



How Auxcomm Plays into Interoperability

Auxcomm Services

- Five different services, each with unique capabilities:
 - ARES
 - CAP
 - MARS
 - RACES
 - SATERN

ARES

- Largest group, in (almost) every county
- Typically the first activated
- Comms plus (sometimes) others
 - SKYWARN
 - Damage Assessment
 - Technical Assistance
- Also used for non-emergency events like runs, walks, fairs, etc.

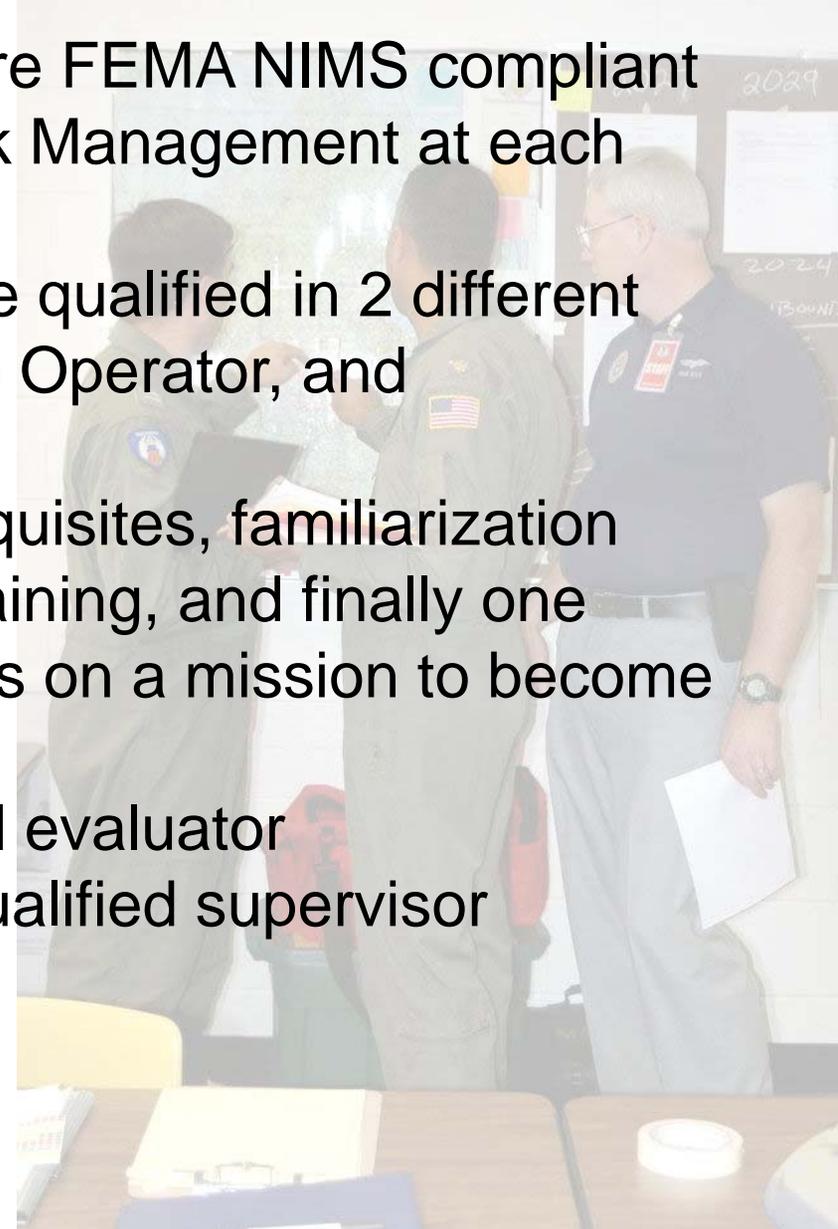
ARES

- Capabilities vary depending on need, resources
 - VHF radiotelephone
 - HF radiotelephone, radiotelegraph
 - Narrow Band Emergency Messaging System (mostly ICS forms)
 - Packet (very slow Internet over radio)
 - SSTV (slow image transfer over radio)
 - ATV (video)
 - Others



CAP Members

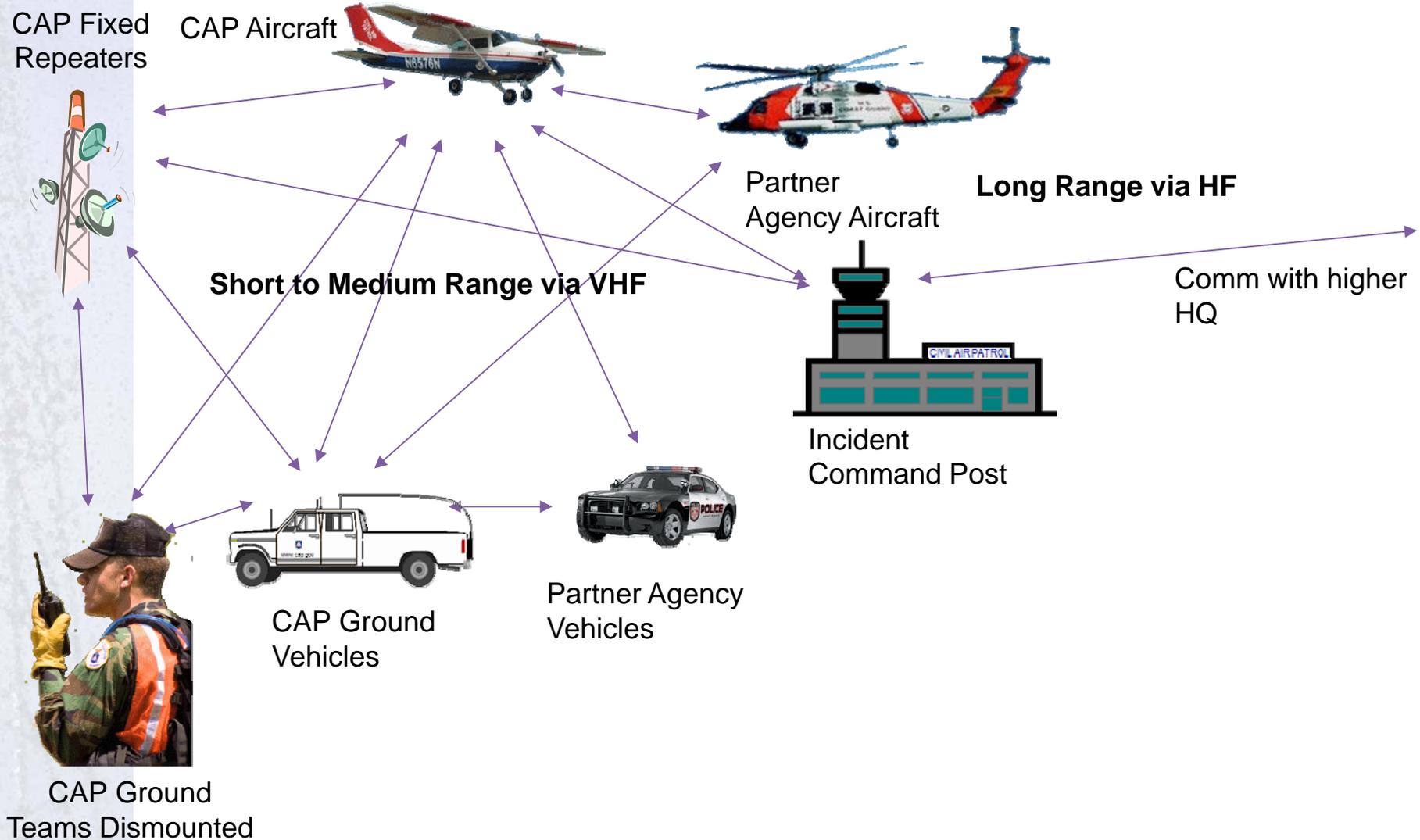
- All members in emergency services are FEMA NIMS compliant
- All members practice Operational Risk Management at each mission
- Communication members can become qualified in 2 different specialty qualifications (Mission Radio Operator, and Communication Unit Leader)
- Each specialty qualification has prerequisites, familiarization and preparatory training, advanced training, and finally one must successfully complete two sorties on a mission to become qualified.
- Each task must be signed off by a skill evaluator
- Each sortie must be evaluated by a qualified supervisor



CAP Capabilities

- Encrypted Communications via CAP VHF Frequencies
- Can provide a virtual 10,000 foot tower (Manual (person to person repeater) or fly a portable repeater) in one of our airplanes
- Trained Radio Operators
- Portable antenna systems for VHF and HF
- Operate on Department of Defense Frequencies
- Interop Frequencies
 - VTAC and VCALL
 - MPSCS (Event Channels)

CAP Communications System



MARS

- Military Auxiliary Radio System
- Highly trained
 - MARS stations have required exercises
- More access to Federal assets
- Voice and data communications
- Encrypted communications
- SHARES qualified
- Additional frequencies
 - Under some conditions can be helpful compared to amateur frequencies

RACES

- Not actually an organization, but an amateur service
- In Michigan we use it as a way to identify ARES members vetted by EMC
- Sometimes locations require RACES credentials, may have mixed ARES/RACES activations
- Typically IS courses plus background check
 - There is a recommended set of requirements agreed to by MSP/EMHSD and ARRL
 - Individual counties may have specific requirements
- Whenever possible, leadership positions in ARES and RACES are held by the same individual

RACES

- There are three amateur radio service
 - 1) The Amateur Service
 - 2) The Amateur Satellite Service
 - 3) The Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service
- An amateur operates in the first service almost all the time
- There are only a few, rare instances when an amateur operates in the RACES

RACES

- Two circumstances “activate” RACES:
 - A station registered with RACES may communicate with a Federal station which does not possess an amateur license if authorized by local civil defense authorities
 - On a presidential declaration, the director of the OSTP may authorize RACES stations whatever privileges may be necessary

SATERN

- Logistical support for The Salvation Army Emergency Disaster Services
- Providing an emergency comm link for EDS service requests coming from/going to our Michigan AuxComm partners (ARES, RACES, MSP EmComm, MARS and CAP)
- HF Health and Welfare net

