OPERATION RADAR Camp Blanding (Starke), Florida

Week of February 4th thru 8th, 2013

Initial startup plans for amateur radio involvement

The amateur radio community of Florida has been invited to participate in the upcoming Operation Radar. This paper is a rough draft of the goals and objectives we have been ask to accomplish.

There are two (2) ways amateur radio operators (RDO’s) can be part of this mission;

The first way is to volunteer with your local county EOC or the Region in which you reside. This requires the RDO to make arrangements or to have been asked by the EMA or regional Director to participate. In this scenario, the RDO will be working within the realm of the regional team task that has been issued at Operation Radar. These RDOs will report to and be responsible to the Regional IC. Except for an extreme emergency, these RDOs will not leave the Regional venue.

While unnamed at this time, a new basic unit will be established and be put into service. This unit will operate as an assigned Region, getting assigned tasks and joining the other 7 Regions and served agencies participating in Operation Radar (OR). This unit will operate under NIMs protocols, with ICS leadership. There will be a Command post (CP) established and this unit will handle all amateur radio traffic (task) to and from the many Regions and served agencies.

Assigned task will involve as many of the following modes as possible;

Winlink2K, APRS, SEDAN, D-Rats both by radio direct and thru the internet, D-Star DV mode via radio direct and thru the internet, 1296 DV and High & Low speed Data direct and thru the internet, “HF”, voice and CW (using ICS forms 213), analog VHF/UHF, and PSK31/63.

Along with the CP, at least two (2) mobile units are needed to deploy throughout Blanding to augment various Regions that need assistance in completing the assigned tasks that require amateur radio.

Requirements to be a member of the amateur Region team;

Valid licensed amateur radio operator, prefer General class or higher. If there are any openings not filled, technicians will be called on. RDOs must reside in Florida and have ICS courses 100, 200, 700 completed. Amateurs (NFL members) registered in the NFL Database will be called on first round. It is hoped that RDOs from the SFL & WCF sections will be part of this operation.

The FL-EOC reserves the right to “vet” all applicants and make the final decision for the team members. Once chosen, the selected amateur will receive an email on how to register on line for the Operation Radar event.

Monday, February 4th thru Friday, February 8th, 2013 is the event dates. Monday and Friday are travel days. Tuesday is setup and some classes, Wednesday and Thursday are exercise operations days. Thursday afternoon is the “Hot Wash”. After the Hot Wash, you are free to travel, depending on how far you must go.

Expenses will be paid and/or lodging, food will be provided. Current mileage is $0.44 cents a mile using the state of Florida mileage charts, not your speedometer. RDOs must arrive at Blanding with an almost full tank of fuel (Starke is 6 miles away). Your fuel tanks for vehicles, generators or equipment will be topped off upon departure from the exercise on Friday.

The SFL and WCF SMs will be advised of this operation ASAP, so potential RDOs can start the registration process. The SMs will be invited to participate on a conference call to discuss details. RDOs in the SFL & WCF sections should go thru their SM/SEC when applying for this assignment.

Interested RDOs must send an email stating your skill sets, available equipment you will bring, and what modes you would like to use and support. Certain multiple skill sets will have priority over single mode operators. RDO positions are limited to an extent. Emails need to be received by Sunday, January 13th, 2012 t be considered. Please provide a contact PX number.

This is a multiple section event and the FL-EOC is in full support of amateur radio for this event.

This is a chance to put amateur radio visible to served agencies and the public. We are looking forward to working with everyone to complete this mission.

For any information, questions or understanding, contact Paul, KJ4G@arrl.org, 850-591-0442 73.