

**MIRO Radio operators:** Grete Porteous K7GHP

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**AAR (After-action report)**

Scope of exercise:

1. Follow July 31, 2021 script as much as possible.
2. Run MIRO Net with members using HT to check in from various locations they frequent on Saturday morning from 09:00 – 11:00.

Activities:

1. Sent the three (3) Winlink WA ICS-214 RR forms to King Co (primary) and State/Camp Murray (cc:) around 10:30.
2. Contacted as many local EOC's as possible on VHF.
3. Responded to Medina and Bellevue EOC's by voice on VHF.
4. Ran MIRO net from 09:00 – 11:00. Very busy and noisy!
5. Sent report to K7JGM and N7UK.

What could improve:

1. We need good headphones in the radio room, as both of us were talking and taking calls at the same time. There appeared to be no easy way to plug in headphones with radios bolted within cabinet.
2. We need 2 scribes (for sure) plus perhaps 1 more person on Winlink. The forms are tedious and take a lot of time to fill out properly. There is value in filling out Winlink forms ahead of time
3. Traccar would be good to have on all MIRO members' phones. Perhaps run a Zoom meeting for instructions on how to load it.
4. Opportunities for improvement for MIRO members as a whole when participating in an exercise:
  - a. Provide a call sign and then wait to be acknowledged. Do not simply launch into giving a full report.
  - b. Firmly press the PTT button and wait a second before talking. Not infrequently, the first part of a call sign or message was clipped. This happened with multiple participants.
  - c. Do not assume that net control/EOC operators can identify you based on your voice or location. We are fortunate to be a small enough group that this is often possible during our monthly nets. However, in a noisy room with a lot of participants calling in this really becomes impossible.
5. Best practice when using tactical call signs:
  - a. Announce tactical call sign at beginning of exercise, i.e. 'W7MIR will be called "Mercer Island" during the duration of the

- exercise.' Personal call signs by the individuals operating at W7MIR should also be provided.
- b. Use tactical call sign at beginning of communication with a station. Use legal call sign (W7MIR, or a personal call sign if not operating at W7MIR) at the end of the conversation.
  - c. At the conclusion of the exercise, identify the transmitting station by legal call sign.
6. Voice communication between W7MIR and King County ECC was CM3-CM4. Given that this is a key route of communication, is there anything MIRO can do to improve this situation?
  7. We found it harder than expected to get all the details down on a 309 in such a busy environment. 309's could use some re-working as far as areas for info.

What went right:

1. Great member participation (13 total).
2. Fun to see the Traccar working.
3. Found that we could reach most locations very well with HT's.
4. Grete made a map of those reachable areas for member dissemination. In the map, the pins are based on Grete's best guess as to location given cross streets and landmarks provided.

Map available at:

<https://www.google.com/maps/d/u/0/edit?mid=1g8kn6gG49FNBJxKja1SeUGIJIF4GTiDL&usp=sharing>

5. Busy radio room with many contacts was valuable to EOC operators and simulated a real-world situation surprisingly well. Other MIRO members would benefit by participating in the EOC role.

Other:

1. Surprised how tired we were afterward.