

## RACES Notes for 07/11/2007

### News and Announcements

#### 1) Upcoming Events:

Jul 21 - SAR Training in Miller Canyon

Sep 1-3 - Paradise 2007

2) MCU Update - We are working with Frontline, the company that built the MCU shelter, to get a replacement generator door. I am still waiting for more info on this from Fleet. We also put some screw in plugs or caps on the mast antenna cable connectors to protect them from rain and weather.

They are connected to the mast by a wire so they will not get lost when not are screwed into the cable ends. Just be careful so they don't get loose from their cable. In our most recent After Action Report it was mentioned that the team putting the MCU away at the end of a mission is sometimes forgetting to properly configure the power panel. The proper configuration includes:

First, reconnect the shore power cable connector to the MCU. Then turn on the circuit breaker on the exterior wall of the generator shed providing power to the shore cable and the MCU. Inside the MCU, turn the power distribution switch from OFF to Shore Power ON. You should see a lit green led indicating you now have AC power. Next turn the main AC circuit breaker ON, and finally set the battery charger breaker switch to the "ON" position.

I understand that you are probably quite tired after returning from extended and overnight missions, but carefully following this procedure will ensure the generator and vehicle batteries maintain their charge and will be ready for the next mission.

3) SAR Training - On Saturday 21 July the SAR team will conduct SAR training in the Miller Canyon area of the Huachuca Mountains. This is an excellent opportunity for new RACES members, or those who may have allowed their MCU skills to get a little rusty, to get training on the MCU. It will run from 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM in the Miller Canyon Trailhead Parking Lot just off Highway 92 south of Nicksville. The SAR team is also looking to borrow metal detectors as they will be looking for some spent cartridges in the search area. If you have a working metal detector that we can borrow for the day, let me know. If you can come out for a couple hours or more, let me know and we will put you on the training schedule.

4) Home Unit Reporting/Volunteer Monthly Reports - Each month I turn in a report to the county and to the AZ Section Emergency Coordinator to record our volunteer hours. I usually can get the deployed members hours from the lead operator but don't always get the hours from our Home Unit Monitors. I need the home unit members to send a short report to the mission lead operator to ensure the home unit members get credit for

the hours that are performed during these missions. I am sure several individuals have been standing by that have not been properly acknowledged. Just send a short radiogram or email message including the mission name, date and total time spent monitoring. This will then be included in the monthly volunteer report. We will cover more on this subject during our next net.

5) RACES Pager - Just a reminder that if you have a RACES Pager and not submitted the annual dues payment yet, it is due this month. If you do not have a RACES pager and wish to get one, contact me and I will arrange for one to be made available. The annual dues are \$15 or \$1.50 a month. You save \$3 a year if you pay on an annual basis and save me a lot of paperwork.

Thanks

Training: On the last three nets we covered some material from the ICS 300 as well as some refresher from basic Incident Command System procedures and vocabulary. We talked a little bit about Unified Command and mentioned that it is used in larger incidents. We also mentioned that it should be used in incidents involving multiple jurisdictions, a single jurisdiction with multi-agency involvement, or multiple jurisdictions with multi-agency involvement. Unified Command allows agencies with different legal, geographic, and functional authorities and responsibilities to work together effectively without affecting individual agency authority, responsibility, or accountability.

Some of the benefits of using a Unified Command include:

- There is one set of objectives developed for the entire incident
- A collective approach is made to developing strategies to achieve incident goals
- Information flow is improved between all jurisdictions and agencies involved in the incident
- All agencies with responsibility for the incident have an understanding of one another's priorities and restrictions
- No agency's authority or legal requirements will be neglected or compromised.
- Duplicative efforts are reduced or eliminated, thus reducing cost and the chances for frustration and or conflict.

Changing the discussion a little here, on the last net I said that we would talk a little bit about the communications unit and where we fit in the overall command structure. Some of you may remember from IC 100 or 200 courses that the communications unit is part of the Logistics Section. In the Logistics Section may be found the Support Branch, consisting of a supply unit, facilities unit and a ground support unit. The second component of the Logistics Section is the Service Branch consisting of the Communications Unit, Medical Unit and the Food Unit.

Do we always have a complete Logistics Section or Support Branch? The answer is no, We only activate those pieces of the Incident Command structure that we need. For example, on a typical Search Mission, the

Communications Unit may be the only component of the Logistics Section activated. One of the key features of Incident Command is the ability to expand or collapse to fit the complexity of the incident.

Well I am still a little tired from last night's mission so that's all for this evening. On our next net we will talk about some of the different reports that are compiled during a month and who gets them. Let's go down the net for comments.

Bob  
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