

Auxiliary Communications (AUXCOMM)

Training Course

Unit 6: Incident Communications Center (ICC)



Homeland
Security

OEC/ICTAP

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Terminal Learning Objective Enabling Learning Objectives

TLO: At the conclusion of the unit, the student will identify Auxiliary Communicators' responsibilities in assisting the COML to establish an Incident Communication Center (ICC).

ELO A: Describe Auxiliary Communicators' responsibilities at the ICC.



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Location of an ICC

Considerations:

- Coordinate the incident from the dispatch center or an ICC
- Locate away from noise and high traffic areas
- Locate away from electronic and radio frequency interference
- Locate close to Incident Command Post



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Fixed Location Emergency Operations Facilities

Multi-Agency Coordination Centers (MACCs)

Emergency Operations Center



Regional Response Center



State Coordination Center



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Mobile Communication Centers

- Technical and Operational Resources
- Mobile Communications Centers



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Mobile Communications Center Voice and Data Capabilities

Basic:

- Voice – Cell Phones, Interoperability Channels, Radios

Medium:

- Voice – Gateways, Phones, Interoperability Channels, Radios, Radio Caches
- Data – Printer/FAX, Wireless Data
- Other – Auxiliary Power, External Antenna Mast



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Mobile Communications Center Voice and Data Capabilities (Cont'd)

High:

- **Voice** – Dispatch, Gateways, Interoperability Channels, Phones, Radios, Radio Caches
- **Data** – Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD), Printer/FAX, Satellite Communications, Wireless Data, Workstations
- **Other** – AC & Heat, Auxiliary Power, External Antenna Mast



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AUXCOMM Mobile Communications

AUXCOMM Mobile Communications Examples:



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Determine Personnel Needs

Ensure adequate personnel:

- Communication Technicians (COMT)
- Message Runners
- Net Control Operators
- Radio Operators (RADO)
- Scribes
- Technical Specialists (THSP)



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ICC Operations

- Ensure auxiliary radio traffic is monitored continuously and calls to the ICC are answered promptly
- Document radio/telephone activities on appropriate forms. Include significant events/transmissions
- Consider audio/data recording of all AUXCOMM radio traffic



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Form 309: Communications Log

COMMUNICATIONS LOG		TASK #	DATE PREPARED:
FOR OPERATIONAL PERIOD #		TASK NAME:	
RADIO OPERATOR NAME (LOGISTICS):		STATION I.D.	
LOG			
TIME	STATION I.D.		SUBJECT
	FROM	TO	



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ICS Form 213: General Message Form

GENERAL MESSAGE (ICS 213)

1. Incident Name (Optional):		
2. To (Name and Position):		
3. From (Name and Position):		
4. Subject:	5. Date:	6. Time:
7. Message:		
8. Approved by: Name:	Signature:	Position/Title:
9. Reply:		
10. Replied by: Name:	Position/Title:	Signature:
ICS 213	Date/Time:	



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Incident within the Incident

- Failure of primary communications systems
 - Be prepared to move a remote unit at a moment's notice
 - Have back-up options ready to activate rapidly
- Dignitaries' (un)scheduled site visit
- Responder(s) hurt or killed



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Exercise 6-1: Power Outage

Purpose

- The purpose of this exercise is to identify the Auxiliary Communicator responsibilities in assisting the COML to establish an Incident Communication Center (ICC)

Objective

- Describe the Auxiliary Communicator's responsibilities at the ICC



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Exercise 6-1: Power Outage (Cont'd)

Instructions

- Review exercise 6-1 background, scenario, tasking, resources, and organization chart



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Exercise 6-1: Power Outage (Cont'd)

Outputs

- Describe how the Auxiliary Communicator can assist the COML in establishing an ICC
- Describe the Auxiliary Communicator's responsibilities in the ICC
- Describe security requirements for the ICC
- AUXCOMM Organization Chart
- Create an ICS Form 205

Exercise Duration: 1 hour



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Background

- Central City is a rural community of 5,000 covering 2 square miles
- Central City is bisected by High Hill that runs east-west through the town
- Central City's main public safety repeaters share a cell tower site on the east end of High Hill



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Background (Cont'd)

- Fire and police are on VHF repeaters
- Public Works is on a UHF repeater
- EMS is provided by a private company and uses UHF-MED channels for dispatch/hospital.
- AUXCOMM repeaters are on the west end of High Hill



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Scenario

- A failure at Central City's utility substation has caused an explosion disrupting the station and sending a power surge to part of the town
- The 48vdc chargers for the battery banks that support all equipment at the cell/public safety site are "fried" and can't be replaced for 48 hours



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Scenario (Cont'd)

- All Central City's cellular and public safety repeaters have enough battery backup for 4-6 hours
- AUXCOMM repeaters on the west end of High Hill are not disrupted, with battery backup plus a standby generator



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Tasking

- The Emergency Manager (EM) has opened the town's EOC located adjacent to Central City's 9-1-1 Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP)/Dispatch Center



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Tasking (Cont'd)

- With communications failure imminent, the EM has called the ACM for the Central City's Emergency Response Team (CERT), asking for the following support:
 - Place someone in the Dispatch Center/EOC to relay traffic to Central City's public safety and public works field units until power to public safety repeaters is restored



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Tasking (Cont'd)

- Emergency Manager's request
 - Central City has 5 police officers. Shadow the one on duty at all times, and provide a method for notifying the Chief of any emergencies
 - It would be ideal if all 5 officers could monitor police traffic as they normally do on the police channel when off-duty



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Tasking (Cont'd)

- Emergency Manager's request
 - Provide communications alerting support for the 6 primary volunteer fire fighters in case of a fire. Once at a fire, they will use simplex public safety channel VFIRE22 for fire-ground
 - Firefighters normally also carry a pager and are "toned out" by the dispatcher for fire calls. This support request would be a temporary, one-way replacement for that function



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Tasking (Cont'd)

- Emergency Manager's request
 - Shadow the two public works employees on duty during the day
 - Elderly and disabled have been evacuated to a school that is one block from the EOC (both on the south side of town) and equipped with air conditioning, backup generator, cots and a kitchen
 - Provide emergency communications link between the EOC and the shelter



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Resources

- 15 CERT members serving the Central City area who are licensed Amateur Radio operators. Ten will have dual band (VHF/UHF) radios and five will have no radios
- Central City's EOC is equipped with two VHF and one UHF Amateur radio station, plus two extra antennas/feed-lines for both bands



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Resources (Cont'd)

- Central City provides take-home front keypad-programmable portable radios to each of its personnel, all are also equipped with National Interoperability channels in the appropriate band
- These radios are front-panel programmable and cover the frequency range of 138 to 174 MHz. Each has a rechargeable battery plus AA battery clamshell for backup



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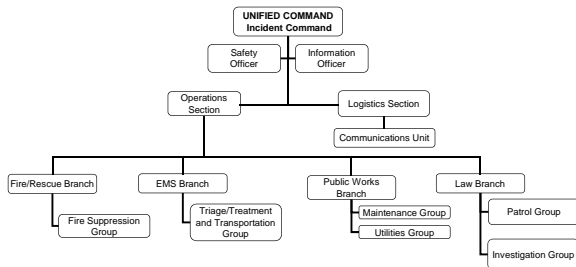
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Resources (Cont'd)

- Fire and police each have a single VHF repeater channel and Public Works has a UHF repeater channel, all on High Hill
- Central City has a cache of 5 VHF portables of the same model used by fire and police, normally used for special events

Exercise 6-1: Power Outage Organization Chart



Use this org chart as reference to support the incident

Unit 6: Summary

- 1) Described the Auxiliary Communication Support Specialist's responsibilities in assisting the COML to establish an ICC.
- 2) Described Auxiliary Communication Support Specialist's responsibilities at the ICC.



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