

2022 NNY Section SET:

The idea for this year's section-wide SET came from experience during an earlier DOD/MARS COMEX.

The DOD is emphasizing the interoperability between MARS operators (who are all also hams) and the general amateur radio community. In the event of a widespread normal communications outage, possibly due to an EMP pulse or cyberattack, it may be necessary to gather information needed to help with emergency response from the federal government.

During the COMEX, a request for information was sent to MARS stations. The task was to contact amateurs and find out their callsign, name of the nearest hospital, city and state of the hospital, and distance from the amateur's station. The responses were then consolidated and sent up the chain on MARS nets.

The items of information collected were not important to the exercise. The process was important.

Responses were received from NNY on several amateur nets. Unfortunately, there were many instances where responses were not precisely what was asked for, or responding stations did not speak slowly enough and spell out words when necessary. Requests for repeats at a slower speed or to spell name of hospitals or cities were necessary. Clearly, more practice was needed.

This prompted the scenario for the NNY Section SET.

The basic concept is that a request for information will be sent to each county. Responses will be collected on local nets over a period of a few days. The collection will be done by one or more ARES stations. The responses will be consolidated at the county level and one report will be sent back to the Section Emergency Manager.

Rather than making up some emergency scenario, actual information will be requested. This relieves participants of trying to make up responses to fit a scenario.

The idea was discussed and worked out by ECs during the June Section meeting. Many thanks to SLC EC Bob Farrington for helping to develop the detailed plan.