

All-Hazards Communications Technician (COMT)

Training Course

Unit 14: Resources and Review



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Unit 14: Objectives

- Describe additional available resources in each student's area
- Discuss other potential global resources



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COMT UNIT 14 – RESOURCES AND REVIEW

Networking

- Relationships made at work, in training, meetings, almost anywhere have immense value in emergency operations
- Networking requires maintenance – keep in contact with those you meet
- Make a list of contacts (Mobilization Guide) and keep information current
- Networking is a two-way street – be available for others as they seek your help
- You may not have all the answers, but it helps to know who does



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COMT UNIT 14 – RESOURCES AND REVIEW

Other Resources – State Military

State Military

- National Guard Civil Support Team (CST)
 - Located in every state and territory
 - WMD-CBRN mission oriented
 - Secure and unsecure voice and data
 - Military & Civilian LMR



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COMT UNIT 14 – RESOURCES AND REVIEW

Other Resources – State Military (Cont)

- Joint Incident Site Communications Capability (JISCC)
 - Located in every state and territory
 - Designed to provide interoperability to first responders
 - Rapidly deployable, transported in cases



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COMT UNIT 14 – RESOURCES AND REVIEW

Other Resources – FEMA MERS

- FEMA Mobile Emergency Response Support (MERS)
 - Provides secure & unsecure telecommunications support to federal assets
 - 6 CONUS locations
 - Ku-band satellite service



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COMT UNIT 14 – RESOURCES AND REVIEW

Other Resources – FEMA MERS (Cont)

- HF, VHF & UHF LMR
- Wired & Wireless Network and Phone (Up to 90 Users)
- Microwave link
- Video Teleconferencing capabilities



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COMT UNIT 14 – RESOURCES AND REVIEW

Other Resources – NIFC

NIFC

- National Interagency Fire Center
 - Manages United States Forest Service (USFS), Bureau of Land Management (BLM), communications assets/frequencies and aviation frequencies, primarily for wild land fire fighting
 - Manages portable communication equipment and systems
 - May provide a Communications Coordinator, depending on size, complexity, and number of incidents



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National Interagency Fire Center

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COMT UNIT 14 – RESOURCES AND REVIEW

Other Resources – NIRSC

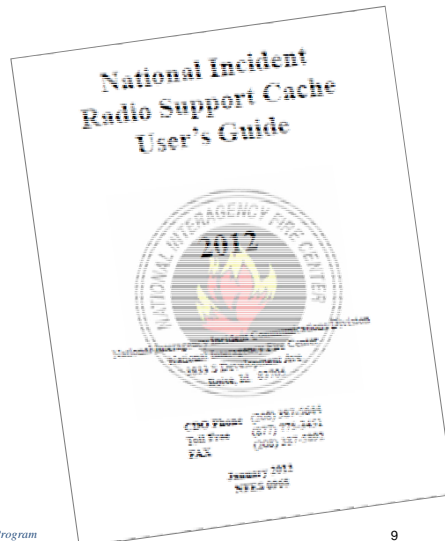
NIRSC

- National Incident Radio Support Cache
 - Must have a prearranged reimbursable agreement in place to request this resource
 - As alternative, request through Emergency Management (EMAC) or a State Fire Agency



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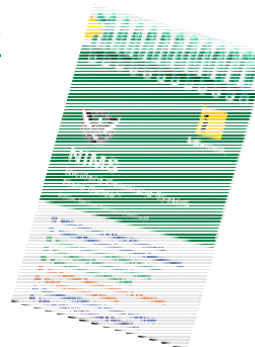
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COMT UNIT 14 – RESOURCES AND REVIEW

Other Resources – NIMS Field Guide

- National Incident Management System (NIMS): Incident Command System Field Guide™

<http://ff.cgauxa.org/pdf/NIMS.pdf>



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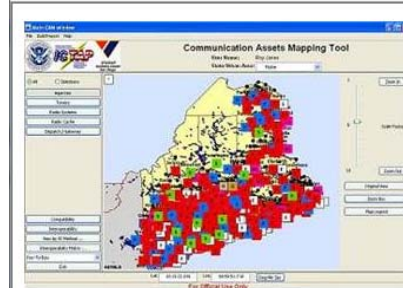
Other Resources (Cont)

TICP

- Tactical Interoperable Communications Plan

CASM

- Communications Assets Survey and Mapping Tool
- CASM was designed as a strategic planning tool, but has tactical use and utility
- Other regional plans and field guides



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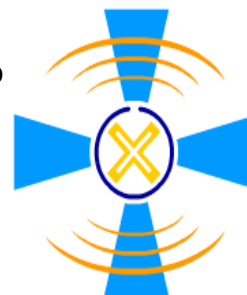
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Other Resources – EMAC

- State, regional, and local equipment caches: Pre-planning and prior agreements are crucial to effective utilization
- Hold exercises and training with cache resources prior to large events
- EMAC: Emergency Management Assistance Compact
www.emacweb.org

How EMAC Works



- ✕ Governor of disaster-affected state declares emergency
- State's emergency management agency assesses needs
- State requests resources through EMAC network
- ▶ Other states provide assistance through EMAC network



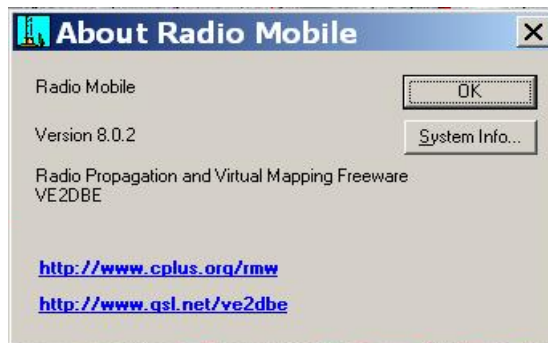
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Other Resources – Software

Radio propagation software



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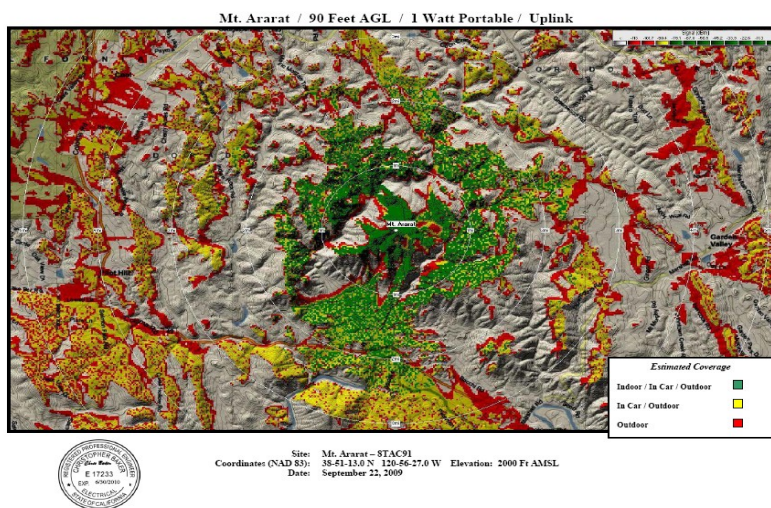
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Other Resources – Software (Cont)

Radio Propagation Example



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REVIEW

Other Resources – Software (Cont)

- National Interagency Incident Communications (NIIC)
 - <http://www.nifc.gov/NIICD/index.html>
- Resource for inventory tracking of issued radios and equipment
 - <http://www.nifc.gov/NIICD/documents.html#inventory>



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COMT UNIT 14 – RESOURCES AND REVIEW

Commercial Resources

- Commercial services
 - Radio systems
 - Telephones
 - Satellite
 - Contract technicians
- Advantages/disadvantages
 - Added depth for complex needs
 - Specialized skills such as tower work
 - Cost containment



Cell On Wheels (COW)



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COMT UNIT 14 – RESOURCES AND REVIEW

Other Resources – Miscellaneous

- To create a mini-logging recorder using a Scanner/PC:
 - www.butelsoftware.com
- To get many frequencies, Continuous Tone Coded Squelch System (CTCSS) tones, and Talkgroup:
 - www.RadioReference.com
- Yahoo! group specifically for Communications Unit personnel:
 - Group name: OEC-COML
 - <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/OEC-COML/>



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COMT UNIT 14 – RESOURCES AND REVIEW

Review Exercise

- Develop scenarios applicable to local incident types
- Design a radio system to implement the solutions
 - Shared system
 - Shared channels
 - Radio cache(s)
 - Gateway(s)
 - Mobile communication centers
 - Portable towers
 - Repeaters



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COMT UNIT 14 – RESOURCES AND REVIEW

Review

- Review how the COMT Task Book works
- Review of resources such as the Mobilization Guide, web sites, NIFOG, forms, check-lists
- Prepare for final test



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COMT UNIT 14 – RESOURCES AND REVIEW

Review

Closing Discussion and Review of Course Objectives



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COMT UNIT 14 – RESOURCES AND REVIEW

Review

- Has the All-Hazards COMT course met the following course objectives?
 - Identify the functions, duties, and responsibilities of the COMT
 - Arrive at an all-hazards incident properly equipped, gather information to assess the assignment, and begin initial planning
 - Plan, order, implement, and demobilize the Communications Unit in a safe and effective manner



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COMT UNIT 14 – RESOURCES AND REVIEW

Unit 14 Questions



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