

EmComm and Ham Radio

Where do we fit?

Dave Merritt, W7FYV
ARRL Emergency Coordinator

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KARSEN Planning Group
WKC ARES/RACES

What we are going to talk about

- Where does Ham Radio fit in emergency communications?
- How you get involved
- Neighborhood Ham Watch Program
- Served Agency Concept
- ARES Basic Training 1
- Advanced ARES Training 2
- Liability
- What is ICS?
- How it all fits together
- National Incident Management System (NIMS)
- What is expected of us?

Where does Ham Radio fit in EmComm?

- Emergency communications is an old principle and responsibility in amateur radio.

It dates back to about 1913 when Univ. of Michigan and Ohio State amateurs bridged the communications gap after a severe windstorm.

- Was no formal EmComm structure at the time.
- In 1914 ARRL founded by Hiram Percy Maxim.
- My how things have changed, or not, since 1914!

Historical progression

- **1913** Hams spontaneously helped after a windstorm.
- **1935** **ARES** emerged out of these informal systems and ARRL got formally involved.
- **1949** The National Traffic System (NTS) began.
- **2000** September 11, 2000 changed our country and our focus on how emergencies are handled.
- **2010** Kern Amateur Radio System EmComm Network (KARSEN) was established.
 - Comprised of 4 clubs in Kern County and 2 faith based organizations working collaboratively.

How you get involved in ARES.

- **Associate Member – Valid FCC Amateur Radio License & desire to help.**
- **Registration in ARES** – register by completing the ARRL Form FSD-98 and send it to your local EC. www.w6lie.org under the EmComm Tab
- **Part 97E – ARES** volunteers.
 - FCC Amateur License, no club affiliation
 - Served Agency concept
 - Can use your own call sign or a Tactical Call assigned by a Net Control Station (NCS)
- **Part 97.407(a)(e)** – Regulates civil defense **RACES** operation.
 - FCC Amateur License, no club affiliation
 - Government affiliation and authorized activation required
 - Restricted frequencies, hours of operation and drills
 - **RACES** – Governmental activation of ARES Units by local civil defense office or Office of Emergency Services and a security check.
- **Western Kern County ARES/RACES – Reorganized in 2011 to comply with NIMS**
 - www.w6lie.org under the EmComm Tab you will find more information.

Neighborhood Ham Watch

- A voluntary program to help your neighbors.
- Your ham radio is all you need.
- You are the only link to the “Last Mile”.
- Shelter in place at home.
- Provide current situation reports when asked.
- Provide current information from EOC.
- Alleviate “communication isolation”.

Served Agencies (SA's)

- **ARRL** maintains formal MOU's with:
 - Department Of Homeland Security (DHS)
 - Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)
 - National Weather Service (NWS)
 - Red Cross
 - Salvation Army
 - National Communications System
 - Associated Public Safety Communication Officers
- **No mandate** that you must serve any or all SA's
- You ***may also serve*** other community resources like:
 - Houchin Community Blood Bank
 - Local hospitals
 - Shelters
- You decide – ***If you promise it you should honor it!***

ARES Basic Training - 1

ARES — Simple - read the ARRL *PSCM (Free) & ARRL EmComm Handbook* - \$19.95 www.arrl.org

- Ch. 1 Amateur Radio Emergency Service ARES
- Ch. 2 Simulated Emergency Test (SET)
- Ch. 3 ARES Mutual Assistance Team (ARESMAST)
- Ch. 4 ARES and RACES
- Ch. 5 ARES Principles of Disaster Communication
- Ch. 6 Working with Public Safety Officials
- Ch. 7 On serving Served Agencies
- Review the EmComm 100 (old version) is on www.w6lie.org
- FEMA Training - links are on the www.w6lie.org web site
 - IS100b, IS200a & IS700 are required for NIMS compliance

ARES Advanced Training - 2

- **ARRL – Emergency Communications 100, 200/300**
 - 100 is being revised in 2011 (old version is on www.w6lie.org)
 - 200/300 have been revised and are available for a fee.
- **FEMA Classes are available free on-line**
 - IS 100b Introduction to Incident Command (ICS)
 - IS 200b ICS for Single Agency
 - IS 700a National Incident Management (NIMS)
 - Required to work in an EOC, or as a stand alone group.
- **Today will give you a “little” background in ICS**
- **RACES credentials are optional**
 - Possible background security clearance required
 - Only become RACES if officially activated

Liability – Don't panic!

Rev. 3-4-10

- **Not a subject I particularly like but:**
 - I am not an attorney so I can't give legal advice.
- In 2008 the California Supreme Court ruled that the “Good Samaritan statute ONLY applies to emergency medical care and does not protect against lawsuits based on claims of negligence in rescuing or transporting accident victims.
Van Horn v. Watson et al (2008) 45 Cal.4th 322.
- As a result “good Samaritans” who provide non-medical care are subject to the common law rule that “a person has no duty to come to the aid of another...[but if] a person elects to come to someone's aid he or she has a duty to exercise due care.” If they do not exercise “due care” in rescuing or transporting victims, volunteers can be held liable for any injury they cause.
- California Volunteers is following this case and the Legislature has taken some action to correct the language in Gov't. Code Section 1799.102.
- **There is also a major distinction between “volunteer” & “disaster service worker”**

AB 83 Feuer/Benoit June 9, 2009

- The CA Supreme Court decision in Van Horn v. Watson caused the Legislature to act rapidly to encourage individuals to act as “Good Samaritans and they changed the CA law.
- It places California in line with 31 states and the District of Columbia to immunize Good Samaritans from liability unless they act outside policy and training, recklessly, or in a grossly negligent manner. It does not cover motor vehicle operation.
- You should follow established procedures and act in a responsible and prudent manner.

Words mean things!

Rev. 3-4-10

- **Key words** from **AB 83**
 - ...not for compensation, ...good faith, ...medical or non-medical assistance at the scene of an emergency, ...due care
 - ...as long as the act does NOT constitute gross negligence, willful or wanton misconduct, „,recklessly
- **Key words** from **42 U.S.C. Sec. 14501**
 - ...scope of official duties, ...under a volunteer program, ...except harm while operating a motor vehicle, gross negligence, ...criminal acts

What is ICS - Incident Command System?

- Management concept developed over 30 years ago
- Flexible enough for all hazard, single or multiple agency response
- Management by objectives
- Modular so it expands or contracts according the needs of the incident
- Standardized on-scene all hazard management system
- Integrates personnel, facilities, procedures & communications
- Common organizational structure and definitions
- Clear text with NO codes
- Establishes common processes and planning to achieve defined objectives
- Unity of Command
- Manageable Span-of-Control
- **Single agency – Single Jurisdiction**
- **Multiple Agency – Single Jurisdiction**
- **Multiple Agency – Multiple Jurisdiction**

Basic Features of ICS

- Common Terminology
- Tactical Call Signs – Identify the job
 - ✓ ARRL – give your call sign at end of traffic so NCS knows you are done.
- Command – Chain, Unity, & Transfer of
- Planning & Organization Structure
- Facilities & Resources
- Communication/Information Management
- Professionalism

Common Terminology

- Helps define - function, facility, resource, position
- Plain English – no jargon = **CLEAR TEXT**
- No agency or group codes – includes “Q” codes.
- What does EMT mean?
 - Every Mother’s Troublemaker?
 - Emergency Management Team?
 - E-mail Money Transfer?
 - Efficient Management Tools?
 - Emergency Medical Technician?

Organization Structure

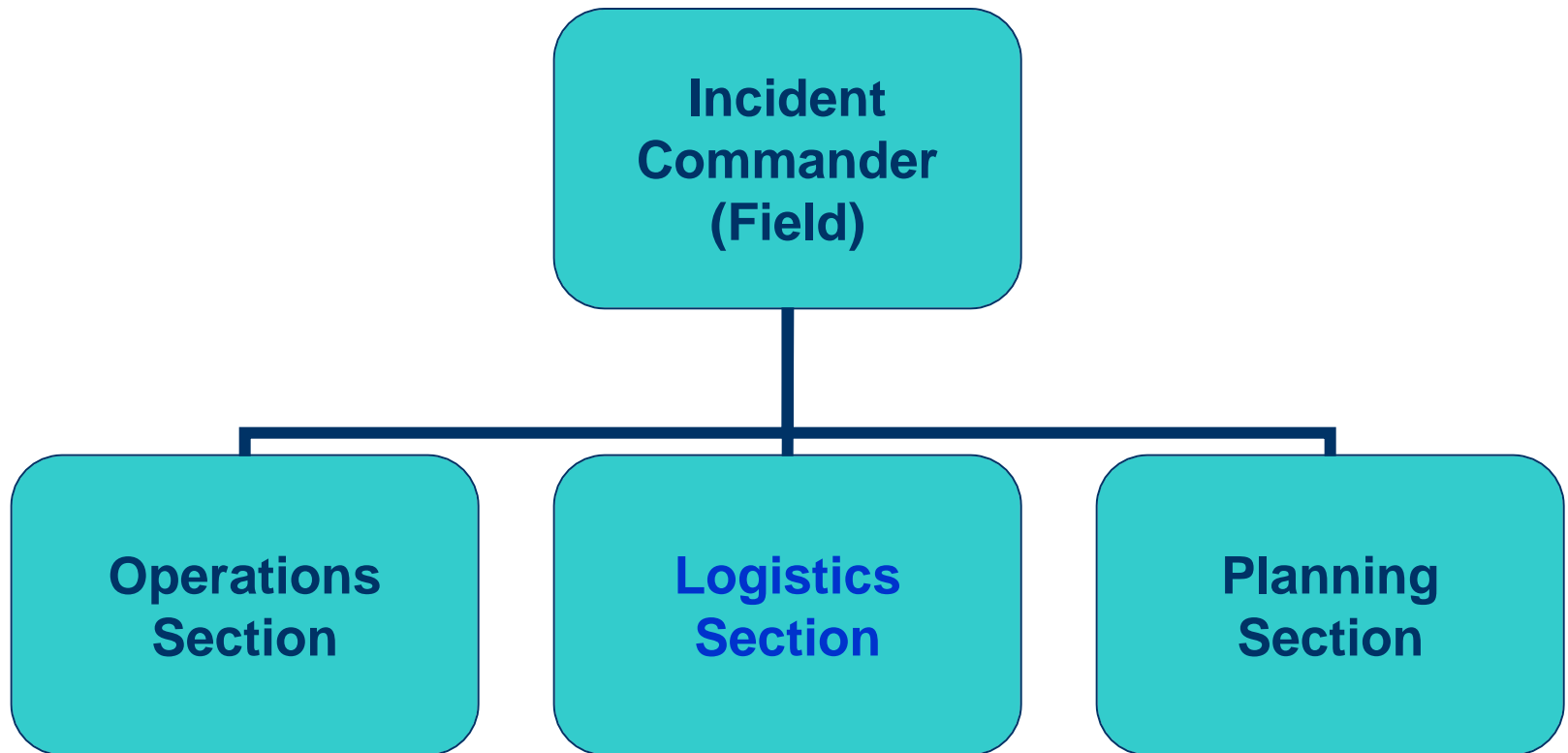
- Management by **Objectives**
- Incident Action **Plan** (IAP) – what, how, who
- **Modular** Organization – add/delete as needed
- Manageable **SPAN OF CONTROL – 3 to 7**
- Incident **Objectives** – based on priority
 - Life Safety
 - Incident Stabilization
 - Property Preservation

Command

- **Act** of directing, ordering, controlling
- **Chain** of Command – line of authority
- **Transfer** of Command – moving responsibility
- **Unity** of Command – one boss
- **Unified Command** – multiple agencies

Incident Command System (ICS)

(Short version)



Incident Commander (IC)

- Should have training & experience
- Sets the Objectives
- May not be highest ranking person
- Must be good at delegating
- Needs to be firm but a team player

Operations Section Chief

- Handles the field operation
- Defines tactics and strategy to be used
- May have 2 or more **Groups** reporting to him
- Each Group may have +/- 4 **Resources**
- Because ICS is modular you can add Groups

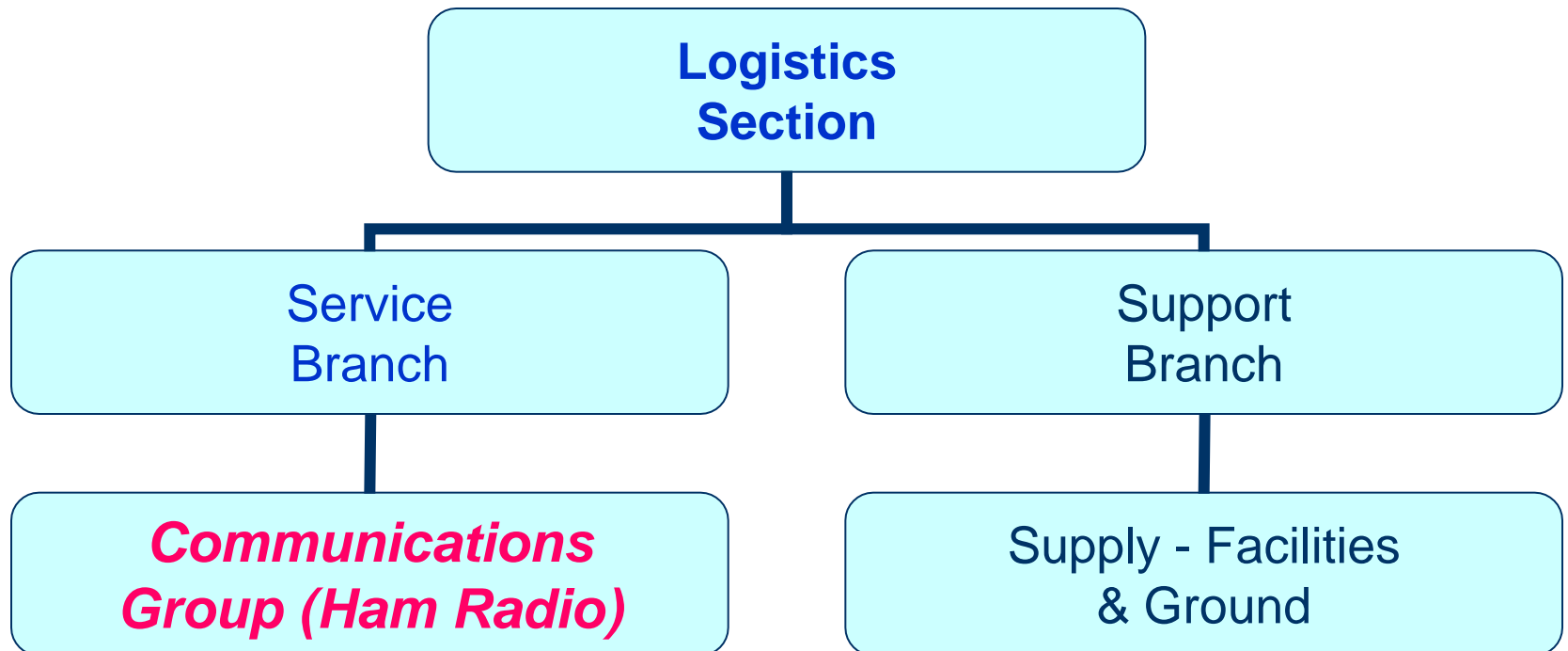
Planning Section Chief

- May have +/- 4 Groups
- Develops Plans and Strategies
- Provides documentation services
- Prepares Incident Action Plans (IAP's)
- Maintains & displays situation status
- Maintains & displays resource status

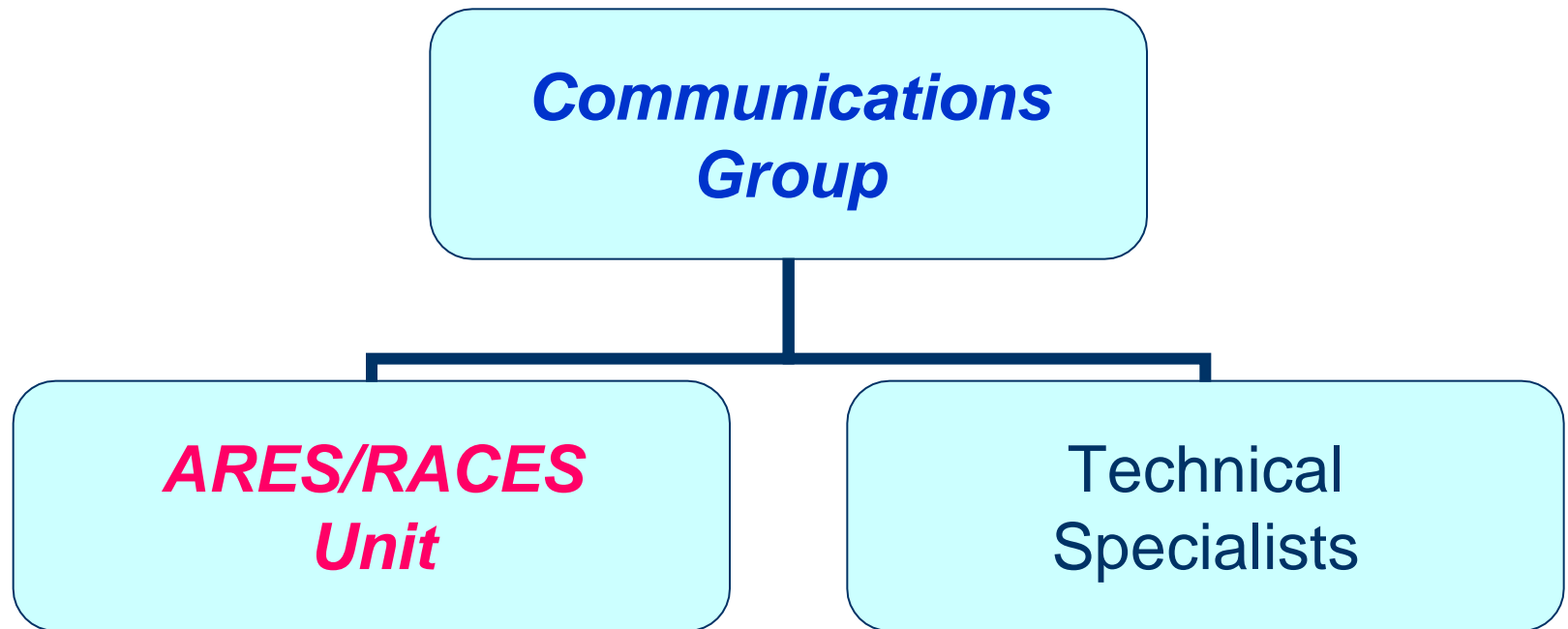
Logistics Section Chief

- Logistics = people, things & stuff
- Provides material, facilities, support services
- Usually has **2 Branches** with **Groups**
 - **Service Branch** – **Communications**, Medical & Food
 - **Support Branch** – Supply, Facilities & Ground Support

Logistics Section



Communications Unit



How does it all fit together?

LOCAL AREA - (i.e.: city) has a major emergency (disaster)
City uses their resources to handle it until they need more help.

OPERATIONAL AREA - (Kern County and ALL political jurisdictions within) manages additional resources and may **open the EOC** to manage those resources until they need help. ICS is used by the County, State and Federal agencies.

STATE - If **more resources** are needed from outside our Operational Area we go to the State of California.

FEDERAL - resources are used to support the state. NIMS is the plan for that level of support.

National Incident Management System (NIMS)

- Systematic, proactive approach to managing:
 - Government agencies at all levels
 - Private sector agencies
 - Non-governmental organizations
- Goals:
 - Prepare
 - Respond
 - Recover
- In order to mitigate:
 - Effects on life, property & the environment

What's expected of us?

- **Professionalism** – be professional and competent:
 - Trained – FEMA and ARRL certified
 - Willing – Serve when asked as a professional ARES Unit
 - Cooperative – Ask what we can do to help - not tell
 - Courteous – Appropriate language and behavior
 - Prepared – have our personal Go-Kit radio and supplies
- **Performing** non-communication roles if needed
- **Being a valued partner** & team player not a liability.
- **Deliver** on what we promise!