Deployment Exercise 10.14.18
Collins View ARO Report

Prepared: Monday October 22, 2018 (edited 10/23/18)
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Deployment Log:

12:30 - Arrived at the Collins View Staging area, met with Mary Ellen and Nancy who were doing some pre-setup. Picked an area next to the church to park where I will setup the remote base.

Equipment Deployed:
- Midland MicroMobile MXT400 (Primary GMRS radio)
- TYT TH-7800 Dual Band 2m/70cm FM (Primary Ham Radio)
- Kenwood d700 Dual band 2m/70cm FM (Backup Ham Radio)
- TRAM 1465 Land Mobile Base Ground Plane with ¼ wave GMRS antenna
- TRAM 1465 Land Mobile Base Ground Plane with 5/8/1/4 wave 2m/70cm antenna
- Zip Tie Tram 1465's to 33' fiberglass mast, Ham at the top and GMRS about 3' below
- Vehicle also equipped with rooftop NMO mounts with GMRS and Ham antennas as backup
- 1x 50AH 12v gel-cell battery, johnson power pole connectors and distribution block
- 2x 4AH 12v gel-cell backup batteries

12:40 - Heard non-NET traffic on FRS channel 7 with a very strong signal (adult and child playing a game). Attempted to contact station(s) and was not heard. They were likely using a privacy tone.

12:44 - Received deployment message from PBEM. Setup the remote base, it took <10 min to deploy the 33' mast and connect the GMRS and HAM antennas to their respective radios.

12:45 - Heard several NET attempt to checkin on channel 7 before formal announcement of a net. Asked all stations to stand by. Additional stations still attempted check ins, multiple announcements were made asking stations to standby.

12:50 - Checked in with resource net (MC2), released to river-south net (147.5 MHz)

12:51 - Changed ham frequency to river-south net, another station was checking in so I spun up the collins view FRS channel 7 net

12:52 - Took checkins, assigned tactical callsigns, and asked stations with traffic to standby. Multiple stations gave traffic with their check in. I attempted to document traffic, but I asked stations with traffic to stand by.

12:58 - Checked into the river-south net

13:00 - Began to take formal traffic from NETs on channel 7. At the time I did not have a runner, so was documenting but not delivering to incident command (IC). The number of messages was overwhelming forcing me to abandon the station log (NET form 6) for the FRS net.

13:10 - After a request, I was assigned a runner who took my messages to IC.

13:30 - Kevin Davis (KE7K) was assigned to assist communications and took over as net

control on the FRS net.

13:51 - Received a call from river-south net control. Told I had a message from South Burlingame Net, asked to QSY to FRS channel 7 to receive it.

13:52 - Kevin acknowledged South Burlingame on FRS 7 and took the message.

13:55 - Returned to River-south net and checked in

14:07 - Received a reply message from IC, asked permission from River South Net Control to contact South Burlingame and relay message on the net. Made contact with South Burlingame and replied. Returned the net to net control.

15:43 - Contact River South and ask for permission to secure. (granted)

15:44 - QSY to resource net, asked permission to secure (granted)

Notes:
What Worked

- Physical location, the remote base had good coverage of the neighborhood. With a modist GMRS antenna I was able to make consistent contact with all NETS and the South Burlingame staging area.
- Equipment and batteries, we did not need any of the backup equipment and the 50AH battery had full voltage after the exercise. No charging was necessary for the duration of the exercise. Antennas remained up on the mast using only 2 zip ties each despite wind.
- Having a runner and an additional radio operator, the addition of Kevin as a FRS net control and an assigned SUV as a runner made getting messages to IC much easier.
- Having lots of blank paper, pens and clipboards
- Deploying a tent by the door to the van keep the remote base cool and comfortable
- Check Ins and tactical callsigns, every net checked in and was assigned a unique tactical call sign, they were used for the duration of the exercise.
- Passing messages both through the subnet as well as directly with SB net.
- Dealt with significant interference from non-net stations on FRS 7. Despite, was able to continue to use the channel.
- We prepared a SITREP, but were not asked for it so it was not transmitted.
- Having a Situation Report (SITREP) ready to go if requested on a NET form 6
- Having the frequencies of Resource Net, River-south Subnet and W7ECC on stickers affixed to table and equipment

What Needs Work

- We had NETs try to check in before the FRS net had started and some before the exercise message from PBEM was sent.
- NETs giving their traffic with their check in on FRS 7
- NETs generally not respecting "ALL STATIONS STAND-BY" or giving traffic informally without being recognized by net control.
- In the first 15 min I was overwhelmed with traffic. The inability to get stations to stand by meant I had to delay checking into the River South subnet by nearly 20 min.
- Bad record keeping of FRS traffic. Because of the overwhelming amount of messages I abandoned the log for the FRS net.
- Aftershock check ins, teams were sent into the community and we received a message

from IC to check their welfare post-aftershock. However, we did not have a roster of who was on what team.
- Using radios within the staging area between command staff and to AROs. This created even more traffic on the FRS net that could have been done by a runner.
- Non-priority messages being relayed via radio by NETs that were on their way in. Should have been written down and carried.
- We never received a message from W7EOC but wanted one.
- Two (sometimes 3) simultaneous radio nets is too much for one operator.
- With two operators in the same vehicle headphones are likely required.

Recommendations
- Regular radio training as part of CV Net meetings. Priorities, what standby means, how to give traffic, message priorities and waiting to be acknowledged by net-control
- Practice having the CV net change channels (or discussion about it). We made the decision to stay on 7 despite a bit of interference. It's not something we have trained. Can we add it to laminated cards both main and backup channels.
- Practice preparing a SITREP (on form 8) and giving it to communications
- Discuss FRS and HAM priorities. I think our FRS net should take priority and we will check in with PBEM/River South when able, thoughts?
- Using SUVs as runners worked well and could dramatically reduce radio traffic within staging area
- Keep a few headphones in go kit
- Pre-write a fill-in SITREP on a NET form 6, keep in go-kit and beecon box