

Tech Rally 09/09/2023  
Limerick Pre-Drill Briefing

# Agenda

- Preamble
- Equipment readiness
- General stuff
- Drill objectives
- Drill timeline
- Operational flow

# Preamble

- Why is Limerick important?
  - Very important for our served agency – Chesco DES
  - Generates brownie points and funding (if successful)
- CCAR role is backup communications if all other paths fail
  - FEMA / PEMA can inject obstacles
- What does CCAR get (why do we care)?
  - Funding
  - Training for unplanned events
  - Reputation

# Equipment Readiness

- Go Kit
- Voice
- Low speed data (NBEMS)
- High speed data (5.8 GHz, email)
- CCAR operations (026 / Chesco EOC)
- Infrastructure

# Go Kit for Limerick

- Batteries
- Coax, adapters
- Antenna(s)
- Forms (Logs, ICS-213)
- Note paper, pens, etc.
- Clothing?
- ✓ Food and water etc. will be available at each location

*FEMA / PEMA “injects” can be tricky!*

# Voice Operator

- Mobile radio (preferred) and / or HT
- **Headset**
- Power supply
- Go kit items

# Low Speed Data Operators

- Mobile radio, power supply
- Laptop (software up to date), USB cables, USB stick
- Sound card interface
- NBEMS software loaded / tested (recent version)
- Email client (thunderbird, outlook, etc)
- Go kit items

# High Speed Data

- Laptop (software up too date), USB stick
- CCAR WiFi access point connection
- Web browser
- W3EOC.org township Email ID and password



# CCAR Operations

- Defined roles and staffing
- CHESCO EOC liason and interface processes
- Resnet and Tacnet Net Control scripts
- Message passing procedures / scripts
- “clean cockpit” environment
- Contingencies (for FEMA injects)

# Infrastructure

- UHF Repeater system
- Remote NBEMS system (146.690)
- CCAR network backbone
- Mail Server
- *Temporary* high speed equipment
- Note required for this years drill
  - Digi-peaters
  - DMR system
  - Winlink post office

# General Stuff

- We will be operating as RACES under the direction of the Chester County Dept of Emergency Services (CHESCO DES)
- Will need ID (preferably DES) to enter townships or GSC. Police will typically check and keep logs
- May have FEMA / PEMA observers who might ask questions like:
  - Who are you? – An Amateur radio operator
  - What is your role? – provide backup communications between the township and CHESCO DES in the Govt. Services Building
  - Who do you communicate with? - RACES operators at the GSC
  - What are your objectives? - next page!

# CCAR Drill Objectives

- 1) Deploy CCAR RACES operators to each Chester County township EOC in the Emergency Planning Zone (EPZ)
- 2) Establish communication between the CCAR township operator and RACES room at the CHESCO GSC
- 3) Demonstrate capability to pass bi-directional message traffic between the township EOC and CHESCO EOC
  - 1) Voice
  - 2) Digital data

# Drill Timeline

- Pre-position close to your designated township and monitor the repeater
- Net Control will make an announcement when the drill starts
- RESNET will start, checkin with RESNET and proceed to the township
- Set up equipment and inform RESNET or TACNET when you are operational
- Follow net control directives, pass traffic as it becomes available

# Drill Timeline cont.

- Eat dinner... usually pretty good!
- NC will announce drill termination
- Hand logs etc. to the township EC
- Request permission to shut down your station
- Pack up and head for home
- Use RESNET if running

NOTE: CCAR operators will be released when the County ends the drill regardless of township status

# Operational Procedures

- RESNET and TACNET will be operating
- Professional at all times
  - Keep transmissions clear and concise (no chit chat :-)
  - Use tactical call signs, FCC call sign only at end of transmission
- CCAR “message director” (MD) in 026 will assign CCAR message numbers
- Township Voice operator should handle all voice comms\*

# Operational Procedures – High Speed

- Net Control will announce message transmission via email from [races1@w3eoc.org](mailto:races1@w3eoc.org)
- High speed operator will reply to [races2@w3eoc.org](mailto:races2@w3eoc.org) with “ack” prepended to the subject
- Net Control may poll townships to confirm reception if there is any confusion



# Operational Procedures – Low Speed

- MD will email the message to the Digital Operator (DO)
- DO will prepare the message for transmission, usually FLAMP
- NC will announce that an NBEMS message is to be transmitted
- DO transmits message
- NC will poll all stations to confirm reception or need for fills, do not “volunteer” reception information
- After polling all stations NC will return to townships requiring fills and manage the process