

Sent: Thursday, August 26, 2004 7:36 PM

Subject: Simulated Emergency Report Complete!

First I would like to thank all those that participated in the Simulated Emergency Test at the Radford Army Ammunition Plant and in support of the exercise. I also want to thank those that took the time to visit the website, that was built to support this exercise, and filled out a SET report form. There was a wealth of comments and observations from those that took part and some from those that listened. Later, I will post those comments on the SET website for those that are interested. We did some things right and some things could have been done much better and this is the way that we learn.

This was a very complex exercise with lots of related nets going on at the same time and both voice and digital (packet). We were also involved from the served agency standpoint, very late in the planning stages. My feeling was that even those involved early didn't have a lot of input into the planning. The main thrust of this event was the armed counter attack to the armed attack and support for that effort. At the point that this exercise came to an end is the point that we would have normally been involved. In the one planning event that I attended, it became obvious to me that amateur radio and a number of other agencies were going to have to develop their own exercise within the broader drill. Some of those agencies that didn't do that, had almost no role in the events of the day.

Even with the problems that we encountered, such as stations physically too close together operating on the same band. We had problems with messages getting to delivery points at the end of the exercise and some people not being used as operators or being under used. The drill was a huge success as far as overall SET participation.

Our SET score was 1597 points. Let me put that in perspective. If we were the only SET reporting in Virginia, we would have placed 8th in the nation last year with this score alone. This score was over twice what our last year score was for our District 13 and 14 SET. Last year our score was 755 points. Last year Virginia scored 4th in the nation with 2383 total points and this was with our strength being eroded by having two separate EMCOMM groups in the state.

Thanks again to everyone of you for making this SET the huge success and the great learning tool it has been. Hats off to Woody and Bernie our DECs for District 13 and 14. A big thank you To Ron Sokol our ASEC for serving as our event reporter and capturing in print some of the reasons that we serve our communities through amateur radio. A special thanks to those that traveled from the far eastern and western parts of our state to support this effort.

Glen Sage, W4GHS

REC West Region