Auxiliary Communications (AUXCOMM) Training Course

Unit 10: Intrastate and Interstate Radio Networks

Terminal Learning Objective

Enabling Learning Objectives

TLO: Enable AUXCOMM personnel to plan, coordinate, and establish intrastate and interstate radio networks.

ELO A: Identify requirements for intrastate and interstate radio networks.

ELO B: Identify intrastate and interstate AUXCOMM planning and operations.

Unit Introduction

- This unit describes Intrastate and Interstate radio communications among AUXCOMM personnel
  - Intrastate: Within the state
  - Interstate: State-to-State
Intrastate Emergency Communications

- Auxiliary Communicators may be asked to provide emergency back-up communications when normal communications fail or falter.
- AUXCOMM's primary mission is not only to provide emergency communications "When all else fails…" The mission is much broader and inclusive.
- Every State EOC should have AUXCOMM personnel available to provide both statewide HF voice and digital networks.

Intrastate Emergency Communications (Cont’d)

- It is desirable that each region within a state should have AUXCOMM resources available down to the county/city level if possible
- An AUXCOMM Committee should develop SOPs for the request, operation, and demobilization of auxiliary communications voice and data networks
- At the state level, the AUXCOMM Committee could be led by a state radio officer and/or other key AUXCOMM leadership as designated by the State Emergency Management Agency

Intrastate Emergency Communications (Cont’d)

- Keep all potential AUXCOMM personnel continually informed via appropriate means.
- Plan for 24/7 operations with enough net control operators (recommend up to 3 deep per shift) and plan for an event that will last up to seven days
  - When conducting operations on HF bands, designate operators in different locations who can serve as relay stations or backup net control.
- Ensure all net control operators are trained and will be available to staff their assigned location during an event. Net control operators should not have other, possibly conflicting, duties.
Intrastate Emergency Communications (Cont’d)

- Make sure all auxiliary personnel have taken care of their families in advance of an event
- Activate only when notified by an ACM, EOC, Incident Commander, COML, and/or in accordance with established SOPs

Intrastate Emergency Communications (Cont’d)

- Develop and execute any necessary MOUs with area repeater owners in advance of an event
- Inform the AUXCOMM community of dates/times and frequencies of weekly nets/tests
- Document all weekly nets/tests by recording participants’ callsign, location, start/ending time, and any other significant data

Other Intrastate Considerations

- Volunteer for other non-emergency EOC events: festivals, sporting events, training exercises, concerts, parades, weather spotting, etc.
- The AUXCOMM planning committee should always solicit input from the entire AUXCOMM community and COMLs on how to improve communications
- Planning, developing, and executing emergency communications takes dedicated personnel
Other Intrastate Considerations (Cont’d)

- The only thing voluntary about auxiliary communications is when you first join, and later if you decide to quit. Everything in-between is a commitment to serve the public safety and emergency management community.

- Auxiliary communicators are there to serve government agencies and the community, not themselves or their amateur radio organizations.

Interstate Emergency Communications

- AUXCOMM interstate communications networks must be coordinated with all states concerned

- Each state will always have first priority for utilization and deployment of its AUXCOMM resources

- Regular and frequent training should take place between states

- Always involve appropriate state personnel (State Emergency Management Agency, COMLs, etc.) prior to working with other states

Interstate Emergency Communications (Cont’d)

- Requirements for setting up interstate networks are the same as they are for intrastate networks

- Leverage opportunities to coordinate regular face-to-face meetings between AUXCOMM committee members from different states when possible

- Agreements and coordination with voice and digital modes of communications must be made for interoperability and deconfliction prior to any event
Unit 10: Summary

1) Enabled AUXCOMM personnel to plan, coordinate, and establish intrastate and interstate radio networks
2) Identified requirements for intrastate and interstate radio networks.
3) Identified intrastate and interstate AUXCOMM planning and operations.