



CAP-COMM

The Civil Air Patrol's Communications Newsletter

First Issue of Comm Newsletter

November 19, 2006

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While serving as a Squadron Communications Officer in the mid 60's in Florida, I looked forward to receiving the communications bulletins published by Maj. Crabtree, the Air Force officer that managed the CAP communications program. This bulletin was mailed to each squadron, wing and region and contained timely news about the communications program as well as an occasional article on how to construct a field expedient antenna or some other item of interest to the communicator.

As you all know, CAP is in the process of implementing the largest communications project in our history. This land mobile radio (LMR) project is vitally important to the future of our organization, as

it ensures that we will be able to provide the communications links required by our ever increasing role in emergency service and homeland security.

Our National Commander has already expressed his concern that every commander be involved in this project to ensure its success. Major General Pineda's tasking of each Wing Commander to submit a plan for their portion of this LMR project marks the first time in history that our wings were so involved.

To ensure the success of this project, I believe that it is vital for our region, wing, squadron, and individual communications personnel to be kept informed. I have therefore obtained approval to reestablish the communications bulletins that have been missing far too

long. These bulletins will be published on a regular schedule and distribution will include all levels of CAP. In addition to LMR project updates from national, we will include appropriate articles from field units.

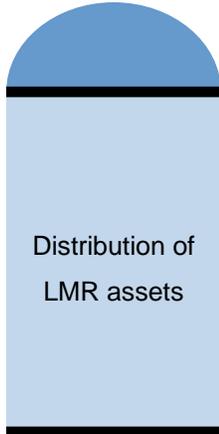
I am pleased to be able to announce that Major Larry Riegel, formally of the Pennsylvania Wing, has agreed to be the editor of this bulletin. Major Riegel will be sending out distribution information and guidelines for the submission of articles in the near future.

I hope that you will join me in welcoming back an old friend and make this bulletin an effective tool for our communications program.

Paul K. Reid, Jr
Lt Col, CAP
National Comm Advisor

Welcome back
an old friend—
the Comm
Newsletter

LMR Assets Distributed to Field by NTC



VHF Portables: 918 distributed to the field.

Chargers for VHF Portables: 918 distributed to the field

VHF Mobiles: 1395 processed with 1058 distributed to the field and 337 staged for motor freight delivery.

VHF Mobile Antennas and Mounts: 1058 distributed to the field and 2012 staged for shipment.

ISR Portables: 4845 ordered and received. 4061 processed and distributed to the field, 260 on hold for wings on freeze, 300 tentatively going to training sites.

VHF Transportable Repeaters: 113 ordered, received and inventoried. Processing not scheduled to begin until Jan 2007, distribution to begin Mar 2007 as they are setup on the new frequencies which we can not start using until 1 April 2007.

Standard Configuration Repeaters: 420 ordered (Motorola). 380 received and inventoried.

12 Volt Configuration Repeaters: 5 ordered (Motorola), 0 received Solar Configuration: 7 ordered (Kenwood), 7 received

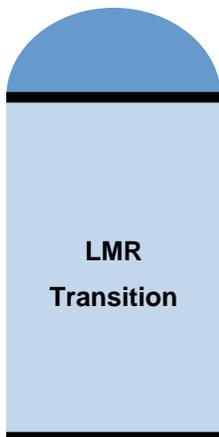
Field Replacement Units

(Upgrade parts for existing Motorola Repeaters): Total of 100 upgrade kits ordered, received and inventoried.

Seimac Training Kits (for ES): 102 ordered and received.

Mark Kunkowski
NTC

VHF-FM LMR Upgrade Project



... in this issue, you have read about the new LMR repeaters, bases, mobiles and portables being distributed to the field. So why is National sending out all this equipment, and what does it mean to us? [In case you're wondering, "LMR" stands for Land Mobile Radio and, for CAP, encompasses our VHF-FM

radio system.]

The current distribution marks the latest in a long and sometimes agonizing train of events for CAP Communications, one that began in the late 1980's, and which will culminate (but not end) in the transition to new frequencies starting later this year.

Back in the early 1990's, the leadership of the CAP Comm program was made aware of the then-new technical requirements of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) which governs the radio spectrum for federal radio users in the same way that the FCC

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governs “civilian” radio users. Not only did the NTIA have technical requirements for radio equipment that clearly disallowed the majority of the equipment then in the CAP Comm program, but it also laid out the ground rules for an eventual transition to narrower channels, which would take place by the then far-off date of 1 January, 2008.

At that time, while NHQ had purchased and distributed a number of GE Mastr II repeaters, Neutec SM-1645H VHF mobiles and a smaller number of Kenwood TS-430 and TS-440 HF-SSB radios, the vast majority of the CAP Comm system was composed of member-owned and maintained equipment. The leadership at that time realized that the potential scope of the changes required would substantially alter the nature of our comm. program, and two fundamental decisions were made: First, that a timetable for bringing CAP into compliance would be established, with the intent of making CAP fully compliant with the NTIA requirements within a reasonable time; and second, that the burden of supplying

and maintaining the equipment CAP needed to do its job would be transferred from our members to the organization.

A plan consisting of graduated “milestones” was created to implement the process of gradually becoming compliant, and work was begun with the Air Force to get into their multi-year funding cycles.

The “milestones” plan was circulated within the Air Force frequency management structure, and while it was not “officially” approved, CAP was told informally that they had chosen an acceptable method of achieving the goal, and the plan was voted on and approved by the NEC in November, 1998. Under this plan, CAP gradually phased out the old, non-compliant radios and began equipping units and members with new, narrowband and digital-capable equipment and by 31 December, 2001, the non-compliant LMR equipment was essentially gone from the system.

Initially, the comm. leadership used Air Force year-end “fallout” funds

parts of their operating budget, and similar “bits and scraps” to fund the initial acquisition of modern LMR equipment such as the Tait T2020, EF Johnson 5317 mobiles and 5112 portables. In 2002, we were able to reach agreement with the Air Force on a CAP Table of Authorizations (TA), and the Air Force agreed to fund the CAP comm. program in accordance with that TA. In FY03, the first Air Force funding specifically devoted to the comm. program was received, followed by significantly more in FY04. Late last summer, the Air Force funded the remainder of CAP’s LMR Mission Essential and Mission Critical requirements. In total, the Air Force has supplied about \$28 Million in direct funding to the CAP comm. program for LMR equipment.

We will keep you informed of the progress of this program in future issues of CAP-COMM.

Hartley Gardner
Major, CAP
Comm Standards Officer



FCC Drops Morse Code

“FCC acted to drop Morse Code Requirement”

In an historic move, the FCC has acted to drop the Morse code requirement for all Amateur Radio license classes. The Commission ... adopted a Report and Order (R&O) in WT Docket 05-235. In a break from typical practice, the FCC only issued a public notice at or about the close of business and not the actual Report and Order, so some details -- including the effective date of the R&O -- remain uncertain.

Civil Air Patrol
Comm Newsletter

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Guidelines for Submitting Articles

Submission guidelines

1. **Pictures:** Pictures/graphics should be either 1.75" or 3.5" wide (1 or 2 columns wide)
2. **Word count:** 100 to 250 words
3. **Subject:** Articles must be relevant to comm. Articles not relevant to communications and therefore relevant to our readers will not be published.
4. **Spelling:** Please use a spell checker on the article before submission.
5. **Profanity:** Profanity will automatically be cause for not using an article.
6. **Author:** Please include the author's name and other information, such as unit and rank, if CAP or military. (Giving credit where credit is due.)
7. **Deadline date:** Will be established in the near future
8. **Submission address:** Submit articles to Larry Riegel, Major, CAP using the following email address, llr@larryriegel.com