



What is Auxcomm

Michigan Auxcomm

History

- Volunteer radio has had a close relationship with the Michigan State Police since at least the 1930's
- The Amateur Radio Emergency Corps (AREC) was formed in 1931 although at that time it had little presence in the U.S.
- The Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) is the successor to AREC and is supported by the Amateur Radio Relay League, the national amateur radio organization
- In 1952, the Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service was formed, partly because a “War Emergency Radio Service” had to be created from scratch

MARS

- In 1925, the Auxiliary Amateur Radio System was formed by the Signal Corps, in 1948 becoming the Military Affiliate Radio System, renamed in 2009 to the Military Auxiliary Radio System
- Since the early 2000's, MARS has participated in incidents and exercises at the Michican State EOC

SATERN

- In 1988, the Salvation Army formed SATERN to provide communications to the Army's disaster services mission
- SATERN members have participated in communications response for a number of incidents, but were not recognized as a separate entity until recently
- SATERN also operates a world-wide health and welfare radio network

Civil Air Patrol

- In the 1930's, amateur pilots organized to assist the defense of their country. The Civil Air Patrol was organized the day before the attack on Pearl Harbor
- In 1946, the government formally recognized the CAP, and in 1948 was named as an auxiliary to the United States Air Force
- Michigan has used CAP for a number of missions over the years, but their capability as a communications asset was only recently recognized

More History

- In the late 90's, California began an Auxiliary Communications Program
 - However, it was primarily RACES giving support to the Red Cross
- Later, a number of states recognized that backup communications from a variety of services could offer flexibility and resillience
- Michigan began efforts to create an Auxcomm program in 2012. MARS had a presence in the SEOC for some time; a CAP station was added in 2013

Still more history

- In late 2015, the State Interoperable Communications Board authorized the formation of an Auxcomm Working Group
- Marc Breckenridge (Washtenaw) and John McDonough (Midland) were named as co-chairs

Auxcomm WG

- Currently, the WG membership includes
 - A representative from each District
 - A representative from each of the five services
 - ARES
 - CAP
 - MARS
 - RACES
 - SATERN

WG Goals

- Last year we reported an Auxcomm goal of a volunteer COM-L in each District. The COMU WG has laid the groundwork and all that remains is to recruit
- Currently the WG is working on more basic goals:
 - 1) Articulate concisely the capabilities of each service
 - 2) Communicate to county EMCs how to activate each service