



The ‘Bosun’s Pipe

FL NAVMARCORMARS

An Information Newsletter

Vol. 4, 2010 Conference Issue

July 2010

Why a Conference Issue (Editorial Comment)?

In the masthead for the Bosun’s Pipe there is the phrase, “An Information Newsletter”. This phrase is a policy guide line for each issue of the newsletter and defines the fundamental purpose of the publication. It is to keep the membership informed and aware of the projections for the NAVMARCOR program in Florida. As the annual REGION FOUR conference was scheduled for several days after the normal July publication date and that the next issue would be in September, it was decided to publish a conference issue devoted entirely to the activities of the conference informing the members of the agenda and presentations at the meeting.

In this issue you will have the opportunity to experience the impressions of a “TANGO” member going to his first Region conference, Additionally there will be reports from the REGION FOUR director and his primary staff, Comments by the CENTRAL AREA director and the annual presentation by CH NAVMARCORMARS. Crowning the activities are the annual awards (Certificates of Recognition, Letters of Commendation, The GREEN “C” and the COMMUNICATOR of the YEAR)

Read the issue and plan to attend the event in 2011.

Conference Impressions

By DON, NNN0KLKT

I am Donald “DON” Camacho, NNN0KLKT and I have been a trial member of NAVMARCOR MARS for a little over two months. During this time I have completed the MARS Operator Course and have checked into a number of Florida nets. I have been fortunate in having a good “Elmer”, NNN0YTB and under his guidance and NNN0GAL FOUR I am making progress in becoming a competent MARS operator. As the time neared for the REGION FOUR conference I inquired about the possibility of my attendance. NNN0GAL informed me that that there was no reason that I would not be welcomed at the event. Therefore my xyl and I planned to attend. I was assured that I would meet in person a number of other Florida members.

After a four hour drive to Tallahassee, we got checked into a room. As we checked in I had noticed several persons in the lobby chatting so I returned there to be greeted by Bill, NNN0TAK, who, immediately, after I identified myself asked me to make notes on my impressions and to write them up for this issue of the newsletter. I discovered quickly the Friday portion of the conference was “meet and greet” for the attendees to the conference and that the only formal schedule for the day was a visit and tour of the Florida Emergency Operations Center at 1830 local. People were arriving with MARS shirts, amateur radio attire, and name tags with call signs. Many of the calls were not familiar but now and then there were some familiar Florida call signs. I was particularly looking for NNN0YTB, NNN0EKB, and NNN0IBM as I knew these calls from telephone conversations. Bill, NNN0TAK made sure that I was intro-

duced to three particular persons, NNN0ASA, NNN0ASG, and NNN0AS4. I met other members as they arrived and came back to the lobby area. Mostly I listened keeping an eye out for Carl. Bill, NNN0TAK seemed to know most of the arrivals I asked him about it. He replied that he had been attending the regional conferences since 1998 and had met most of the people over the years. He said that these events usually provide a member with good information both during the formal sessions as well as these informal gatherings. Bill is the SYSOP for NNT4AK-5, and he fielded several questions regarding RMS EXPRESS from several members. Finally Carl appears as we are listening to instructions on how to get to the EOC. After meeting him face to face, we get into his jeep to go to the EOC.

As we arrive there and pull around the building I see communications vehicles everywhere and associated antenna systems. In the center I feast my eyes on the operations area from the windows in the conference room adjacent to the "Bull Pen". The walls are covered with maps, charts, graphs, and big displays for the current status of an ongoing event. John, NNN0BME welcomes the group to the center and proceeds to give a power point on the organization of the center and the SERT (state emergency response team) in time of an actual event in the state. After the presentation we got a quick tour of the operations area and look at the communications center with an explanation of the routines there. The center maintains a 24/7 watch for events occurring throughout the state. We return to the motel to conclude the day. Some went for a late dinner before they returned. Others gathered in the lobby area and chatted a while before turning in.

Saturday - Boy 0630 already!! I jump out of bed and rush to the shower anticipating what the day has in store for me. After eating breakfast I go down to the conference room. Several are there already. As I enter I am handed a name tag, and a placard for the table where I will be sitting. Both have my name and call sign NNN0KLT and the MARS and SERT logos on them. I move quickly to the front and claim an empty seat as I don't want to miss anything. 0830 arrives and NNN0AS4 opens the conference with a word of welcome to all attendees and asks NNN0JQC to give an invocation asking for guidance for our discussions. Following this each attendee introduced himself/ herself with both their personal and staff call signs. There is sure a lot of experience and dedication here in the room. I know that Bill will be presenting the agenda later in this issue so I will just mention my impressions and highlights for me.. After introductions NNN0AS4 and NNN0ASG gave some short remarks on the current status of the region and area. This was followed by power point presentation by NNN0ASA. He reviewed the changes for MARS resulting from the issuing of DOD Instruction in 2009 changed MARS from an "Affiliate" to an "Auxiliary". He also discussed the necessary changes to NTP 8(D) and that he hoped that it would be in place before the end of the year. Following his talk NNN0SYS NC reported on the first joint services exercise, NC COMMEX" held on 10 July 2010.. He reviewed the planning process from the first proposal for the exercise through the execution of the event and the summary with lessons learned from the event. This was fol-



lowed with remarks from Jim, AAA4RD (ARMY MARS DIRECTOR, REGION FOUR) who complimented the report of NNN0SYS and indicated that ARMY MARS had additional frequencies that could be made available for similar exercise and that they should be requested via the chain of command during the planning stages. He extended his appreciation to NNN0AS4 for permitting him to comment at the session and to NNN0GAL for the invitation to the conference.

TIME FOR LUNCH BREAK WHEW! What a morning. If this afternoon is anything like this morning it will be very busy. During lunch I hear people discussing questions for the Q&A later and commenting on the presentations of the morning. This is not really a break but is a working lunch. A quick run to the "head" and back as Jack, NNN0AS4 is trying to bring the session back to order.

After all get settled back in their seats, NNN0AS4 gets the reports from the region staff present. Jim, NNN0AS4 TWO leads off with comments on the general status of the ECOM exercises and a bit of advice concerning the various messages needed from each state as they prepare and execute the quarterly exercises.

Wally, NNN0AS4 THREE follows with his report on net operations and reminds states about the timely nature of the quarterly summaries. Mike, NNN0AS4 FOUR follows with a quick comment on training. Lynn, NNN0AS4 THIRTEEN commented on the necessity on keeping the member records up-to-date and getting the changes entered in a timely manner. Gary, NNN0AS4 FIFTEEN, indicates that he is just beginning as was recently appointed the position.

The state directors followed next as staff representing their respective states. NNN0GAA AL, NNN0GAL FL, NNN0GAM GA and NNN0GBL NC commented on their state activities.

The floor was then opened for Q&A. Questions and comments were directed to all directors and staff present. The comments were lively and interesting. Some were answered easily and others were answered with quotes from NTP 8 (D) (DRAFT) or from various broadcasts.

After the Q&A there were the closing remarks from NNN0AS4, NNN0ASG, and the "final" word from NNN0ASA. Before getting information on dinner Mike NNN0GAL and Bill NNN0GAL EIGHT present some award for FL members. Bill presents the Editor's Awards to members that had contributed to the "The Bosun's Pipe" during 2009 and NNN0GAL presented me with a certificate indicating my participation in the conference as a "TANGO". Both she and Bill indicated that this was a first for a FL TANGO. The other awards were presented after the banquet.



Attending a region conference has made me realize that there are a lot of people that are involved with the program. There are people with administrative experience. There are people with technical experience, There are people with operating experience. There are a lot of people out there that will give you any help that you need and are very willing to assist in the learning process of becoming a "professional MARS operator" The only requirement is that you have to ask. "BRAVO ZULU" to all of you for making the conference a memorable experience
DON, NNN0KLKT

**REGION FOUR CONFERENCE
17 JULY 2010
TALLAHASSEE
AGENDA**

0830 WELCOME
0835 INVOCATION
0840 INTRODUCTIONS
0845 REMARKS BY REGION DIRECTOR
0900 REMARKS BY AREA DIRECTOR
0915 REMARKS BY CHIEF NAVMARCORMARS
*1015 NC COMME X of 10 JULY 2010
*1030 REMARKS AAA4RD REGION FOUR ARMY MARS DIRECTOR
1040 BREAK
1050 REMARKS REGION STAFF
1100 REMARKS STATE DIRECTORS
1200 LUNCH
1300 REMARKS BY NET MANAGERS
1330 QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
1400 CLOSING REMARKS REGION DIRECTORS
1415 CLOSING REMARKS AREA DIRECTOR
1430 CLOSING REMARKS CHIEF, NAVMARCORMARS
*1500 FL AWARDS NNN0GAL, NNN0GAL EIGHT
1515 BANQUET INFORMATION
1525 CLOSE AFTERNOON SESSION
1800 BANQUET
1930 AWARDS (Returned to conference room for this portion)

(Note: the “*” denotes deviation of original schedule to include special reports or comments)

Editorial Comment

The REGION FOUR annual conference was attended by representatives from six of the nine states in the region. There were twenty nine MARS members in attendance including the CHIEF, NAVMARCOR MARS, the CENTRAL AREA DIRECTOR and the REGION FOUR DIRECTOR, ARMY MARS. Florida was represented with eleven attendees.

Considering the large area of REGION FOUR the participation appears to be a bit above the average reflect a continuing high interest in the MARS mission.

The remainder of this issue will highlight several reports/ presentations/ awards that were a part of the proceedings.. It is hoped that they will entice you as a member to attend the conferences in the future. The whole experience recharges the members with a new enthusiasm for the MARS program.

MARS: TOGETHER WE CAN DO ANYTHING

State Emergency Operations Center Tallahassee, FL



On Friday evening at 6:30 pm the group gathered at the motel to caravan to the site of the State Emergency Operations Center for presentation of the Center's purpose and how it functions during an actual incident in Florida. At the left you see the group gathering outside the EOC as the attendees assemble for the entry into the center. This event has been arranged by John, NNN0BME/ NNN0GAL TEN. John was able to arrange this outing as he is member of the Division of Emergency Management staff here at the center. John is

a part of the "Response Team" that mans the watch at the center. At the right is John presenting to the group some of the history and details of operations at the center. He indicated that the same information that he was presenting is available on the division web site (<http://www.floridadisaster.org>) following the presentation the group was split up into smaller groups to tour the communications station at the Center. The group was also able to wander through the "Bull Pen" area and to observe the individual stations and the control area at the front of the large room. John's presentation reminds MARS members (particularly those in Florida) the need for professional communicators to provide the timely information for the support centers for any disaster. "BARVO ZULU" John and Thank You for your outstanding job as local liaison and planner for this conference.



Mike, NNN0GAL and Bo NNN0ASA chatting at the EOC.





Remarks By
Chief, NAVMARCOR MARS
NNN0ASA VA
NNN0ASU, NNN0ZLS

“Bo” has been NNN0ASA for thirteen years following his retirement from active duty navy. When he first became Chief, NAVMARCOR MARS he was located in Virginia which was a part of the “old” REGION TWO. He has attended every REGION conference since that date. Each year he has presented the group with a review of the current status of NAVMARCOR MARS and has also brought some insight for the program direction and changes that we as members would see during the next year or so. This year as in the past he started with the current changes in the past year. This past year the most significant change was the issuing of DOD Instruction 4650.02 changed the previous Military Affiliate Radio System to the Military Auxiliary Radio System. It also defined two phrases “contingency radio communications support” and “military auxiliary” (the definitions are a part of the instruction and may be found on the web site) He presented a Summary of these changes

Ensure that MARS communication capabilities are available and mutually interoperable, at the individual station and network level, with other Services’ MARS and with appropriate civil authorities radio services.

MARS must be capable of operation in “radio only” modes (without landlines or the internet) and sustainable on emergency power (when public utility power has failed), and some MARS stations must be transportable for timely deployment.

Encourage MARS participation in the Shared Resources High Frequency (HF) Radio Program, which is responsible for promoting interoperability between HF radio systems used by the Federal departments and agencies.

Encourage relationships between MARS and civil agencies, such as the Memorandum of Understanding between the U.S. Army MARS and the Transportation Security Administration.

Routinely plan and execute specific communications missions, to include realistic message traffic for relay between military and civilian organizations, with subsequent evaluation.

Planning must include preparation for the pre-selection and deployment of enough qualified MARS members, with appropriate support as required, to provide N\MARS capabilities in timely response to crises.

The Chief indicated that these were the most significant changes from the DOD Directive under which the program had previously operated.

The next goal is to update NTP8(D) to reflect these changes along with the changes in the digital traffic system. He expressed the hope that these changes would be completed later this year.

**PLAN TO ATTEND THE REGION FOUR CONFERENCE
IN 2011
LOCATION TO BE ANNOUNCED**

NC COMMEX of 10 July 2010

Lee Mager, NNN0SYS NC/ NNN0GBL FIFTEEN



It began in January 2009 with the informal gathering of for MARS members (2 Army, 1 Air Force and 1 Navy) chatting about how to improve inter-service working relations. This group became the adhoc NC Joint Interoperability Coordinating Group. The purpose of the group was to propose to the State Directors of the respective Services the concept for a Joint MARS over the air exercise.

The approvals by the SMDs changed the group status from an informal to the primary planning group for the proposed exercise. As working drafts for the prospective exercise it was necessary to include inputs from other members of the staffs of the state directors. The planning group used PBWORKS.COM WIKI online for planning coordination.

The proposed exercise needed a detailed Letter of Instruction or OPLAN to the three services detailing the Scenario and CONOPS procedures specifying frequencies, STARTEX & FINEX times, reporting requirements and the responsibility for the Tri-service alert message.

Some of the issues that arose during the planning process included; the authorization to use frequencies, “Dial” vs. Assigned vs. Frequency Designators, Joint use of service frequencies, Semantics & Phraseology, last minute suggested changes, and Overcoming corporate knowledge (i.e., “Tradition”

The original target date for the exercise was May or June 2010. The date was finally fixed for 10 July 2010 and was held on that date

There were twenty six (26) stations participating distributed about equally among the three services with check ins from GA, SC, TN, and MS.

There were sixty four (64) messages handled including both DOD and ICS format messages. Some ICS messages were hand written and, scanned, and sent as attachments by WINLINK.

The reviewers have indicated that the objectives of plan briefed at the Charlotte Hamfest were met.

Lee indicated that there were many lessons learned from the total exercise planning and execution of the joint services emergency communications exercise. It should be noted that this first exercise took eighteen months from its first suggestions to the completion of the exercise followed by the “after action reporting. If any of the other states would wish to try a similar exercise, they may contact this station for some assistance.

“From what I can tell, the exercise was a success. The traffic flowed well and the training objectives were met. I am certain that everyone learned from the exercise. I know there were a few bumps here and there, but that goes with the exercise. The overall result is what really counts. Members learned and they will be able to gain knowledge and grow from the experiences.”

**James Hamilton, AAA4RD Army MARS Region Four
Director, e-mail to NC Army SMD, 7/11/10**





REGION FOUR COMMUNICATOR OF THE YEAR 2009

Dr. George William Reynolds, Jr./ NNN0TAK FL was awarded the “Communicator of the Year 2009” at the annual REGION FOUR NAVMARCOR MARS conference held in Tallahassee on 17 July 2010.

“Bill”, as he prefers, became a member of NAVMARCOR MARS in 1969 as “N0TAK” NNY and was active there until 1980 when family commitments made it necessary leave the program in 1981. He moved to Florida in late 1983 after retiring from the University at ALBANY, NY and rejoined the program in 1985. After completing the MARS Operator Course, he requested that he be reassigned his original call sign.

Bill served NNY as NNN0GBJ SEVEN and NNN0GBJ FOUR. Here in FL, he has served as

NNN0GAL SEVEN, NNN0GAL FOUR, NNN0GAL ONE, and currently NNN0GAL EIGHT. In both states he has served as traffic rep and has provided articles for the newsletters. He is a tinkerer and enjoys working at the bench on projects that will make it easier to operate the digital modes. At the left is photo of the awarding of the plaque and letter of commendation associated with this recognition. Bill responded with his heartfelt thanks to regional selection committee and to the Florida membership for the this years nomination and the award.



NNN0AS4, NNN0TAK, NNN0ASG

Final Comment from the Editor

As I wrap up this special conference issue prior to publishing it, I have been reviewing the gathering of the information and the assistance that I have received from the attendees when I asked for data and pictures. Special thanks go to NNN0KLT for his response when I put him on the spot. Mike NNN0IBM/NNN0GAL has provided significant guidance I wrestled with the “How to present the “GREEN C”. Each year I look forward to the conference to renew acquaintances and to get new information that will help me be a better “communicator. That objective was met this year. And I look forward to next year. I hope each of you enjoy this issue. As always comments are solicited from the reader by e-mail copy to NNN0GAL so that the next issue will be even better..... Bill, NNN0GAL EIGHT

Florida Awards and Pictures



HXK

Each year members in the state are recommended for Certificates of Recognition and Letters of Commendation which are endorsed by NNN0ASA and presented by NNN0AS4 and NNN)ASG.

This year Certificates of Recognition are presented to NNN0ACA, NNN0BFC, NNN0EAF, NNN0EXY, NNN0HXK, NNN0IBM, and NNN0YAX.



IBM



YTB

This year Letters of Commendation are presented to NNN0ABZ, NNN0BJX, NNN0EKB, NNN0ICX, NNN0TAK, NNN0TFH, NNN0VDG, NNN0YTB, and NNN0ZTT.

“BRAVO ZULU” to these communicators in FL NAVMARCOR MARS.



BFC



KLKT & YTB



TFH



XNK



MEET THE CHIEF AND DIRECTORS
FL NAVMARCOR MARS Chain of Command



**B. G. "Bo" Lindfors, NNN0ZLS VA
CHIEF, NAVMARCOR MARS
NNN0ASA VA/ NNN0ASU VA**

**D. C. "Dave" Ouelette, NNN0EPY MI
CENTRAL AREA DIRECTOR
NNN0ASG IL**



**J. L. "Jack" Conrad, NNN0XOP GA
REGION FOUR DIRECTOR
NNN0AS4 GA/ NNN0ASZ GA**

**M. D. "Mike" Shires, NNN0IBM FL
FL STATE DIRECTOR
NNN0GAL FL/ NNN0ASR FOUR FL**

