with the Winlink 2000 Global Radio Email System used to provide electronic mail service between deployed email servers and Internet access points (gateways) via Amateur Radio. This training, and the exercise deployment, was controlled through the use of an ICS document package (Annex B)

In early August three members of the group conducted a site survey at the Beeton EOC to determine what Amateur Radio voice repeaters and data access points were available. This was followed by site surveys at some of the locations listed in the New Tec Emergency Plan. At the Alliston administration offices the survey team was introduced to CEMC Dan Heydon who provided a tour of the incident scene, and the location for the group's mobile communication facility was agreed. Of note, Chief Heydon took the survey team into his confidence and the general scenario information he provided was used to refine the training programme.

It should not go unrecognized that two AR groups made special provisions to enhance support for Ex WATER BLAST. Members of Lake Simcoe Repeater Association (LSRA), which hosts the primary area repeaters used for the exercise, was in the midst of moving to a new site. A special effort was made to have

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<sup>1</sup> Email: Clark, Cathy L. July 23, 2008 7:23 PM

<sup>2</sup> Telecon: Robert Simpson/Ian Snow 23 July, 2008.

the repeaters functioning at peak efficiency and regional coverage was significantly improved over the former site. Because it was not possible to move the packet (data) radio repeaters in time for the exercise, a dedicated Winlink gateway was installed at the new VE3LSR site. Members of the Central Ontario Amateur Radio Club, whose repeater site VA3BAL and Winlink gateway is located at Ballantrae, reconfigured a network link-radio antenna to provide a higher degree of assurance that backup Winlink service was available.

Installation of a partial antenna system was completed by a contractor at the Beeton EOC on 11 September. Four members of the group installed one of the county portable AR stations on 12 September and erected a tactical HF antenna in the yard behind the building. A temporary dual-band VHF/UHF antenna was installed on a balcony rail for data communications. The contractor installed antennas were used for V/UHF voice radio communications.

## DEPLOYMENT

The group was deployed in five elements:

- a. Director SCHREC, who served as the personal AR communications operator for the County CEMC.
- b. The Barrie ARES Emergency Coordinator, who functioned as the liaison with Director SCHREC and was available to liaise as required with the ICP/Site Manager.
- c. Team Alpha, consisting of a Team Leader and two radio operators, was deployed to the incident site. This Team was equipped with a box trailer containing required office furniture and communication accessories, generator, 10' by 10' pop-up picnic shelter, portable masts for erecting the V/UHF antennas, and a tactical HF antenna (Figure 1).<sup>3</sup> The County portable station VA3MCP was delivered in a separate vehicle simulating delivery from the County Administration Building. This team arrived on-site at 6 am so that set-up could be completed without interference to the Incident Command Post (ICP) set-up and operation.
- d. Team Bravo, also consisting of a Team Leader and two radio operators, deployed to the Alliston EOC, arriving at approximately 7:15 am.
- e. Team Charlie consisted of a single operator in a van equipped with a "cross-band repeater" that served to link an on-scene, low-power, 445 MHz simplex radio net to the 146 MHz VE3LSR repeater located at Edgar. Prepared to locate on high ground near the hospital, it was discovered that the portable repeater worked perfectly from the parking lot of the Alliston Legion.



**Figure 1** The VA3MCP portable Amateur Radio Station was set up across Dufferin Street from the Incident Command Post.

<sup>3</sup> There was not enough space between the road and the railway right of way to safely erect a "Near Vertical Incidence Skywave" or full-scale HF antenna typically used for communication with the Provincial EOC (VE3EMO).

- f. Rover 1 consisted of a single operator in a car equipped with a cross-band repeater capable radio. This operator was also equipped with a portable Winlink station and hand-held dual-band radio.
- g. Rover 2 consisted of a single operator with a portable scanning receiver and a laptop computer used to record the voice frequencies used during the exercise.

## EXERCISE PHASE

While enroute to the pre-exercise briefing scheduled for 0730 hours at the Alliston Legion, Director SCHREC advised of an additional tasking to supply AR communications at the New Tec EOC.<sup>4</sup> This was assigned to Rover 1, who met with OPP Sgt Cockburn (New Tec EOC police coordinator) at the briefing

Rover 2 was never called upon. The operator, Gord Hewit (VE3GIH), ARES Coordinator at the York Region EOC, used the time to observe the exercise. He provided a number of digital photographs and an audio recording of voice radio net operations for the record.

Team Alpha set up in record time. There was an initial problem with the data radio but this was quickly resolved (see Lessons Learned). Voice and communication checks were conducted with Beeton EOC and an unexpected number of messages were exchanged (see below).

The scheduled Team Bravo voice radio operator was unexpectedly held over in Ottawa. The replacement operator was recruited on 48 hours notice and participated without benefit of any of the pre-exercise training. Nevertheless, despite inter-modulation problems caused by a less than ideal antenna configuration and some interference to the VE3LSR repeater caused by an atmospheric inversion, a very effective Net Control procedure was established. In addition to handling voice traffic from the on-site and New Tec EOC stations, 15 mobile and fixed AR stations throughout Simcoe County and into the District of Muskoka joined the net for the exercise. In a real event these stations would have been available to establish contact with adjacent municipal authorities and provide services such as weather observation reports.

The exercise began at 09:00 AM with an explosion at a water treatment plant. The release of noxious gas produced a number of casualties on the adjacent soccer field. Two fire department responders (one scripting out the Fire Chief/CEMC) were also casualties.

Rover 1 arrived at the New Tec EOC at 09:41 AM. As expected from the pre-exercise survey, mobile communications through VE3LSR proved less than ideal and would not appropriately support cross-band operation from the EOC proper. In the alternative, a 146 MHz/445 MHz simplex cross-band circuit was established to VA3KDG, and from there to the VE3LSR area repeater. While this worked, transmission quality was barely acceptable. Voice operations with the Beeton EOC and the on-site MCP were established before Sgt Cockburn arrived at the EOC in response to his callout, and Winlink email service was established shortly thereafter using a twin-lead J-Pole antenna suspended from the eave of the building roof.



**Figure 2** Portable VA3QT set up at the New Tecumseth EOC Station.

## POST EXERCISE PHASE

The exercise was terminated at 12:00 hours following release of the soccer field casualties from Stevenson

<sup>4</sup> Email Clark, Cathy L. September 12, 2008 8:34 PM

Memorial Hospital. Equipment was packed up and the group members met at the Alliston Legion for a lunch and “hot wash-up”. Dir SCHREC and EC Barrie ARES attended the formal exercise debriefing which was held at the Alliston Sportsplex at 15:00 hours.

## **LESSONS LEARNED**

### Intra Direction Staff Communications

All of the pre-exercise training was predicated on the assumption that ARES would deploy in its expected Emergency Plan role: an auxiliary communications capability. Very little exercise traffic was expected; indeed, plans had been made to fill the time with self-generated messages, communication checks with other repeaters in the South Simcoe/York Region/Dufferin County areas, and an exercise emergency net for any station monitoring VE3LSR. This however turned out not to be the case and a significant number of Exercise WATER BLAST voice and electronic messages were passed between the three stations.

The post exercise analysis indicated that the County CEMC was in fact the Exercise Director and a number of direction and observer staff were located at the Beeton EOC, in the area surrounding the incident scene, and at Stevenson Memorial Hospital. Given the congestion in the incident area cell phone service was problematic, as it was at the New Tech EOC. The voice net was used to coordinate activities between the direction staff, and exercise input messages were dispatched from the Exercise Director on both the voice and Winlink nets.

The end result was that the AROs were challenged; in terms of the amount of message traffic passed and in terms of operating skill and accuracy, at a level significantly higher than is typical of the usual ARES net where “client play” is not the norm.

Recommendation. Exercise Directors and planning staff consider greater use of the AR capability for direction team communications as a vehicle for increasing AR training value. CEMC

### Message Format

During the exercise both informal and formal messages were transmitted. For the most part the informal messages (“ask Jones to call me”) were of a low-level coordination type and there was no need to log details other than note the time and persons involved. There were however some formal exercise inputs originated by the direction staff that should more properly have been sent as formal messages, with a copies retained by the originator, the radio operator and the documentation unit.<sup>5</sup> No direction on a message format (ARRL Radiogram, ICS Form 213, military format, etc.) had been given in advance of the exercise.

Recommendation: The county select the format most appropriate to county requirements, and this be adopted as the standard for ARO training. The form should be printed in duplicate/carbon copy format for distribution to the sender, radio operator, and documentation unit. CEMC

### Field Message Form

The AR communicator assigned to the Exercise Director was not equipped with a message book or message form. These are normally small books used for personal log keeping and are supplied with carbon paper so that the message originator can write out the message, tear the original page from the book for delivery, and a carbon copy is retained for permanent record. A CF 709 Field Message Book, NATO Stock Number 7530-21-883-3596, is enclosed as a one example of one such book (Annex C).

Recommendation: AROs assigned to roving exercise staff should carry a message book/pad suitable for recording formal (originator signed) messages. SCHREC

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<sup>5</sup> Formal messages include a precedence, datetimegroup, from and to addresses, and are signed and dated. Formal messages are normally annotated with tracking information such as time and date as each operator transmits/receives the message.

## Station/Net Logs

A log format had not been promulgated/selected prior to the exercise. ICS Form 214 was used to keep the VA3MCP, VE3PCF and Rover station logs. The Beeton voice net controller used a log format designed by the Ottawa Emergency Measures Radio Group (enclosed at Annex D).

Recommendation: The county's standard log format be employed as the common standard for the three Simcoe County ARES/emergency communication groups in the county. CEMC/SCHREC

## Information Security

Two voice messages contained information that, if received by the general public or a media organization via a radio scanner, could lead to public rumours or uninformed media statements. Except where life or property is at risk and a conscious decision is taken by appropriate authority, email should be the primary vehicle for passing this type of message.

Recommendation: Use Winlink email as the primary delivery method for all traffic containing sensitive information. SCHREC

## Exercise Termination

The Exercise Director terminated the exercise with a voice message relayed by the AR communicator. The AR teams began disassembling the portable stations. The more proper procedure would be to wait until the served agency assesses the message (the agency may have its own objectives to complete before shut-down) and initiates the shut-down process.

## Printers

A significant limitation was the lack of a dedicated printer at each of the operating locations.<sup>6</sup>

### Recommendations:

- a. A printer be supplied with each of the county portable stations. CEMC
- b. Individual AROs consider adding a printer to their portable station equipment. SCHREC

## Beeton EOC Station

Operating Position. The designated Amateur Radio operating area is located outside a server room, within a room used to store in a somewhat haphazard manner a large quantity of broken furniture and effects waiting for repair or disposal. The AROs moved some of these articles in order to create a working area, and the best two tables and sturdiest chairs were selected to create an operating position.

Recommendation: A proper operating position complete with desk, electrical outlets, power bars, Ethernet cables, and cabinet for storing stationary, etc. CEMC

EOC Antennas. Two of the planned four antennas were installed two days before the exercise. In order to reduce costs a second dual-band antenna was substituted for the planned HF dipole antenna. The result (two high-gain dual-band antennas stacked one immediately over the other) resulted in significant overload and inter-modulation making the one antenna virtually useless. As indicated above, the workaround was to install a temporary antenna on an exterior balcony above the maintenance offices.

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<sup>6</sup> At installations such as the Midhurst EOC where a permanent computer is installed at the operating location a network printer is appropriate.

Recommendation: As soon as possible replace the lower dual-band antenna with the intended HF dipole. Install the remaining two dual-band antennas at the east end of the building wing, displaced north/south as far as possible. CEMC

### New Tecumseth EOC

The New Tecumseth situation was probably representative of the current situation at most municipal EOCs, virtually all support agencies, and at locations such as shelters: no established operating plan or installed fixed equipment. When Rover 1 arrived the New Tec EOC the Community Control Group was in session. The Mayor however was outside taking a cell phone call and he provided initial guidance on where to set up. As it turned out this interfered with the Police Coordinator's subsequent set-up leading to changes that added a further delay. One "roll-up" antenna was set up outside the EOC for Winlink operations. A double relay through two mobile cross-band repeaters was exploited to join the voice net, but signal quality was impaired. The equipment to set up a mast and a better antenna was available but with only one operator and limited exercise duration a decision was taken to "go with what we had". In addition, with only one operator available the voice circuit was not monitored full time until after the station was set up and Winlink operation was established. The Rover 1 log is enclosed at Annex D.

#### Recommendations.

- a. In future, a minimum of two operators be assigned to rover stations. If the Rover is tasked to an EOC a third operator should be assigned as quickly as possible. SCHREC
- b. Municipalities include in their EOC plan provision for an AR operating position. This position should be isolated enough to prevent interference with Control Group, coordinator and planning activities, but neither should it be so isolated as to impede effective internal communication. CEMC
- c. EOC plans include provision for the emergency installation of up to four transmission cables to exterior temporary antennas if fixed antennas are not installed. CEMC
- d. Municipalities equip the AR operating position with electrical power, an open Internet connection (can be outside the firewall), and a printer. CEMC

### EOC WORKING RELATIONSHIP

While acknowledging that it is both early in the working relationship, and as discussed above the AR support was primarily to the direction staff, it was very apparent that the Beeton EOC staff had little knowledge of the scope AR capability. At the Alliston location there was no interaction between the ICP and the supporting Amateur Radio team. Conversely, this was the first time that Barrie ARES operators have participated in a county exercise and none of the operators at Alliston or Beeton locations have had basic emergency management or ICS training. A mutual educational program would be highly beneficial to both parties.

#### Recommendations:

- a. SCHREC should provide background briefings on Amateur Radio capabilities and operations to county staff and municipal CEMCs. SCHREC
- b. A BEM course be conducted for SCHREC associated AROs. CEMC
- c. A designated ARES point-of-contact within each EOC staff structure be appointed. CEMC

### Document Control

Acknowledging that Exercise WATER BLAST was only the second exercise with AR participation it is nevertheless appropriate to note that document control is a major weakness. The need for guidance on message formats, message forms, and handling procedures is discussed above. At both the Beeton and New Tec EOCs there was no established interface between the station operators and either a communications

manager or the document cell to ensure that messages were delivered to the intended recipient in a timely fashion.

Recommendation. Document control procedures for AR stations be established. CEMC

#### Identification

The day before the exercise it was recognized that an identification document would be needed to gain access to the Incident Site. At the direction of the Director SCHREC, Al Duncan produced a laminated ID Card complete with a logo obtained from the county website. The ARO's name was on the face, with CEMC contact information on the back. In the event, the document was convincing enough to pass inspection at the security perimeter. No identification was needed to access the New Tec EOC.

Recommendation. Establish a "standard" ARO ID badge that will be recognized by all municipalities in the county. CEMC

#### Waivers/Volunteer Registration

Waivers were collected at Alliston and ARO volunteers registered. However, this did not happen at the Beeton EOC.

Recommendation. Amend the Alternate EOC procedure manual to include registering volunteers employed there. CEMC

#### Station Logs

Industry Canada removed the requirement to maintain station logs a number of years ago. As a consequence most AROs do not possess the appropriate skill level to maintain a detailed log in an EOC environment.

#### Recommendations:

- a. SCHREC include log keeping in its training programme. SCHREC
- b. Consideration be given to assigning a dedicated log keeper in EOC operations (possibly from EOC staff). SCHREC

#### Time Checks

It was quickly determined that there was a spread of three or four minutes between the various operators and a time check was conducted. There was also one computer that was several hours out of date and this was not discovered until after the exercise had concluded.

Recommendation. Establish a formal time check procedure at the beginning of every exercise. SCHREC

#### County Portable AR Stations

FT-8800 Radio. Unlike the Kenwood radio the Yaesu FT-8800 (primary packet) radio does not display both the channel "label" and frequency. This led to confusion and in one case the selection of the wrong channel. It is most unlikely that this would have happened if frequency instead of the "label" had been displayed. Also the radio is very "menu intensive" and not operator friendly, compromising its utility in a portable environment where in all probability the operating frequency will not be positively known until after an on-site communications check is performed.

#### Recommendations:

- a. Reprogram the FT-8800 to readout the memory channel frequency. SCHREC

- b. Affix a simplified operating checklist to the radio.

SCHREC

FT-857 Radio/LDG-11 Pro Tuner. The FT-857/LDG-11 Pro tuner supplied with portable station VE3PCF did not work as intended during either the set-up process or during the exercise. Personal radio equipment was used in lieu to operate on 6-metres. Post exercise investigation determined that the tuner is designed to key the radio, which in turn senses a high Standing Wave Ratio causing the radio to automatically reduce output power, preventing damage to the tuner. All of this is dependent on the tuner being in the automatic mode.

The several keys on the face of the tuner have as many as three functions depending on the length of time the key is depressed. At some point in the past the "Tune" button was depressed long enough to take the unit out of the automatic mode and it would not respond as expected.

The manufacturer's very complex and poorly laid out guide (contained within the Station Manual) does not describe the FT-857 combination specifically. It is virtually impossible for anyone other than an operator VERY familiar with the FT-857/LDG-11 Pro combination to reset the tuner into automatic mode and load the antenna properly.

Recommendations:

- a. Place a clear plastic shield over the face of the tuner to prevent accidentally depressing the tuner keys. This shield should have a very small hole (just large enough to pass the tip of a pen) for each tuner control except for the "Tune" key, which hole should be only large enough to deliberately depress the button. SCHREC
- b. Develop a simple tuning procedure checklist and affix it to the top of the tuner. SCHREC

Net Operations

The Net Control Station initiated the planned emergency net for non-exercise participants but did not establish a formal/logged net for the exercise until after requested to do so by the Plans/training officer. This occurred primarily because logging practices were not discussed in the training programme. Post exercise analysis demonstrated a larger observation. In effect, the voice net is defacto established as the ARO's join it on departure after a callout. It is good operating practice, after arrival at the designated location, for an operator to immediately begin logging the net whether or not the designated Net Control Station has begun operation.

Recommendation. Amend the training programme to include logging practices as a teaching point. SCHREC

Mobile command post voice operations should begin as soon as the first mobile operator arrives on-site, with whatever equipment is available/useable. As the operating shelter and portable radio equipment is set up the voice operation can be progressively moved to take advantage of the improving equipment and facilities situation.

Recommendation. Develop a MCP set-up drill and checklist.

SCHREC

Tactical Callsigns and Identifiers

All of the operators struggled with unfamiliar Industry Canada assigned AR callsigns at one point or another. The use of tactical callsigns reflecting place names, and standard "prowords" identify key personal would have reduced this confusion. Addressing messages to an individual (i.e. Sam Brown) was potentially problematic when that person (or their position) was unknown to station staff. Using position titles would help alleviate this difficulty.

Recommendations.

- a. Use tactical callsigns during exercises. SCHREC
- b. Use both names and titles to address messages SCHREC
- c. Prepare blank, laminated, ICS-207 flow charts for inclusion with the two portable stations. SCHREC

Station Computers

The station computers have a multitude of applications on them, each with a unique set-up that is unfamiliar to the ARO pressed into service as the Winlink operator. Assuming that the primary function of the station computer is to act as the Winlink mail server (PaclinkMP), with a secondary function of providing a Winlink gateway service (RMS Packet), it is feasible and perhaps even appropriate that the operator use his/her personal computer to manage traffic intended for the station operators. In a steady-state situation the EOC staff would be accessing the server via their own tactical accounts.

Recommendation. Consider a policy of using the station computer solely for the mail server /gateway function. Employ a switch to integrate a second and/or personal computer with an AR or tactical account for Winlink traffic. Providing a second computer as part of the station package should be considered. SCHREC/CEMC

EVDO Wireless Data Card

An EVDO Wireless card loaned by Ted Pino was used by the Alliston team to obtain deployed Internet connectivity. This allowed the team to provide ancillary services such as weather radar, automatic position reporting, etc., and to download a driver for the printer.

Recommendation. Consideration be given to including an EVDO card with each station computer. SCHREC/CEMC

**CONCLUSION**

Exercise WATER BLAST provided a very challenging and rewarding experience for the members of the Barrie and South Simcoe ARES group. Many, many valuable lessons were learned and operating skills developed. This level of training is not possible without the scope and fidelity of an exercise such as WATER BLAST. The group looks forward to a continued relationship with SCHREC and participation in future county and municipal exercises.



Ian R. Snow, VA3QT  
Plans  
For Dave Wainwright, EC

Enclosures: 4

List of Annexes (Over)

List of Annexes:

Annex A – List of Participants

Annex B – ICS Package

Annex C – CF 707 Field Message Book (enclosed, CEMC copy only)

Annex D – Beeton EOC VE3PCF Station Log (enclosed, CEMC copy only)

Annex E – Rover 1 Station Log (enclosed, CEMC copy only)

Annex F – Alliston VA3MCP Station Log (enclosed, CEMC copy only)

Distribution List

Action

Bob Simpson (Director, SCHREC) (2 copies)

Information (by email)

Michael Moreau, Assistant Director SCHREC

President, Barrie Amateur Radio Club

Director Security, Royal Victoria Hospital

Exercise Participants

Annex A  
 To WATER BLAST FINAL REPORT  
 Dated 23 September 2008

### LIST OF PARTICIPATING PERSONNEL

NAME	CALLSIGN	POSITION	EMPLOYMENT	QUALIFICATIONS
<u>SCHREC</u>				
Robert Simpson	VE3ODR	Director	President, DACHRIS Inc.	BEM
Michael Moreau	VE3LKI	Operations	Retired, Change Management Advisor	BEM, RAC CEC, former ARES Ontario District EC
<u>City of Barrie and South Simcoe ARES</u>				
David Wainwright	VE3ILA	Emergency Coordinator	Retired (Medical Doctor)	CF Pilot, BEM
Ian Snow	VA3QT	Plans, Rover 1	Retired (CF Air operations, Manager Officer Professional Development Programme)	C.Log, CITT, BEM, RAC CEC, former ARES Ontario District EC
Pat Barrett	VE3RNH	Team Leader	Retired (CMHC Manager Public & Private Partnerships in Housing)	
Bill Manning	VE3GWM	Winlink Operator	Self-employed, Revenue Metering Services	
Dave Mather	VE3XTA	Voice Operator	Self-employed	
Ron Smith	VA3NLS	Voice Operator	Self-employed (Commercial Radio and Computer Technician)	
Al Duncan	VE3RRD	Team Leader	Retired (Bell Mobility Technician and CF Radio Technician)	Former ARES Assistant EC (Manitoba)
Ted Pino	VA3TWP	Winlink Operator	Eaton Yale Ltd (Licenced Industrial Electrician)	
Jack Hartley	VE3RDQ	Voice Operator	Retired (Transport Canada Air Navigation Systems Maintenance Manger)	
Ken Gittings	VA3KDG	Voice Operator	Senior Maintenance Supervisor, McDonalds Restaurants	
<u>York Region</u>				
Gordon Hewit	VE3GIH	York Region EOC ARES Coordinator	Retired (Telecommunications Consultant)	BEM, ARRL Level II, former ARES Ontario District EC, RAC CEC, OFC IMS

### ICS Form 201

<b>INCIDENT BRIEFING</b>	<b>1. Incident Name</b> BARRIE ARES SET 08 (Amend 1)	<b>2. Date Prepared</b> 26 AUG 08	<b>3. Time Prepared</b> 0732 HRS
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#### 4. Map Sketch



ICS 201 Page 1 of 4	<b>5. Prepared by (Name and Position)</b> Ian Snow, City of Barrie ARES Group, Plans
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## 6. Summary of Current Actions

Team training has progressed well. The focus until 12 Sep is voice net and WL2K practice.

The County of Simcoe is proceeding with a partial antenna installation at Beeton EOC. There is a strong possibility that either a portable HF (in the back yard) and/or a temporary dual-band antenna will be required depending on the final roof antenna configuration. It is anticipated that portable station VE3PCF will be installed, checked out and operating (Winlink) at the allocated operating position prior to the exercise date. (Team Bravo)

The agreed (New Tecumseth CEMC) on-scene plan is to deploy portable station VA3MCP between the railway tracks and Dufferin Street, west of the Building 125 parking lot. There are high voltage lines running east/west to the immediate north of the operating site, and north/south crossing Dufferin Street at the entrance to the parking lot. They proceed south on the east side of Dufferin Street adjacent to the AR operating site. There is insufficient room to deploy a full-scale HF antenna; the alternative is a "Bobby/Buddy Pole". 6-metre low-band VHF will be required as will two (2) dual band antennas for WL2K/voice/APRS circuits. A generator is essential, power from an Agency MCP may be available. The station will be assembled and deployed in a trailer provided by Ted Pino (VA3TWP). (Team Alpha)

VE3ODR has been tasked to provide personal communications support for the County CEMC who will be observing several activities in the Alliston area. The task of Team Charlie is to establish a mobile cross-band repeater at Alliston providing a link between the local coord frequency 445.975 Mhz simplex and the VE3LSR 1 on 146.850(-) T156.7.

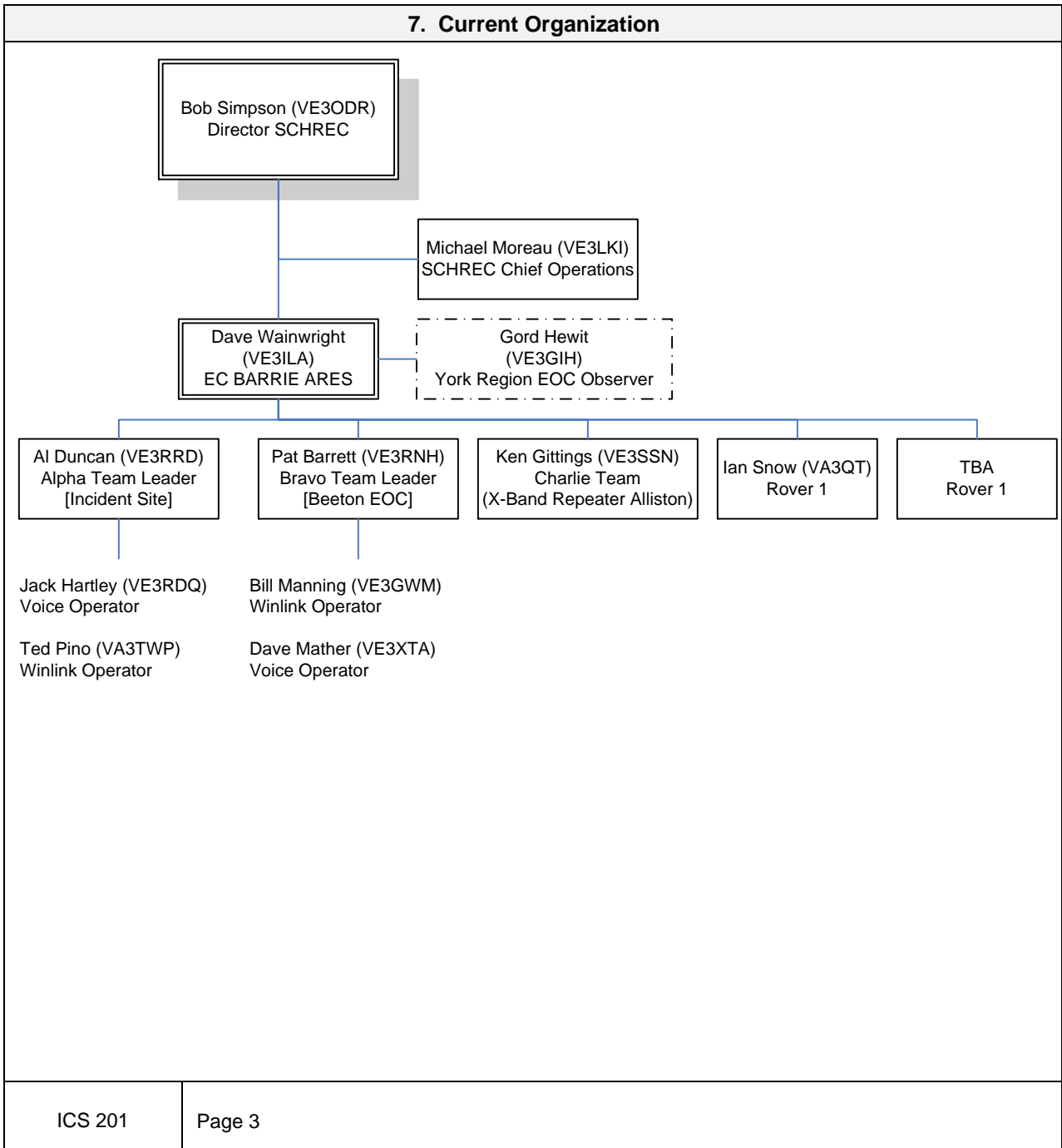
The role of Rovers 1 and 2 is be available for immediate response tasking if required.

The Assembly Point is at a large parking area approximately ½ kilometer to the west of the operating site (address to be confirmed). Exercise participants will begin assembling at 0600 hours. Operators NOT assigned to the Beeton EOC should be in-place NLT 0700 hrs.

The Incident pre-exercise briefing will take place at 0700 hrs at the Royal Canadian Legion located on the east side of Dufferin Street, approximately 1 block north of the ICP. Lunch will be provided at this location.

The southern part of Simcoe County, including Stevenson Memorial Hospital, lies within the [Central LHIN](#), which includes much of York Region. Gord Hewit (VE3GIH), York Region EOC ARES Coordinator, has been invited to observe the SET and will join Team Alpha at Alliston.

Director SCHREC is planning to conduct a regional repeater communications check during Exercise WATER BLAST. This will involve the two SET stations plus SCHREC members in the South Georgian Bay/West Simcoe area. In a collateral operation members of the Barrie and Orillia Amateur Radio Clubs will be providing support to the Oro World Fair over the WATER BLAST exercise period.



<b>8. Resources Summary</b>				
<b>Resources Ordered</b>	<b>Resource Identification</b>	<b>ETA</b>	<b>On Scene</b>	<b>Location/Assignment</b>
CEMC Liaison	VE3ILA	0700		Incident Briefing / CEMC Liaison
AR Operating Team	Team Alpha	0700		Assembly Point, Alliston
AR Operating Team	Team Bravo	0700		Simcoe Manor, Beeton
X-Band Mobile Repeater	Team Charlie	0700		Assembly Point, Alliston
Mobile Communicator	Rover 1	0700		Assembly Point, Alliston
Mobile Communicator	Rover 2	0700		Assembly Point, Alliston
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**ICS Form 202**

<b>INCIDENT OBJECTIVES</b>	<b>1. INCIDENT NAME</b>  BARRIE ARES SET 08 (Amend 1)	<b>2. DATE</b>  24 AUG 08	<b>3. TIME</b>  2041 Hrs												
<b>4. OPERATIONAL PERIOD (DATE/TIME)</b>  Present to 13 Sep 08 (Scheduled Date of Exercise WATER BLAST)															
<b>5. GENERAL CONTROL OBJECTIVES FOR THE INCIDENT (INCLUDE ALTERNATIVES)</b>  Provide two operating teams, under the control of the SCHREC, to provide auxiliary voice and WL2K Global Radio Email services at the County of Simcoe alternate Emergency Operations Centre (Simcoe Manor, Beeton) and at an incident scene during Exercise Water Blast, 13 September 2008 in the Town of New Tecumseth.															
<b>6. WEATHER FORECAST FOR OPERATIONAL PERIOD</b> TBA by Exercise WATER BLAST control authority.															
<b>7. GENERAL SAFETY MESSAGE</b> Exercise caution at ICP site, limited area operating site between major railway line and main road, area bounded by High Voltage power lines to the immediate north of site and directly overhead of site access point. Wear safety footwear, hat and BARC shirt/jacket; have work gloves available.															
<b>8. Attachments (<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> if attached)</b> <table border="1" data-bbox="228 1255 1461 1371"> <tr> <td data-bbox="228 1255 643 1293"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Organization List (ICS 203)</td> <td data-bbox="643 1255 1052 1293"><input type="checkbox"/> Medical Plan (ICS 206)</td> <td data-bbox="1052 1255 1114 1293"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td data-bbox="1114 1255 1461 1293">Weather Forecast</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="228 1293 643 1331"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Assignment List (ICS 204)</td> <td data-bbox="643 1293 1052 1331"><input type="checkbox"/> Incident Map</td> <td data-bbox="1052 1293 1114 1331"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td data-bbox="1114 1293 1461 1331"></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="228 1331 643 1371"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Communications Plan (ICS 205)</td> <td data-bbox="643 1331 1052 1371"><input type="checkbox"/> Traffic Plan</td> <td data-bbox="1052 1331 1114 1371"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td data-bbox="1114 1331 1461 1371"></td> </tr> </table>				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Organization List (ICS 203)	<input type="checkbox"/> Medical Plan (ICS 206)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Weather Forecast	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Assignment List (ICS 204)	<input type="checkbox"/> Incident Map	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Communications Plan (ICS 205)	<input type="checkbox"/> Traffic Plan	<input type="checkbox"/>	
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<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Communications Plan (ICS 205)	<input type="checkbox"/> Traffic Plan	<input type="checkbox"/>													
<b>9. PREPARED BY (PLANNING SECTION CHIEF)</b> Ian Snow, VA3QT		<b>10. APPROVED BY (INCIDENT COMMANDER)</b> Dave Wainwright, VE3ILA, EC City of Barrie ARES Group													

### Organization Assignment List, ICS Form 203

<b>ORGANIZATION ASSIGNMENT LIST</b>		1. INCIDENT NAME	2. DATE PREPARED	3. TIME PREPARED
		Barrie ARES SET 08	24 August 2008 (Amendment 1)	2145 HRS
POSITION	NAME	<b>4. OPERATIONAL PERIOD (DATE/TIME)</b>		
Plans	Ian Snow (VA3QT)	13 September 2008 / 0600-1400 hrs		
<b>5. INCIDENT COMMAND AND STAFF</b>		<b>9. OPERATIONS SECTION</b>		
INCIDENT COMMANDER	Dave Wainwright (VE3ILA)	CHIEF	Al Duncan (VE3RRD)	
DEPUTY	Al Duncan (VE3RRD)	DEPUTY		
SAFETY OFFICER		a. BRANCH I- DIVISION/GROUPS		
INFORMATION OFFICER	Dave Wainwright (VE3ILA)	BRANCH DIRECTOR		
LIAISON OFFICER	Dave Wainwright (VE3ILA)	DEPUTY		
		DIVISION/GROUP	Team A	ICP Aux Comms
<b>6. AGENCY REPRESENTATIVES</b>		DIVISION/ GROUP	Team B	Beeton EOC Aux Comms
<b>AGENCY</b>	<b>NAME</b>	DIVISION/ GROUP	Team C	Alliston Area
Sim Cty CEMC	Dave Wainwright (VE3ILA)	DIVISION/GROUP	Rover 1	Alliston Area
SCHREC	Ian Snow (VA3QT)	DIVISION /GROUP	Rover 1	Beeton Area
On Site Manager	Al Duncan (VE3RRD)	b. BRANCH II- DIVISIONS/GROUPS		
EOC Manager	Pat Barrett (VE3RNH)	BRANCH DIRECTOR		
		DEPUTY		
		DIVISION/GROUP		
		DIVISION/GROUP		
		DIVISION/GROUP		
		DIVISION/GROUP		
<b>7. PLANNING SECTION</b>		c. BRANCH III- DIVISIONS/GROUPS		
CHIEF	Ian Snow (VA3QT)	BRANCH DIRECTOR		
DEPUTY		DEPUTY		
RESOURCES UNIT		DIVISION/GROUP		
SITUATION UNIT		DIVISION/GROUP		
DOCUMENTATION UNIT		DIVISION/GROUP		
DEMOBILIZATION UNIT		DIVISION/GROUP		
TECHNICAL SPECIALISTS		DIVISION/GROUP		
		DIVISION/GROUP		
		DIVISION/GROUP		
<b>8. LOGISTICS SECTION</b>		d. AIR OPERATIONS BRANCH		
CHIEF	N/A	AIR OPERATIONS BR. DIR.	N/A	
DEPUTY		AIR TACTICAL GROUP SUP.		
<b>a. SUPPORT BRANCH</b>		AIR SUPPORT GROUP SUP.		
DIRECTOR	N/A	HELICOPTER COORDINATOR		
SUPPLY UNIT		AIR TANKER/FIXED WING CRD.		
FACILITIES UNIT		<b>10. FINANCE/ADMINISTRATION SECTION</b>		
GROUND SUPPORT UNIT		CHIEF	N/A	
<b>b. SERVICE BRANCH</b>		DEPUTY		
DIRECTOR	N/A	TIME UNIT		
COMMUNICATIONS UNIT		PROCUREMENT UNIT		
MEDICAL UNIT		COMPENSATION/CLAIMS UNIT		
FOOD UNIT		COST UNIT		
<b>PREPARED BY (RESOURCES UNIT)</b>				

**Incident Communications Plan, ICS Form 205**

<b>INCIDENT RADIO COMMUNICATIONS PLAN</b>			1. Incident Name <b>Barrie ARES SET 08 (Amend 1)</b>		2. Date/Time Prepared <b>26 AUG 08 0810 hrs</b>	3. Operational Period Date/Time <b>2 AUG/13 SEP 08</b>
<b>4. Basic Radio Channel Utilization</b>						
System/Cache	Channel	Function	Frequency/Tone		Assignment	Remarks
AMATEUR RADIO	1	Local Comms	CALL 146.520	n/r	On Scene Coord	
AMATEUR RADIO	4	Intra County	VE3LSR 1 146.850(-)	156.7	Primary 2m Voice	
AMATEUR RADIO	5	IRLP	VE3LSR 2 147.315(+)	156.7		
AMATEUR RADIO	13	North Simcoe County	VE3ROG 145.370(-)	118.8	Secondary N. Simcoe 2m Voice	
AMATEUR RADIO	14	CANWARN	VE3TTB 145.190(-)	156.7	WX Spotting	If activated by EC
AMATEUR RADIO	16	South Simcoe County	VE3YRA 145.350(-)	103.5	Secondary S. Simcoe 2m Voice	
AMATEUR RADIO	18	South Simcoe County	VE3BAL 147.330(+)	103.5	Tertiary S. Simcoe 2m Voice	COARC Linked Repeater System
AMATEUR RADIO	50	Automatic Position Reporting	APRS 144.390 1200 baud	100.0	APRS Broadcast	
AMATEUR RADIO	54	Intra-County Packet Radio	VE3LSR 145.070 1200 baud	n/a	VE3SEO VA3PCF VA3MCP	Point to point Packet Radio operations
AMATEUR RADIO	56	North Simcoe County WL2K	RMS VA3RVH-10 144.970 1200 baud	n/a	VE3SEO (PRI)	WL2K Global Radio E-Mail System
AMATEUR RADIO	57	Simcoe County WL2K	RMS VA3LSR-10 145.710 1200 baud	n/a	VE3SEO (SEC) VA3PCF (PRI) VA3MCP (PRI)	WL2K Global Radio E-Mail System
AMATEUR RADIO	58	South Simcoe County WL2K	RMS VA3BAL-10 RMS VA3PCF-10 145.630 1200 baud	n/a	VA3PCF (SEC) VA3MCP (SEC)	WL2K Global Radio E-Mail System
AMATEUR RADIO	103	Intra-County Voice	VE3LSR 444.350	156.7	Primary 70 cm Voice	
AMATEUR RADIO	117	South Simcoe County	VA3BAL 443.700(+)	103.5	Secondary 70 cm Voice	COARC Linked Repeater System
AMATEUR RADIO	142	Intra-County Voice	ARES Ontario 3.743 LSB	n/a	Primary 80m HF	
AMATEUR RADIO	CALL 1	Local Comms	CALL 446.000	n/a	On-Scene Coord	

Annex B  
 To Exercise WATER BLAST Report  
 Dated 23 September 2008

<b>INCIDENT RADIO COMMUNICATIONS PLAN</b>		1. Incident Name <b>Barrie ARES SET 08 (Amend 1)</b>		2. Date/Time Prepared <b>26 AUG 08 0810 hrs</b>	3. Operational Period Date/Time <b>2 AUG/13 SEP 08</b>	
<b>4. Basic Radio Channel Utilization</b>						
System/Cache	Channel	Function	Frequency/Tone		Assignment	Remarks
AMATEUR RADIO	(Manual)	Cross-Band Repeat	70 cm Simplex 445.975 FM	n/a	Local Cross-Band Repeater	Use with Ch 4 or 18 As Applicable
AMATEUR RADIO	144	Intra-County Voice	ONTARS 3.755 LSB	n/a	Secondary 80m HF	
AMATEUR RADIO	148	Intra-County Voice	TPN/ Emergency 7.055 LSB	n/a	Primary 40m HF	
AMATEUR RADIO	149	Intra-County Voice	ARES Ontario 7.153 LSB	n/a	Secondary 40m HF	
AMATEUR RADIO	180	Intra-County Voice	Call Frequency 29.600 USB	n/a	Secondary 10m HF FM	
AMATEUR RADIO	Call	Intra-County Voice	Call Frequency 52.525 FM	n/a		Secondary 6m Voice
AMATEUR RADIO	188	Intra-County Voice	VA3LSR 53.0700(-)	n/a	Primary 6m HF FM	Primary 6m Voice
AMATEUR RADIO	Pactor 1	Regional WL2K	RMS VA3LKI 3.5950 Pactor 3	n/a	a/r	WL2K Global Radio E-Mail System
AMATEUR RADIO	Pactor 2	Regional WL2K	RMS VA3LKI 3.6130 Pactor 3	n/a	a/r	WL2K Global Radio E-Mail System
AMATEUR RADIO	Pactor 3	Regional WL2K	RMS VA3LKI 7.0920 Pactor 3	n/a	a/r	WL2K Global Radio E-Mail System
AMATEUR RADIO	Pactor 4	Regional WL2K	RMS VA3LKI 28133.0 Pactor 3	n/a	a/r	WL2K Global Radio E-Mail System
<b>5. Prepared by (Communications Unit)</b>						
Ian Snow (VA3QT), Plans						