

RACES Notes for 11/12/2008

News and Announcements

1) Upcoming Events:

- 11/13 - Ft. Huachuca Safety/Preparedness Day at TMAC
- 12/06 – Hamfest/ARCA Meeting, Mesa Community College
- 12/13 – CARA Christmas Dinner
- 12/13 – SAR Christmas Dinner

2) Ft Huachuca Safety Day – We have filled in all the assigned gaps. You are all invited to come and have a look around though. Lots of interesting vendors and displays on the parking area as well as inside the Thunder Mountain Activity Center.

Training - Incident Security

We have talked about incident scene or site security before but there has been an increased emphasis placed on site security and awareness that I see in some of the law enforcement and first responder literature I read. Consequently I would like to go back over this subject this evening.

Usually when an incident is discovered and or reported, and often before responders can even be dispatched, volunteers, victims and spectators will converge on the scene. When responders arrive, they must first separate the spectators, and then the volunteers from the victims and finally establish a secure inner perimeter around the incident. This inner perimeter allows the ICS team to:

- Control Access
- Establish resource accountability
- Ensure safety of the public
- Establish a working environment for responders that is as safe and secure as possible.

As was evident on 9/11, force protection must be a primary consideration in an environment where responders may be a primary or secondary target. Incident Security requires:

- Distinguishing agency personnel who have been officially dispatched from those who may be "self-dispatched".

- Identifying and credentialing (providing incident identification that allows access to the incident) officially dispatched mutual aid resources.

- Establishing controlled points for entry or departure of authorized personnel.

Carrying and displaying your RACES ID Card at the scene of an incident will facilitate your entry to the communications unit. Even with that card though, you may still not be recognized by whoever has been assigned to control access to the incident scene or the command center. Maintain good personal self control and ask that your presence at the scene be verified through the Incident Command. It is for your own safety and those of the response element that you may be asked to wait until your identity and need for your presence is verified. This will normally only happen at larger more critical incidents but it could happen at any potential crime scene where law enforcement is simply trying to protect the crime scene.

Get to know who is supposed to be there and who is not. If you believe there is someone present who does not belong, check with your supervisor to verify the individual's status. The MCU and the immediate area is generally considered a restricted area and not a place for folks to just "hang-out". This is particularly critical during crime scene support activities. Victim family members will generally not be allowed continued access to the MCU nor should they be encouraged to "hang-out" in close proximity to the MCU where they could overhear critical information about a victim's status. Information about a victim's status is normally only provided to the family by someone designated by the Incident Commander. Requests for information from press or media representatives are normally only furnished through the designated Public Information Officer or PIO.

Since the last time we discussed this topic, we have added another tool to help maintain incident site security and awareness. I am talking about our mast camera. It is a very useful tool to frequently use in scanning the immediate area. If you are not familiar with how to use the quick zoom, scan, and photo capture features, be sure to let me or one of the other experienced operators show you how to use it. If you see something suspicious or out of the ordinary, be sure to bring it to the attention of one of the senior team members or the Incident Commander.

That's all I have for this evening, let's go down the roster for comments.

Bob

Robert L Hollister

Thought for the day:

"Friends show their love - in times of trouble, not in happiness"

Euripides