1st International and Regional Zello Jamboree
16 December 2017
REACT Traffic System Summary Report as of 2017-12-18-24:00 EST

Purpose: The purpose of participation by the REACT Traffic System in the 1st International and Regional Zello Jamboree sponsored by the Tobago Emergency Management Agency was to:

(1) demonstrate REACT International support for the Trinidad and Tobago Council and the Tobago Emergency Management Agency, and for their disaster preparedness and resilience programs.

(2) provide familiarization training on the use of radiogram format message in disasters for participants in the Jamboree, including REACT members

(3) provide currency training in the transmission of radiogram format messages for REACT Traffic System members.

Scenario: The Jamboree focused on the use of Zello as a communications tool as part of Tobago emergency management efforts toward disaster reduction. Because this was linked to Caribbean and United Nations efforts toward disaster reduction, this was a significant international event. In Trinidad and Tobago REACT members established kiosks in malls to interact with the public and promote Zello. International participation included operators from:

Antigua and Barbuda
Barbados
Belize
Bolivia
Germany
Grenada
Iran
Jamaica
Namibia
Saint Lucia
Seychelles
South Africa
Taiwan
Thailand
Trinidad and Tobago
Turks and Caicos
United Kingdom
United States

Process: Information on the Zello Jamboree was distributed in the December issue of *The REACTer*, and e-mailed to all REACT Teams with working e-mail addresses in REACT's team listing. Specific instructions on the message portion of the Jamboree were included.

Four disaster public education messages were transmitted as IARU format radiograms on the Zello REACT Members channel. Transmission rate was a standard 15 words per minute. Each message was keyed to a specific hazard that poses a current or future threat to Trinidad and Tobago:

- 1530 Atlantic Standard Time – emphasis on types of flooding
- 1615 Atlantic Standard Time – initial hurricane forecast for 2018
- 1645 Atlantic Standard Time – Caribbean basin earthquakes in the past week
- 1730 Atlantic Standard Time – Trinidad and Tobago forest fire season

Participants were encouraged to copy and submit the transmitted messages on the REACT Warning Team's message qualifying run page at http://reactwraning.org/runs. Participants who completed this task with 100% good copy were promised, and will receive, a QSL card sized certificate verifying successful completion.

Background Note: The American Radio Relay League transmits code practice and monthly qualifying runs from WIAW and a west coast station. Individuals who obtain one minute perfect copy receive a certificate indicating their proficiency at a specific speed. There is no equivalent qualifying process for messages that is easy for our members to access. REACT Warning Team 6247 has established a qualifying process for its members using the concept of qualifying runs.

Quantifiable Outcomes:

- Two REACT Traffic System operators participated, Traffic 241 and Traffic 321. Because of the tendency of REACT members on Zello to identify only by unit number, we could only identify 2 other REACT members not from Trinidad and Tobago participating, both from Texas. There may have been others.

- A total of 8 messages were submitted. Of these 5 were 100% good copy. The 3 messages that did not meet the standard showed 100% copy of the text, but errors in understanding the preamble.

- One participant in the event volunteered to become a Traffic System operator.

Anecdotal Outcomes:

- One participant was enthused to the extent that she subsequently sent a picture of the completed message forms that she had used to copy the transmissions, and commented

on how the experience had made her feel much more professional about her communications skills.

- The Region 9 Director reported that there was considerable attention to the messages during the event, that participants felt that this was a significant contribution to its success, and that there was strong interest in Trinidad and Tobago in developing message skills.

Recommendations:

1.   REACT Warning Team 6247 should establish a monthly schedule and conduct message qualifying runs in conjunction with the weekly REACT Traffic Net as an activity for the Training Committee.   [As of the completion of this report, the schedule has been established.]

2.   REACT Warning Team 6247 should work with the management of the Zello REACT Worldwide Net to provide message qualifying runs on a monthly schedule.   [As of the completion of this report the Team has responded in the affirmative to an invitation from the Region 9 Director to do so.]

3.   Positional qualification for Type IV Message Operators should include successful 100% good copy at 15 words per minute of radiogram format messages. Fifteen words per minute results in a high probability of a good copy without the need for fills under reasonable conditions.

4.   REACT should address a standard method for REACT members to identify when not operating on licensed radio frequencies. Use of a unit number, such as REACT 123, does not allow net controls to identify where stations are located, and creates the potential for multiple individuals to be on the same frequency with the same unit number.   The traditional identification was by Team name and unit number, for example High Country REACT Unit 1. The Traffic System uses a code of region number + state within the region number + plus sequential number within the state.   These may not be the best solutions, but a solution is needed before it becomes a problem in a major disaster.

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