

AuxComm Report



Michigan State Police Emergency Management and Homeland Security Division

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Background

- ARES/RACES and Army MARS (Military Auxiliary Radio System) have worked together for some time
- Mid-2012 began considering the formation of an Auxiliary Communications organization to bring together volunteer communications resources and EM community
- Reached out to other MARS branches, SATERN (Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network, CAP (Civil Air Patrol), REACT
- Early 2013 established CAP station at SEOC (State Emergency Operations Center)
- Late 2013 kicked off AuxComm conference



Structure

- Created an “AuxComm Committee” per MSP District
- Committee consisted of:
 - MSP District Coordinator
 - ARES Rep
 - RACES Rep
 - MARS Rep (From each branch)
 - CAP Rep
 - SATERN Rep
 - Two county EM’s
- Any established volunteer radio organization can participate



District Report

- Each committee meets at least quarterly
- Objective to drive projects valuable to the District
- Contribute to statewide projects where appropriate
- Most committees still feeling their way around



Notable Results

- Districts found significant advantages from meeting:
 - EM's gain better understanding of resources
 - AuxComm member organizations and EM's exchanging contact information
 - Better understanding of activation requirements
 - CAP, SATERN, MARS each have specific requirements for use
 - Some areas having dialog with all volunteer communication resources for the first time



Notable Results

- Some Districts re-engaging on existing projects
 - D-Star in District 5
 - Completing VHF in EOC's in District 3
- Some Districts starting new initiatives
 - D-Star in District 8



Good Ideas from Meetings

- District 5 - Establish the AuxComm committee under an existing committee as a sub-committee
 - Guidelines and bylaws are established
 - Resources in place
- District 5 - Publish District repeater lists with PL's
- District 1 - Assure COM-L's are up to date on volunteer resources
- District 6 - Lake County Shelter exercise AAR (After Action Report) reported out to AuxComm group.



Good Ideas from Meetings

- Communication Workgroup Sub-Committee exercise with FEMA Office of Emergency Communications AAR report considers dispatch centers may be overwhelmed in an incident. Volunteer radio can assist.
- RACES participating in State Emergency Communications Committee for first time.



To Do

- Establish District level operating guidelines
- Establish a State Committee
- Establish the organization formally with a Memorandum Of Agreement, Articles or Constitution
- Increase information sharing
 - Google group – State of Michigan Auxiliary Communications
 - AuxComm page linked to MSP Internet page
- Long range planning



Discussion Topics

- AuxComm initiative to have at least one volunteer trained as a COM-L in each District and/or county
- Strengthen the credentialing of volunteer radio resources across the state



COM-L

- AuxComm initiative to have at least one volunteer trained as a COM-L in each District and/or county
 - A District or county needing a COM-L resource would have them available through volunteer radio groups
- Integrate with COMU Plan Objective #1 (Bryce Tracy)
- Volunteer radio COM-L's remove need for county
 - To maintain COM-L on staff
 - Maintain COM-L credentialing and training
- Volunteer radio operators are strongly motivated to get and maintain COM-L training
- Combined resources of District, county and AuxComm make finishing the workbook more feasible



Credentialing

- Capt. Kelenske has requested that the volunteer radio credentialing system be strengthened statewide
 - Provide confidence for EM's and incident scene managers across the state that volunteer's presenting a credential have met ARPSC (Amateur Radio Public Service Corps) standards
- Remove differing interpretations of requirements across jurisdictions
- Needed to facilitating the use of volunteers across jurisdictions



RACES/AuxComm Card

- Proposed – Volunteer radio groups assure the credentialing of their volunteers
 - Assure the training requirements are met
 - Assure a background check has been completed
 - Modify the RACES cards
 - Add a card for other organizations
 - Add a QR code on card to identify person
 - Online database
 - Could add training without re-issuing card



RACES Card

- Could revoke credentialing without retrieving card
- Concerns about background check
 - Volunteer radio leadership strongly believe their membership should meet ARPSC requirements for training and background checks
- MSP has suggested they could assist volunteer radio groups to complete background checks
- QR code on card would allow additional information
 - Deployments



RACES Card

R.A.C.E.S.

This is to certify that
Sam Spade, WD2EF

whose name and photograph appear
 heron is a member of the Civil Defense
Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service
 State of Michigan

Deputy State Director of Emergency Management

Emergency Management Coordinator




Expires December 2014

Sam Spade, WD2EF

Member	Background
ICS-700	ICS-100
ICS-200	ICS-800
REP-101	ARECC001



Training record

Sam Spade, WD2EF

RACES Membership

2008-12-05	Removed	Genesee County Emergency Management
2007-03-14	Completed	Genesee County Emergency Management

[Return](#)

John J. McDonough, WB8RCR

Training Record

IS-700	2005-09-27	Completed	FEMA
IS-100	2006-01-26	Completed	FEMA
IS-200	2006-01-27	Completed	FEMA
IS-800	2006-01-25	Completed	FEMA
IS-22	1999-01-24	Completed	BAY
ARECC001	2007-11-12	Completed	ARRL
REP101	2010-08-05	Completed	MSP



Deltas

Not without challenges:

- Database would be hosted on ARES site
- Setting up a database is a challenge
- Training data maintained by volunteer radio local leadership (ex. RACES EC's)
- Background data maintained by volunteer radio District leadership (ex RACES DEC's)
- DC's and EM's don't need more work

