

MISSISSIPPI WING COMMUNICATIONS OPERATION / TRAINING PROGRAM

PURPOSE

The purpose of the Mississippi Wing Operations/Training plan is to organize and maintain a reliable Point to point, air to ground and ground mobile communications capability.

SCOPE

This plan applies to all communications equipment, operations and members under the direction and Control of the Mississippi Wing Commander.

AUTHORITY

Authority for this plan and for the operation of communication equipment within the Mississippi Wing is dependent upon compliance with all Civil Air Patrol regulations, the decisions of the National Civil Air Patrol Commander, Southeast Region Commander, Mississippi Wing Commander. Civil Air Patrol regulation 100-1 serves as the governing regulation.

OPERATIONS

ALERT AND NOTIFICATION

The primary means of alert and notification, dissemination of command traffic and transfer of information within the Mississippi Wing is by conventional telephone, either wired or wireless, with appropriate consideration to maintain operational security. Telephone communications may be supplemented by the use of E-mail and/or World Wide Web based messaging systems. When tactical communications to include alert and notification are required and conventional telephone systems are not available, voice radio communication using the shortest route and the least required transmitter power should be considered.

SHORT RANGE OPERATIONS

ISR radio will be used for ground teams, UDF teams, flight line operations, vehicle convoys, Incident Command Post staff intercom and other short-range operations. ISR radios have 14 channels and 38 tones, so channel and tone setting must be coordinated before operations. ISR operate on UHF-FM frequencies and will not directly interface with VHF-NFM radios so consideration must be made to ensure communications are available with the next higher echelon. ISR Radios should be used in place of VHF- NFM handheld in most applications, freeing VHF-NFM for medium range operational use. The ISR will typically be used for distances up to 1 mile. Standard Civil Air Patrol procedure and call signs will be used. Appropriate tactical call signs may be used as designated by the Wing Director of Communications, the Incident Commander or the activity director.

MEDIUM RANGE AND AIRBORNE OPERATIONS

VHF-NFM ground, mobile, and airmobile radio will be typically used for distances of over one mile and up to 50 miles(100 miles for aircraft) and for most airborne use. VHF-NFM handheld (portable) radios or mobile radios should be used for ground to ground and ground to air contact by ground teams and UDF teams. Incident Command Posts will stay in contact with aircraft and ground teams by using VHF-NFM base and mobile radios. Fixed and airborne repeaters will extend the range of VHF-NFM radio beyond line of sight. VHF-NFM CC1 will be used as the primary mission operations frequency until a channel use plan has been established by the Communications Unit Leader or the Incident Commander and will be considered the Command channel. Wing wide or large area operations, any deployed airborne repeaters should use a frequency pair other than pair in use by the local repeater and allow local repeaters to operate without additional traffic on the primary frequency. Aircraft frequency radios on 122.9MHz and 123.1MHz will be used to communicate with any Civil Air Patrol aircraft that does not have a VHF-NFM radio available. 123.1 MHz is available for communications with non-Civil Air Patrol aircraft in an actual joint missions. 123.1 will not be used for training. Incident Command Post and Staging area will conduct “ops normal” checks with deployed air and ground units at intervals determined prior to deployment but not less than every 30 minutes for deployed aircraft. Deployed units that unable to contact the entity directly are to request, and must be granted, relay assistance from any Civil Air Patrol station with which contact can be established. When resources are deployed outside the line of site range and fixed, mobile or airborne (High-Bird) platform. The capability to carry out voice communications between the Incident Commander and deployed units, air or ground must be considered any time Civil Air Patrol resources are deployed.

MISSISSIPPI WING NFM CHANNEL DESIGNATION PLAN

Designator:	Name	Usage:
CC1	Command 1	Primary line of site
CC2	Command 2	Secondary line of site
Air 1	Air 1	Air/Air, Air/Ground Command and Control
Air 2	Air 2	Temporary Contact and Coordination
Guard	Guard	Temporary Contact and Coordination
TAC 1	TAC 1	Local, Tactical Communications
R07	Jack	Jackson area repeater
R01	Star	Starkville Mountain repeater
R13	GNWD	Greenwood area repeater

R28	TUPLO	Saltillo/Tupelo area Repeater
R43	MERI	Meridian area repeater**
R58	OXFD	Oxford area repeater
R61	BILX	Biloxi area repeater
R39	MEM	Memphis area repeater*

*This repeater is in Memphis TN and is operated by Tennessee Wing. Mississippi Wing utilizes this repeater with permission of the TNWCC and TNWDOC

** This repeater is waiting for paperwork from Civil Air Patrol National HQ to be active.

Long Rang Operations

High Frequency (HF) radio will be used for long range (50 miles+). HF radios have been strategically located throughout the Mississippi Wing to provide Wing-Wide communications capability independent of commercial communications. In addition Rapid Deployment Package HF-SSB/ALE station has been established as part of deployable mission kit to facilitate to staging areas. HF radio will be used for communications between Incident Command Posts, Staging Areas and Region and National Headquarters. Channel SEC should be used as the primary HF. SEB and SEC should be considered if conditions make SEC unusable. Other channels are available based on need and coordination.

Threat level response

The Civil Air Patrol communication response to the National Threat levels is governed by National HQ Civil Air Patrol Alerting System communications Actions document available on the Civil Air Patrol Website. All Civil Air Patrol communicators should familiarize themselves with document.

Mississippi Wing specific response to threat levels will be:

1. Threat level: Yellow Conduct once a week checks on the regular scheduled HF Net or contact another station on HF or VHF
2. Threat level: Orange Conduct daily checks during HF Net or with another VHF or HF station.
3. Threat level: Red Establish Communications Command Posts to control Wing HF net. Mississippi Wing stations will check in with this Command Post at designated times. The command Post will check in with Region Net.

VHF nets will be conducted where appropriate.

Communication Officers

Each Mississippi Wing Squadron will have a senior member communications officer whose responsibilities include the training of radio operators, the validating of applications for radio operators and stations, issuing radios and monitoring of communication activities under the Officers responsibility. The Communication Officer will maintain an accurate list of operators and other duties specified in CAPR 100-1 and 100-3.

Radio Nets

Radio nets are organized to provide an operational communications capability and training capability to Region/Mississippi Wing personal and Squadrons personal. Scheduled nets provide an excellent opportunity for disseminating information regarding training activities by the Wing and Squadrons units.

HF-SSB nets are conducted daily within the Southeast Region on SEC. The Wing Director of Communications may authorize additional nets as needed. Plans are being made to establish regular VHF-NFM nets. The Mississippi Wing will conduct Communications Effectiveness Exercises with planned, short notice and no notice formats.

Call Signs

The Wing Director of Communications has established a tactical radio call format and authorized the Wing Licensing Officer to assign call signs to authorized stations. Call signs may applied for using MSWG form 27.

Stations Identifications

All stations must identify using the full tactical call sign when testing, when calling another stations and at the beginning of any contact with another station. Further identifications is not required except at 10-minute intervals during long contacts. The use of the entire tactical call or authorized Functional Designator are the only legal call signs authorized. Abbreviation a call sign by the use of only the digits is not legal and is not authorized.

Station Logs

CAP Regulation 100-1 describes the requirements to prepare and maintain radio logs.

Frequency Designations

All Civil Air Patrol frequencies have been assigned a "Frequency Designator" consisting of two or three letters and numbers. These designators are to be used to refer to a specific frequency or frequency/tone in place of using the actual frequency. Therefore frequency designators may be used on the air, on the internet or in public documents. When on the air do not make reference to your current frequency by its designator, as that "gives away" what the designator means. Frequency designator lists are "For Official

Use Only” and not to be published in the open, on the internet or distributed without proper markings and controls.

ALE Transitions and Operation

Civil Air Patrol has entered into a multiyear transition period to the use of Automatic Link Establishment (ALE) high frequency networks. Civil Air Patrol National HQ is operating on National ALE net 9.

The southeast region net is NET 4 .

Micom 3 radios are being issued to Wings. Mississippi has 4 Micom 3 and 2 Micom 3 mobiles. MB 4 MB 8 MB 448 have ALE radios. Some Micom 2 have been modified to with Selcall operation.

Narrowband VHF-NFM Transition

The transition to narrow band has been completed. All VHF-NFM assigned to the Mississippi Wing have been programmed and fixed and airborne repeaters are in place. The reprogramming of personal radio will be responsibility of the owner. Frequencies will be for Official Use Only.

TRAINING

General

Due to the wide dispersion of Mississippi Wing units, communications training responsibilities have been delegated to the squadron unit level. Members that holds an advanced Radio Operator Authorization may be designated by the Wing Communications Officer to conduct communications training class. All communications training will be in accordance with the current Civil Air Patrol regulation 100-1 and 100-3 and any Mississippi Wing polices letters.

Self Study

All people wanting to be involved with communications should have and read the most current CAPR 100-1and 100-3 and any Mississippi Wing polices letters.

Instruction

Instruction on the Basic Communications User (BUCUT) will use the material currently available in power point presentation from National HQ and MS Wing. Instruction on the Advanced Communications User (ACUT) Communications Technician Rating, Communications Senior Rating, and Communications Master Rating will use as a minimum, the following Regulation 100-1 and 100-3.

Emphasis by instruction and example should be made on the following:

1. Formal traffic procedures, including preparing message headings and passing traffic.
2. Safety in the home station
3. Safety in the field station.
4. Fixed and Mobile antennas
5. NTIA requirements and NTIA compliant equipment.

Communications Practice

While textbook instructions may enable the candidate to pass required test, it is practice and the good judgment that comes with practice that make a good communicator. Trainees may operate under the supervision of an authorized operator. Participation by trainees and communicators in HF and VHF-NFM nets is strongly encouraged. Such participation will build confidence skills and judgment for the operator.

Specific Equipment Training

Training and use of Aircraft Radios will require additional training. Squadron Communications Officer will train members on the equipment found in their Squadron.

Communications training opportunities will include participation in Search and Rescue Exercises, Encampments and special communications training sessions to be held from time to time by the Mississippi Wing Communication Staff.

This plan replaces all previous versions.

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Signed Richard Albee MAJ

15 January 2011

Wing DOK

Wing Commander Approval