

## After Action Report

DATE: 20 September 2008

SUBJECT: After Action Report – Stronghold Training Event

FROM: Robert Hollister

TO: David Noland, CCSO SAR Coordinator

CC: Mike Evans, CC Emergency Services  
RACES Team

### 1. PURPOSE:

This report briefly describes the support provided by the Cochise County RACES Communications Unit to the Cochise County Search and Rescue Unit training on 20 September 2008. It does not address any SAR specific operational issues.

### 2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The RACES team was requested to support a Search Training Mission in the East Cochise Stronghold. The RACES unit elected to make this a training event in concert with the SAR unit to provide some new and refresher training to RACES unit members. As part of the training, the County-Owned Base-X Shelter System was deployed by the Health Department and erected at the training site. This provided basic familiarization of the system and its capabilities as well as training in its erection to the participants.

### 3. LESSONS LEARNED/ISSUES

Driver Familiarization – We have added two items to the cab of the MCU that need to be powered up/down at the beginning and end of deployments. The first is the APRS tracker system and the second is the Cell Phone System amplifier. Both of these items should be plugged into the cigarette lighter plugs in the cab. Both Driver and co-driver need to be aware of these items and be sure they are appropriately powered up at the onset of a mission and powered down upon completion.

Pneumatic Mast – Apparently the pneumatic Mast problem experienced at Paradise was an anomaly. It functioned fine during the training today.

MCU Food Supply - The Heater Meals in the MCU have passed their optimum use date. Replacements need to be ordered.

Long Wire-to-go antenna – We exercised the long wire antenna off the back side of the MCU for HF operations on both voice and digital signals. A collapsible mast section was used at the far end during this deployment tied off using a hitch adapter on my POV. This provided a nearly flat-top configuration. It has

definitely proven to be a good addition to the HF antenna options and performed admirably. It is a low profile option and very effective for in-state and even out to about 400 miles. We successfully sent traffic via the Winlink Network, connecting to a station in San Diego, for Internet relay.

Safety Issue – During the shutdown process, we failed to ensure the roof was clear before stowing the Satellite Antenna. Although no one was injured, someone could be knocked off balance and fall off the roof if the antenna hit them unexpectedly while the satellite dish is being stowed. One member was detaching the wire antenna when the satellite dish was being stowed.

#### 4. COMMENTS

Training – Although there was a small crew today, the requirements for support were also minimal: 1 D&P Team and 1 Ground Team were deployed. We covered basic logging, satellite operations (email/weather), HF Email & checked into the Region 9 MARS network. Good signals were reported on the HF Voice using the long wire antenna. Great weather and the new training location promises to be a good one.

#### 5. ACTION ITEMS

- Order replacement Heater Meals
- Add additional warning sign to Satellite control panel.

#### Appendix – Participants

- CCSO SAR Unit
- RACES Team
  - Roger Peters – MCU Driver
  - RB Rice – MCU Operator
  - Bob Hollister - MCU Operator/ /Chase
  - Dave Cook, MCU Operator
  - Jim Lewis, MCU Operator
  - Mitch Mitchell, possible new Recruit for RACES

*Bob*  
Robert L Hollister

Thought for the day:

*"The greatest discovery of all time is that a person can change his future by merely changing his attitude."*

*Oprah Winfrey*