

## **EXERCISE NAME: JOINT EXERCISE GAB RESCUE**

**Exercise Date: May 6, 2017**

### **After Action Report Form**

#### **ADMINISTRATIVE HANDLING INSTRUCTIONS**

1. The title of this document is the After Action Report and Improvement Plan following the **Joint Exercise GAB Rescue**.
2. The information gathered in this AAR/IP is classified as “For Official Use Only” and should be handled as so. This document should be handled, transmitted, and stored in accordance with appropriate directives.
3. At a minimum, the attached materials will be disseminated only for official use only and when unattended, should be stored in a file or container or area offering sufficient protection against theft, inadvertent access.
4. Points of Contact:

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## **Executive Summary**

GAB Green Apple Bikes

MAARS Manhattan Area Amateur Radio Society

CERT Community Emergency Response Teams

Purpose of the event, to integrate with and elevate the knowledge level of the community by performing a field operation with multiple volunteer organizations. For the purpose of this exercise we might assume that we will have approximately 20-24 volunteers across the different groups. MAARS established a mobile command post with a station at the GAB garage. Testing simplex operation under emergency communications conditions. MAARS and CERT volunteers teamed with GAB volunteers to create a grid search and rescue operation. CERT implemented a search operation and tracked accountability of the teams. Damaged or abandoned bikes were recovered and repaired and either LIP (left in place) or brought to racks or service locations.

## **Exercise Overview**

**Exercise Name:**

**Duration: 4 hours**

**Exercise Date:** 6 May 2017

**Sponsor:** RCEM

**Type of Exercise:** Search and Rescue

**Funding Source:** *None*

**Program:**

**Focus:** Combining organizations and working together

**Classification:** For Official Use Only

**Scenario:** *lost/missing person/object*

**Location:** Manhattan, primary area of operation downtown.

**Participating Organizations:** RCEM, CERT, MAARS, GAB

**Number of Participants:**

Players: 20

Observers: 0

Controllers/Evaluators/Facilitators: 3

Actors: 0

**Exercise Overview:** This exercise consisted of the following activities:

- Establish search and rescue teams, accountability for teams
- Radio communication with no landline power, no fixed antennas
- Practice accuracy of message traffic and field reports.
- Repair and redeploy bikes to field racks

**Exercise Evaluation:** The purpose of this exercise is to provide participants an opportunity to formulate response concepts, plans, and capabilities for a response to an event in the Manhattan/Riley County area. The exercise will focus on local amateur radio and CERT command and control coordination, critical decisions, notifications, and message handling. The operation was well received by all groups, it provided each group with a means to practice their skills in a non-emergency situation. Raised awareness of what each group does to enhance the community.

## Exercise Objectives

Bring Volunteers together

Establish critical communications in emergency/disaster

Raise awareness of the GAB program and local MAARS and CERT capabilities

## Exercise Events Synopsis

- Portable station with 30' tower erected, solar powered station with laptop computer.
- Accountability setup to track volunteers and location, recording time in and out of grid
- Message handling technique, speed and manpower needs determined
- Over the event 70 bikes were "touched" located, repaired, brought in for service
- GAB working with other groups to help with the roundup

## Analysis of Critical Task Performance

The joint exercise was the first of its kind for us to work together in this way. Having no prior experience working together, everyone made it flow into a cohesive and productive effort on our first try. I believe the unofficial head count shows we had 18-19 volunteers present.

Special thanks to MAARS, CERT and GAB crews! Dave Mills for showing up early and setting up the emergency station and antenna tower and being our Net Control operator. Laurie Harrison with Riley County Emergency Management for providing some great support in the maps and organizational aspect of getting this together and making it work.

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=0BxWV2LYEVbCRX2labHB5LVdTWGM> This link is to the Google Drive location of the contact spreadsheet that came from the database Dave Mills put together for us. We tracked the reports and disposition of found and reported bikes. All together for the weekend we logged 70 touches! This is 23% of the entire deployed fleet, seen or touched in about 30 hours.

GAB - We had several bikes that were repaired and put back on the streets that were not accounted for, from rollers that were waiting a bit of tuning. There were only about 7 bikes needing work in the shop or BBHS that did not get redeployed. It was great to have some extra hands for round up!

MAARS, we ran fairly smoothly. Reports came in and were logged with 97% accuracy after comparing the source report and the Net Control log, this was very good considering that we have had very little message handling practice. We will be even more ready next time. Simplex proved to be difficult across longer distances and the range of the HT radios often led to only one side of the conversation heard by other members. With 5 watts on my mobile radio it was not readable to transmit in from Ogden. Simplex and mobile range limit seemed to be about the edge of the airport. Stagg Hill was the big obstacle. If we had permission to setup an antenna on the roof top, we might have increased the reach.

On the CERT Teams. We had our ID's and checked into the scene, assignments were given to search grids for survivors and log casualty reports. The CERT vests may be a good adaptation for GAB, good visibility and some extra pockets for tools. Painters tape was the hot setup for locating the times of entry and exit from search grids and showing they had been checked. The vests seemed to give a bit of extra awareness to the public that we were there. Several citizens asked questions on what was going on. We received some nice comments on the GAB program and what we were doing as an exercise.

Great job to all involved! I think it is a given we will be planning another "mission" WIBW and Manhattan Mercury will be invited to watch and report. We should get a nice bit of publicity and raise awareness for all the groups involved. Please feel free to forward this within the organizations.

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