

MINUTES OF THE CONFERENCE CALL WITH NMC MARS DIRECTORS & TWOs  
OF REGION TEN - 05 DECEMBER 2010

1. Meeting between Region10 Navy-MC MARS Staff personnel to explore emergency communications support to Federal and State Agencies IAW current directives.

2. Conference call started at 19:00 PST.

Participants:

Region:

Rich Courtney AS0 TWO/ABR

OR:

Randy Hayden GBP/FHA

Tom Sharp GBP TWO/AYE

WA:

Gary Takis GCC/GJT

Larry Bloomquist GCC TWO/VAH

Absent Participants:

Region:

Pete Thunem ASE/JBG

Herb Posner, AS0 ONE/QWL

ID:

Steve Leach GAO/HUE

Gary Gadwa GAO TWO/ISD

AK:

Howard Okland/ GAB/TMI

Peter Armato GAB TWO/SKL

3. OLD BUSINESS:

None

NOTE: Minutes are organized in paragraph form and summarized for content of the speakers:

4. OLD BUSINESS:

None

5. NEW BUSINESS:

Dialog:

- a. **Introduction:** The attendees are all familiar with one another and dispensed with introductions for position and background.
- b. **TWO Participation:** Rich started off by expressing a desire to use the group to develop the Emergency Communications mission and asked for comment from the group. All members of the meeting support the idea, as it will forge a common set of goals and foster a good working relationship amongst the region.
- c. **Developing the Mission:** In a separate e-mail, Randy asked about the intended use of these meetings. Rich stated he wanted to use the meetings to develop the mission at the regional level using it to develop mutual communications support between states. Rich further recognized that the mission developed by the states

was their responsibility and that he was not interested taking over that duty. By way of example, Rich went on to explain using the mission of the Alaska N-MC MARS mission. Members of N-MC MARS Alaska have adopted as their primary mission support to the State Emergency Coordination Center and FEMA in Region Ten. A secondary mission is to support Navy and Coast Guard Assets within Navy Region Northwest and CG District 17. Since this will involve communicating outside Alaska, then Alaska N-MC MARS must be prepared to request assistance from other N-MC MARS members to pass traffic for us.

Procedures need to be developed and practiced. Gary added that this was a good mission to be developed at this level and that it did not have to extend down into the states Ecom plan, but it would be used to support them. He further discussed that he was developing, in conjunction with the WA Army and USAF MARS Directors, a Tri-MARS resource list for the State of Washington's RACES Radio Officer. This would be list the assets and provide a single source document for them to use in the event of net activations and how to contact. Rich agreed this list would be very useful for a team such as the proposed region team to use for contacting to facilitate passing traffic.

Larry inquired about DOE/dams, power and hydro electric and if this would apply to it. Gary explained that it was generic in intent for the state's use. Further, we need to be sensitive to not compete with the other amateur organizations. We do not have the numbers such as ARES and that our mission is more in supporting federal agencies as opposed to local governments. Washington and Oregon ARES leadership has indicated their primary level of support is at the county level. Tom added that we should have an exercise stressing interoperability between MARS/SHARES/ARES/RACES. Finally, Gary and Larry indicated certain stations were designated as "liaison stations" to the State Emergency Nets. These are stations that would be designated by their parent organizations to connect with other amateur radio organizations and pass traffic.

- d. **Schedule of MDOs and Exercises:** The conference call shifted topics to discussing exercises and MARS Day Out, (MDO) events. Rich wants to develop a schedule of events for Exercises and MDOs and publish them. In this manner, folks can plan when to participate and bring up the attendance for these events. Randy added that we used to have 4 MDOs a year for the Pacific Area. Also, Randy was also asked by Pete, (AS0), to have more advertising that has been given to them in the past along with a scenario for one of them.

Larry suggested we combine a MARS day out with ARRL field day in June and Rich added Howard Okland, had asked him to bring up another activity for winter known as SPAR or Society for the Preservation of Amateur Radio. SPAR sponsors an annual winter field day. More details can be found out at: <http://www.spar-hams.org/contests/winterfd/index.php> .

Rich wants to have two exercises and two MDOs. Gary cautioned that we should strive for quality in our MDOs and Exercises, rather than quantity. Rich offered up his MDOs to concentrate on developing exercises and keep the numbers down.

After some discussion on when to have these events the group agreed to ask Randy to select the dates for the MDOs and we would pare back the exercise to one in the October timeframe near the ARRL set. Further Gary shared his discussions with the WA RACES officials and recommended that we have a joint MARS exercise with the other amateur radio organizations around the time of the ARRL SET exercises.

- e. **Wrap-up/Review:** A review was read back to all members with no disagreements. Rich will draft the mins and send out to all members for review and then publish to the region.

4. All business was concluded and the meeting was adjourned at 20:15 PST.

**ACTION ITEMS:**

- a. Randy to select four dates for 1 MDO each.
- b. Rich to develop and organize the Region 10 participation within a joint amateur radio exercise in the October timeframe.
- c. Gary to contact the eastern WA RACES Officer for the Oct exercise.
- d. Larry to contact the ARES section manager in WA, (E&W) about the Oct exercise.
- e. Tom to contact the ARES section manager in OR and ID about the Oct exercise.

V/R

Rich Courtney/NNN0ABR

Assistant to the Director Region Ten for Emergency Communications Planning