



State EMCOMM Meeting

20 June 2009

Held at Florida State EOC
in Tallahassee

Basic Agenda

- Concept of operations
- EOC Video
- Past and Future Hurricanes (average year)
- FDEM and Amateur Radio
- Presentations from the four Florida Section Managers and Emergency Coordinators
- 2009 Operations

Concept of Operations

- Florida DEM has embraced the NIMS ICS program
 - Fully integrated with all local, state and federal agencies
 - Organized at state, county, local level according to ICS
- State EM organization is supported by 18 different groups called Emergency Support Functions, or “ESF”
 - Cover military, state government, business, communications
 - ARES is incorporated into ESF-2 Communications
- All actions will be coordinated through the EOC using EMConstellation – a message/request database system
- DEM will provide training and funding for all groups under its organizational blanket (TBD how, though)

EMConstellation

- Message database
- Entry by government officials only
 - This includes requests for amateur support
- Deployments and requests for support are entered as messages
 - Entry via www.floridadisaster.org web page
 - Also directly at State EOC
- Will include ALL cross-county requests due to:
 - Liability requirements
 - Workman's Compensation laws

Florida State ECOM Vision

- Every person must provide for themselves for at least the first 72 hours
 - Relief organizations usually can't get into the field much faster than that
 - Size and scope of disaster may push this time out farther
- Communications re-established NLT 1 hour post-incident
- Security NLT first 12 hours post-incident
- Primary Search NLT 24 hours post-incident
- Stabilize situation NLT 72 hours post incident

FDEM and Amateur Radio

- DHS, FEMA & Florida DEM are pushing toward the following requirements:
 - Endorse, recognize and/or fund ONLY ARES groups
 - RACES is now no longer in the picture (FCC wrote them out)
 - Active RACES groups will be supported as long as they exist
 - ARES EC's, AEC's and deployed persons must have training in:
 - Emergency communications (ARRL ECOM 1 a must for all; 2 & 3 TBD) – Funding issues being discussed
 - National Incident Management System courses ICS 100, 200, 700a; 800b or 802 for senior ARES officers – free and on-line
 - Ensure that dispatching training has been incorporated to ensure that if tasked, our people can function effectively

Requirements for Deployment

- Common Access Cards
 - Issued by DOD
 - Must fill out background check
 - (TIER-1: merely local and very minimal, unlike the one I had to go through)
 - Verify that person is holder of valid driver's license for liability/workmen's comp laws
 - Existing CAC card holders don't need it (like me)
 - Required by DHS/FEMA for President-declared disasters
 - Requirement becomes active 1 July 2009
 - Must fill out FIPS-210 form
- Training as described in previous slide
- May/may not match Red Cross, SATERN requirements
- May not be needed for deployment to shelters

Modes of Communication

Amateur Digital Preferred

- SEDAN, using TALLY or TFH as passwords
- EchoLink (Node 74758 for EOC only)
- APRS – this mode is growing in popularity because of ability to track asset location
- D-STAR for message traffic and texting ability
- Digital packet via VHF/UHF for short-range local and for high-volume message traffic
- HF for low-speed data

Digital Communications

- WL2K is being pushed and works well, but other methods may push it to the side
- EchoLink is really making inroads
- WINMOR is being eagerly anticipated due to its high reliability and very low cost factors
- Other modes such as PSK-31 and MT-63 useful for low-volume traffic
- All messages will be converted to the agency-preferred format, most likely at the EOC

Southeastern ARES Vision

- Develop active database of all ARES members, including:
 - Equipment
 - Emergency power
 - Mobility/deployability factors such as health, age, allergies, etc. (liability again!)
 - Mobile homes
 - Maintain information access in a confidential manner to comply with Privacy Act laws
- Increased training and activities for all ARES members
- Increased membership
- Remove funding burden from local ARES groups
- Incorporate ARES and other groups via non-confrontational relationships (RACES, MERT, etc.)
- Improve and promote our ARES image

General Info

- All ARES members invited to check into HF net at 0900 local on 3950 kHz Mon-Sat; 28115 kHz Saturdays at 2030 local (8:30 PM)
- North Florida ECOM plan to be completed within 60 days PROVIDED all EC's have submitted their plans to Paul Eakin (hint, hint!)
- Paul Eakin needs list of Clay County ARES repeaters, with PL's and capabilities (EchoLink, etc.), to update new database being developed for cross-state comms
- Web sites:
 - www.Floridadisaster.org
 - www.miamiherald.com
 - www.youtube.com/FloridaSERT
 - View TV Spot at www.wctv.tv/home/headlines/48691517.html#

2009/2010 Plans

- Field Day – get the local EOC people out and show us off
- 3-day SERT congress at Camp Blanding
 - Florida State Interoperability Communications Test
 - One days' worth of actual cross-mode testing
 - Check linking capabilities from South Florida to EOC and from Pensacola to Key West
 - Federal funding for travel, lodging, etc (50 mile radius limit leaves us out).
 - Date TBD, but December/January time frame expected