



**Mississippi Wing
Civil Air Patrol**

**Annual Communications
Operations Plan**

2017



1. Introduction

2. Purpose:

This plan describes the mission management and operational readiness of the Communications Program in Mississippi.

3. Authority:

Approval of this plan is in compliance with the requirements of CAPR 100-1, para. 2-3.

4. Scope:

The plan supports the requirements of the most recent approved region communications plan, the most recent approved national communications plan, and regulations CAPR 100-1 and 100-3. It also reflects communications operational support of state and local customers specific to the wing.

5. Situation Analysis:

Mississippi Wing ("MSWG") has a sufficient number of VHF stations to cover operations throughout the wing. Operators are beginning to get more exposure to communications operations.

An area of weakness, however, is HF operations. There is currently only one full-time HF-ALE station in MSWG. There are three other HF-ALE capable stations, none of which are full-time. MSWG needs to increase HF-ALE

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coverage in order to meet the medium and long range communication operational requirements of CAP going forward.

Repeater coverage in the wing is insufficient, with 7 (seven) repeaters we are still unable to provide coverage throughout the wing. An agreement with TNWG allows us to use the Memphis repeater as needed to support MSWG missions.

MSWG has insufficient communications supplies to meet our readiness commitments if we are called upon to provide services for any unscheduled event and equipment repair and programming are needed on many pieces of equipment. Our communications trailers are capable of providing long term communications support for any emergency communications situations readily foreseeable.

2. Operational Readiness

2.1. Voice Training and Readiness

2.1.1. Message Center Stations for HF voice nets

Mockingbird 8 (MB-8) is the primary Message Center Station in MSWG, and the only station on the air continuously with ALE capabilities.

MB-34 checks into the NTN approximately 2-4 times per week. MB-34 is the backup Message Center Station for MSWG.

Future expansion of the HF Communications Network in MS are planned and will provide a wider coverage time for MSWG.

2.1.2. Voice Net Control Stations

MB-8 and MB-34 share responsibility for conducting the MSWG HF Voice net.

2.1.3. Wing HF Voice Nets

MSWG HF Voice Net schedule:

1900 CST 1900 CDT Mondays on SEC (joint net with ALWG)

2000 CST 2000 CDT Wednesday/Friday on SEC

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2.1.4. VHF Voice Nets –

Each Squadron located within useable distance to a repeater will be responsible for conducting one Voice Net each week. Some repeaters will have one net per week while others may have 3 or more per week.

Squadrons which are not located within useable distance to a VHF repeater will be responsible for conducting VHF simplex training at least once per calendar month.

| Designator | Name | Usage |
|------------|-----------|---|
| CC1 | Command 1 | Primary line of sight |
| CC2 | Command 2 | Secondary line of sight |
| Air 1 | Air 1 | Air/Air, Air/Ground Command & control |
| Air 2 | Air 2 | Temporary contact & coordination |
| Guard | Guard | Temporary contact & coordination, Monitor when possible, call in channel |
| TAC 1 | TAC 1 | Local tactical communications |
| R-07 | JACK | Jackson area repeater |
| R-01 | STAR | Starkville/Columbus repeater |
| R-13 | GNWD | Greenwood area repeater |
| R-28 | TUPLO | Saltillo/Tupelo area repeater |
| R-43 | MERI | Meridian area repeater |
| R-58 | OXFD | Oxford area repeater |
| R-61 | BILX | Biloxi area repeater |
| R-39 | MEM | Memphis TN area repeater* |

* Mississippi may use this repeater with permission of the TN WG DC.

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2.1.5. ISR Radios

ISR channels 10 & 11 may no longer be used by CAP.

All squadrons in MSWG have (or will have) ISR radios issued to them for conducting local operations and training. It is encouraged by MSWG that ISR radios be used at every meeting by adult members and cadets to increase familiarity with communications policies and practices.

The suggested channel assignments for ISR radio is as follows. Usage of this plan will be determined by the size of the mission.

- CH 1 INCIDENT COMMANDER
- 2. AIR OPS
- 3 GROUND OPS
- 4 COMMUNICATIONS
- 5 FLIGHT LINE
- 6 PUBLIC AFFAIRS
- 7 SAFETY
- 8 WING COMMANDER (OR OTHER NOTABLES)

2.1.5. Other group/wing/region specific information concerning voice net operations

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2.2. ALE Training and Readiness

2.2.1. Message Center ALE Stations

MB-8 is the only continuous ALE duty station in MSWG. MB-34 is notified of any need to provide coverage at time of need.

2.2.2. Attending of Message Center ALE Stations

ALE message center stations will be “attended” in accordance with the Communications Alert Level Guide in the National Communications plan, as follows:

| Alert Level | Attended Criteria |
|--------------------------|--|
| 3 – Normal Status | Radio checked minimum of once every 24 hours for AMD messages |
| 2 – Intermediate Status | As assigned by DC or CUL. Operator within hearing range of the radio and ready to assist with traffic |
| 1 – Major Mission Status | All available station operators within hearing range of the radio |

Stations which cannot support the above criteria for operator attendance will not serve on the message center team.

2.2.3. Other wing/region specific information concerning ALE operations.

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2.3. Pre-positioning of Deployable Communications assets

VHF Portable Repeaters

The use of the airborne repeater can greatly extend the FM radio coverage. In wing or wide area coverage, care must be taken to use a frequency pair and tone different than ground repeaters in the local area if possible. To start with, use CH-4, R-68, TAC-2. Local and airborne repeaters can still be used without additional interference. The airborne repeater in an aircraft MUST be used with a power setting of 10 watts only. Do not have or use the aircraft radio set to the same channel.

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One repeater will be stored in the MSWG HQ Comm Room for rapid deployment as needed.

One repeater will be stored in the communications trailer at Biloxi, MS for rapid deployment as needed.

HF Rapid Deployment Packs

One RDP will be kept in the MSWG HQ Comm Room for rapid deployment as needed.

One RDP will be kept in the MS-057 (Starkville) facility for deployment to the norther section of the MSWG territory as needed.

2.4. Call Signs and Functional Designators

MSWG will follow guidelines set forth by USAF for issue of HF Voice Call Signs as follows.

- MB1 - Wing Commanding Officer
- MB2 - Wing Vice Commander
- MB3 - Wing Chief of Staff
- MB4 - Wing Director of Communications
- MB5 - Wing Chaplain
- MB16 - MSWG HQ (Mission Base Jackson)
- MB36 - Comm Trailer North
- MB87 - Comm Trailer South

All other call signs for HF Voice use will be assigned by MSWG DC/ADC.

Functional designator usage will be governed using the requirements of CAPR 100-3 Paragraph 1.8.

2.5. C² Readiness

This new communications plan section supports an Air Force expectation that CAP should have a contingency (radio only) command and control (C²) path

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to each unit commander. The first preference is an HF-only path, or HF with simplex VHF. Second preference may combine HF and VHF repeater relay. The C² radio path is deemed to be accomplished if a message can reach the home community of the commander for local delivery, i.e. the commander does not need to be the final radio operator.

2.5.1. Wing Commander

MSWG is in the process of building a Command and Control communications system which will provide direct communication with the Wing Commander without the use of commercial communications infrastructure.

This system will consist of currently in place communications assets and future communications assets as needed based on the geographical location of the MSWG Commander.

The MSWG Commander will have both HF and VHF capability at his or her home residence. (this may not be possible depending on the ability of the commander to legally have radio antennas at their residence)

MB8 is the designated MSWG NTC station and will be the primary source of traffic within MSWG. MB34 is the alternate station for MSWG.

Currently there are 4 HF Stations on the MS Gulf Coast, one station in northwest MS and one in northeast. MSWG is working to locate communicators in strategic locations in MS to install HF stations for wider coverage of instate areas.

MSWG does not have statewide VHF coverage using repeaters. Therefore, MSWG will depend on communicators that have the ability to physically move to an area that has either VHF capability to transfer message traffic or to physically deliver the needed traffic directly to the recipient.

2.5.2. Group and Squadron

MSWG is working to ensure all Squadron Commanders have, at a minimum, VHF capability for local communications.

There is not a statewide VHF repeater capability in MSWG. Due to the nature of HF Communications, instate HF communications is not regularly

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available and may require transfers of messages utilizing stations outside of MSWG.

MSWG is working to install HF stations in strategic areas to provide a statewide HF coverage for effective message traffic.

2.5.3. Resource Allocation

MSWG will need to establish HF communications stations in the following geographic areas.

1. Meridian
2. Vicksburg
3. Jackson
4. Tupelo
5. Clarksdale
6. Greenwood
7. Brookhaven
8. Hattiesburg

MSWG will work to locate CAP members currently in these areas or recruit new members in these areas to facilitate stations.

Currently MSWG does not have sufficient equipment to install all needed systems. MSWG will make requests for equipment as needed for new installations.

2.6. Logistics Readiness

Excellent management of CAP's communications assets is vital to mission accomplishment and readiness. Accordingly, the wing will make the maximum effort to ensure that property is properly employed IAW the CAP Communications Table of Allowances (TA), is correctly documented in ORMS and that the annual physical property inventory is completed in a timely fashion, IAW CAPR 174-1, Property Management and Accountability.

3. Liaison Communications

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4. Mission Operations

This section provides standard procedures for activation and employment of radio communications resources on CAP operational missions. By their nature, operational missions are unpredictable, however because CAP trains extensively for such missions, they are not automatically considered “emergencies” for the purposes of communications planning and execution.

4.1. Mission Communications Operations

4.1.1. Incident Command Posts

The primary ICP location will be MSWG Headquarters building. This location has commercial power as well as generator power (manual transfer to generator as necessary). MSWGHQ has multiple VHF radios and HF capabilities (ALE and Voice). MSWGHQ has commercial communications including telephone and internet access. MSWGHQ has ample room for mission briefings and is on campus at a local airfield where CAP assets are housed.

4.1.2. Expedient ICPs and operating bases

Additional ICP locations can be outfitted using the Mobile Command Post’s (MCP) (communications trailers) stored in Olive Branch, MS (north) and Biloxi, MS (south). Both MCP’s are outfitted with generators for emergency power. Both trailers have multiple VHF radios and at least one HF radio. Both trailers have ISR radio kits. Both trailers will be outfitted with internet routers for use with available internet access if it is possible at the location of set up.

All repositioning of MSWG communications equipment, including MCP’s, will require authorization from MSWG DOK/ADOK or DCS for Emergency Services or Wing Commander/Vice Commander.

HF RDP (rapid deployment packs) are available upon request from MSWG HQ and MS-057 (Starkville) as needed for use at Forward Operating Bases or staging areas.

4.1.3. Mission Activation

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Activations can occur at three levels, National, South East Region or MSWG either by a Communications Alert Condition change or by mission activation. MSWG can also be activated by CAP-USAF approved Memorandums of Agreement (MOA) activations. USAF/NHQ activations have priority over all other activations.

4.1.3.1 Statewide Activation

Activation of the MSWG statewide emergency communications network is accomplished using the HF voice and HF-ALE radio. Activation of the state-wide communications network should be requested through operational channels starting with the MSWG A3 Operations (MSWG/DCS Ops), who will task the MSWG Director of Operations (MSWG/DO), the MSWG Director of Emergency Services (MSWG/DOS) and the MSWG Director of Communications (MSWG/DOK) who will task the state-wide operational and the communications assets required to accomplish the mission. The MSWG/DCS Ops will keep MSWG/CC informed on all aspects of the mission.

4.1.3.2 MINIMUM NUMBERS OF RADIO STATIONS REQUIRED

Every net control/alternate net control station HF and VHF equipped
Two VHF radios per repeater
One VHF radio per Corporate CAP vehicle
One VHF radio per Corporate Aircraft
One mobile VHF radio and one portable VHF radio for each deployable separately-manned ground team and Urban Direction Finding Team scheduled for deployment.

The assigned mission will determine the minimum number of radios required. The Incident Commander (IC) and/or the Communications Unit Leader will determine each mission's minimum radio requirements. If MSWG's assets cannot fill the IC's needs then additional out-of state communications assets can be requested, through the MSWG/DC, to the National Operations Center (NOC).

4.1.4. Alert Level

4.1.4.1. Alert Level Changes

Mission communications managers (CUL in conjunction with IC and other staff) may change the alert level of a communications environment, in accordance with the alert level actions guide in the

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National Communications Plan, as conditions and Ops Tempo require. The NOC and wing/region Comm managers should be advised of changing alert levels.

4.1.4.2. Alert Level Actions

MSWG will utilize the standard alert levels as per the National Communications Plan.

4.2. Training

4.2.1. Concept of Training

CAP Communications must be prepared to provide continuity of operations when the commercial communications infrastructure is not available. Tactical communications training is usually conducted exclusively via radio. However, at least some strategic communications training should also be conducted via radio utilizing strategic communications resources such as the National Traffic Net and region message center stations.

4.2.2. Comprehensive Exercise Training

Comprehensive SAR/DR operational training exercises provide excellent opportunities for communications training. Wing Communications managers will engage with exercise project officers/planners to provide realistic communications tasks and challenges.

MSWG DOK will work closely with MSWG DCS ES to coordinate communications needs and training on all wing approved SAR and ES exercises. After action reports will be completed by IC's and CUL's and provided to MSWG DOK and MSWG DCS ES for evaluation of exercise success and necessary changes.

4.2.3. Communications Exercises

Commanders will appoint project officers for support of the annual Constant Watch national communications exercise and for other national, region and wing communications exercises.

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Exercises should address training for all communication modes, including HF voice, HF-ALE, VHF, ISR, and agency liaison platforms. However, not all platforms need to be trained in every exercise.

Squadron Communications Officers will be notified of communications needs for each exercise. Squadron Communications Officers will report to MSWG DOK / MSWG DCS OPS all available communications personnel for planning purposes.

Communications personnel will be assigned a position within the mission by the IC / CUL as necessary to fulfill the needs of the mission.

4.2.4. WMIRS Contingency

The wing will train to develop and perfect the capability of sending and receiving WMIRS traffic by radio, once National Headquarters develops and publishes procedures for the system.

5. Support for other missions

MSWG occasionally provides support for nonCAP activities including air shows and CAP related missions like Cadet Encampments. The primary communications needs for these is the use of ISR radios for short range non emergency communications. At all times, all CAP members will adhere to the rules and regulations set forth in CAPR 100-1 and CAPR 100-3.

If the needs of the activity require the use of VHF / HF communications, approval through MSWG DOK/ADOK / MSWG DCS ES will be required.

6. Goals and objectives for future

MSWG DOK will be working with recruitment/retention personnel to increase the number of communicators in the wing. It is the goal of the MSWG DOK to have a statewide HF communications system in place that will provide effective communications across the state at all times.

MSWG DOK will work to have more than 80% of MSWG members ICUT trained by 31Dec2017.

7. Other wing-specific information.

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DISTRIBUTION: 1 Each (Electronic)
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Attachment 1 – ICS 205s for standard CAP ICPs

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