

## Florida County Assisted by ARES Tests 60-meter Channels for Emergency Communications

Nassau County, north of Jacksonville, Florida, to the Georgia border, hosted a government 60-meter exercise session on May 7, 2018, to test the communications viability of the channelized band in the surrounding area of their jurisdiction, using NVIS antenna systems. In planning this operation, the county asked a 60-meter ARES net team to assist in reporting signal strengths and audio qualities of their operators to the county EOC (W4NAS), and if needed, assist in getting traffic into the Florida Department of Emergency Management (FDEM) in Tallahassee, the state capital, where operator KK4OAI was to serve as operator on duty at the FDEM's state EOC.

Other counties, NGOs, and ARES groups wanting to participate were allowed on a time permitting basis. The primary mission focus was on Nassau county's likely situations and environment in this drill. Groups were registered by 60-meter Net Control Station [Paul Eakin, KJ4G](#), who thanked all for their participation. "The results of data collected and lessons learned should be very valuable to both Nassau County managers and the 60-meter operators for further planning in emergencies," Eakin said.

60-meter Band (See the [60-meter band FAQ](#))

\*Only one signal at a time is permitted on any channel

\*Maximum effective radiated output is 100 W PEP

5330.5	USB phone <sup>1</sup> and CW/RTTY/data <sup>2</sup>
5346.5	USB phone <sup>1</sup> and CW/RTTY/data <sup>2</sup>
5357.0	USB phone <sup>1</sup> and CW/RTTY/data <sup>2</sup>
5371.5	USB phone <sup>1</sup> and CW/RTTY/data <sup>2</sup>
5403.5	USB phone <sup>1</sup> and CW/RTTY/data <sup>2</sup>

1. USB is limited to 2.8 kHz

2. CW and digital emissions must be centered 1.5 kHz above the channel frequencies indicated in the above chart