

## Net Notes for January 27, 2010

### News and Announcements

#### 1) Upcoming Events

2/20 Yuma Hamfest/ARCA Meeting  
2/20-21 Search and Rescue Academy, Sierra Vista  
3/06 Old Pueblo 50 Miler, Santa Rita Mountains  
3/13 Scottsdale Hamfest/ARCA Meeting, Ft McDowell Casino  
4/24-25 La Vuelta de Bisbee

2) SAR Academy – Another reminder that if you are relatively new to RACES, I strongly recommend that you attend the SAR academy. It is a one time requirement but brings you up to speed on the legal basis for why the Sheriff's Office is responsible, exposes you to the common vocabulary you will hear on the radio as well as map reading and the techniques you will hear discussed on the radio. All of these will help you, the operator, react appropriately and understand what is going on during a mission. If you have attended a previous academy, a refresher every so often is also recommended. The Academy is two days long from approximately 8:30 – 5:00 with a break for lunch. It consists mostly of indoor classes but there is also an outdoor segment so dress accordingly.

3) SAR Note – Most of you are familiar with the communications code 901 and its meaning. Due to an experience on a recent search the SAR team is adding four status codes. These four status codes and their meaning will be found in the MCU above the radio and in the email net notes this evening. They are not to be disseminated outside of our group. [See list in the MCU. --CARA Webmaster]

Training – As a refresher tonight I would like to provide a list of duties and/or responsibilities of a RACES operator at or during an incident.

First the lead communications operator or team chief.

- Determine who Incident Commander or Operations Officer is
- Obtain a mission briefing from the Incident Commander or Incident Operations Officer
- Determine RACES communications personnel mission needs
- Advise Incident Command Staff on available RACES communications capabilities
- Ensure the Incident Communications Center is established and communications plan implemented.
- Supervise RACES communications activities
- Ensure a Mission/Communications Log (ICS 309) is maintained
- Ensure that all personnel are signed in on arrival at the scene and signed out upon departure.

All deployed RACES operators.

First we will cover MCU specific functions and then general tasks:

MCU Specific:

- If you are assigned to the Mobile Communications Unit, assist in setting it up.
- Keep MCU and immediate operations area clear of unnecessary personnel not involved in official functions (Operators need to hear what is going on).
- Relay messages to and from Incident Command Staff as quickly as possible
- Keep track of deployed teams (e.g. SAR Teams) in/out times and welfare checks on the whiteboard current. Welfare checks on all deployed teams are done on an

hourly basis if you have not had contact with the team. That may be modified by the Incident Commander.

- Assist in issuing and maintaining accountability of MCU Hand-held personal radios.
- Assist in personal radio battery resupply and/or battery charging.
- Recover any checked out equipment from relieved or released units.
- Keep the Team Chief informed of important facts that come to light, especially if he/she has been out of MCU.
- Assist in the tear down procedures and stowing of equipment when the mission is complete.

#### General Tasks:

- Establish and maintain an accurate Communication Log (ICS 309) for the mission at the Incident Site or your assigned location. Document key events pertaining to the incident even if they are not pertinent to your location.
- Provide technical information as required regarding:
  - § Adequacy of RACES communications systems in operation
  - § Geographic limitations on RACES communication systems
  - § RACES equipment capabilities
  - § Amount and types of RACES equipment available to support mission
  - § Anticipated problems in the use of RACES communications equipment (Most likely terrain related, relocate, use taller antenna, etc)
- Remember to use the “READ BACK” procedure on all facts received from the field to ensure accuracy.
- Remember to tell the Team Chief if you are weak in a task area so that the team chief can provide additional assistance.
- If you feel overwhelmed or unsure of what you need to do, immediately advise the team chief. Do not wait. We all need help on some things.
- Maintain privacy of privileged communications and ensure all releases of information to the public concerning the incident are channeled through the Incident Command Public Information Officer.
- Assist in tearing down MCU or Blue Eagle location when mission is complete and properly securing all gear.

#### Home Unit Operators

- Maintain Communications Log (ICS 309) for key events
- Provide message relays as needed.
- Politely assist in keeping non-mission traffic moved to alternate channel/frequency
- Assist Communications Lead in developing a crew for subsequent shift if requested
- If you have the capability, such as using a scanner, monitor primary operations channel as well as the assigned amateur channel. A good channel to monitor is the SAR channel – 155.220
- As a "neutral" operator, provide the Communications Lead with feedback and input to After Action Report as how the missions “sounded” from an outside source.

Please remember that WE ARE A TEAM and it takes a TEAM (Training - Experience - Attitude - Mentoring) effort to get any job done successfully.

Don't forget our next Net will be on February 10 at 2000 Hrs. Also, don't forget the CARA net on Thursday evening at 1900 hours on the 146.76 repeater. This is N7INK and the net is closed.

Bob

Robert L Hollister

Thought for the day:

***Life Lesson # 44 "Life isn't tied with a bow, but it's still a gift."***