

Clinton County ARES/RACES Training

An Introduction to EmComm/AuxComm
(Emergency Communications/Auxiliary Communications)

April 2022 - Mark Varin KD2RJP, Clinton County EC

ARES/RACES Training

- ARES
 - Amateur Radio Emergency Service
 - Provide Communications Support to Served Agencies
 - Deployed at request of agency, or self-deployed (at direction of EC)
 - No limits on training time
 - Training requirements set by Emergency Coordinator (EC)

ARES/RACES Training

- RACES
 - Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service
 - Requires enrollment and acceptance by Governmental Agency (Civil Defense)
 - Deployed only at request of Governmental Agency (Civil Defense)
 - Active only during periods of Emergency (shortly thereafter)
 - Allowed training time is limited (1 hr/week, 72 hrs twice yearly)
 - Training requirements set by Governmental Agency
 - Strict adherence to proper procedures

ARES/RACES Training

- What we do...
 - Provide communications support
 - Establish communications “link” (usually a net)
 - Relay messages (“traffic”) between locations or stations
 - Emergency or Priority traffic
 - Service (SVC) traffic
 - Tactical traffic
 - Welfare traffic
 - Routine traffic

ARES/RACES Training

- Who we serve...
 - ARES - Served Agencies (*MOU's with ARRL)
 - *American Red Cross
 - *Association of Public-Safety Comm. Officials-Int'l, Inc. (APCO International)
 - *Federal Emergency Management Agency (DHS)
 - *National Communications System
 - *Salvation Army
 - *National Weather Service
 - Public Health Organizations & Hospitals / Medical Facilities
 - Any other agencies on a local level
 - Agencies from outside areas ARESMAT (ARES Mutual Assistance Team)

Each agency may have their own procedures in place and we will follow those procedures providing it is lawful and does not conflict with our operational policies/procedures.

ARES/RACES Training

- Who we serve... RACES
 - Federal Government (FEMA / DHS, etc)
 - New York State agencies
 - Clinton County, NY agencies
 - Other governmental agencies from outside areas, if requested

ARES/RACES Training

- RACES is operational only:
 - When necessary to communicate between two Civil Defense stations for official government communications or;
 - When authorized to transmit during declared emergencies when the President of the United States specifically invokes the “War Powers Act”.
 - For training purposes specific to RACES

Any other operations are considered ARES operations

ARES/RACES Training

- **§ 97.407 Radio amateur civil emergency service.**
- (a) No station may transmit in RACES unless it is an FCC-licensed primary, club, or military recreation station and it is certified by a civil defense organization as registered with that organization. No person may be the control operator of an amateur station transmitting in RACES unless that person holds a FCC-issued amateur operator license and is certified by a civil defense organization as enrolled in that organization.
- (b) The frequency bands and segments and emissions authorized to the control operator are available to stations transmitting communications in RACES on a shared basis with the amateur service. In the event of an emergency which necessitates invoking the President's War Emergency Powers under the provisions of section 706 of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, 47 U.S.C. 606, amateur stations participating in RACES may only transmit on the frequency segments authorized pursuant to part 214 of this chapter.
- (c) An amateur station registered with a civil defense organization may only communicate with the following stations upon authorization of the responsible civil defense official for the organization with which the amateur station is registered:
 - (1) An amateur station registered with the same or another civil defense organization; and
 - (2) A station in a service regulated by the FCC whenever such communication is authorized by the FCC.

ARES/RACES Training

- (d) All communications transmitted in RACES must be specifically authorized by the civil defense organization for the area served. Only civil defense communications of the following types may be transmitted:
 - (1) Messages concerning impending or actual conditions jeopardizing the public safety, or affecting the national defense or security during periods of local, regional, or national civil emergencies;
 - (2) Messages directly concerning the immediate safety of life of individuals, the immediate protection of property, maintenance of law and order, alleviation of human suffering and need, and the combating of armed attack or sabotage;
 - (3) Messages directly concerning the accumulation and dissemination of public information or instructions to the civilian population essential to the activities of the civil defense organization or other authorized governmental or relief agencies; and
 - (4) Communications for RACES training drills and tests necessary to ensure the establishment and maintenance of orderly and efficient operation of the RACES as ordered by the responsible civil defense organization served. Such drills and tests may not exceed a total time of 1 hour per week. With the approval of the chief officer for emergency planning in the applicable State, Commonwealth, District or territory, however, such tests and drills may be conducted for a period not to exceed 72 hours no more than twice in any calendar year.

ARES/RACES Training

- General Guidelines
 - Do NOT
 - Transmit outside of your legal limits (includes content)
 - Interfere with other agencies' operations
 - Make demands on agency personnel
 - Use "off color" or offensive language
 - Do
 - Help whenever possible
 - Maintain a professional image
 - Be courteous
 - Clean and return areas to previous condition if used

ARES/RACES Training

- Capabilities
 - Be familiar with your own equipment and/or agencies' equipment
 - Be familiar with area infrastructure, primarily repeaters
 - Primary: Whiteface 145.110 (-) PL100, 447.775 (-) PL100
 - Secondary: Lyon Mt 147.285 (+) PL123
 - Tertiary: Terry Mt 145.490 (-) PL123, Rand Hill 147.150 (+) PL123
 - Know your physical limitations
 - Prepare for the duration of the deployment
 - Equipment, Water, Shelter, Food, Clothing, Personal Hygiene and Medications

ARES/RACES Training

- When are we needed?
 - There are only 2 reasons...
 - When **REGULAR** communications **SYSTEMS** fail... (EmComm)
 - When **REGULAR** communications **SYSTEMS** are overloaded (AuxComm)

ARES/RACES Training

- Likely Scenarios
 - Weather Event (Severe Weather)
 - Severe Winter Weather
 - Heavy Snow
 - Ice Storm
 - Heavy Winds
 - Heavy Rain w/possible flooding
 - Electrical Storms

ARES/RACES Training

- Likely Scenarios ... continued
 - Outages
 - Power
 - Cell Phone
 - Internet
 - Special Events
 - Ironman, 90 Miler, Schroon Lake Marathon, etc
 - Missing persons (in areas without cellphone service)
 - Any event that overwhelms **REGULAR** communications **SYSTEMS**

ARES/RACES Training

- What you should do...
 - Unscheduled events
 - Monitor repeaters for information / instruction
 - Most likely a NCS will make announcements or establish a “resource” net
 - Obtain relevant information that might be helpful
 - Share information with NCS when requested
 - If you suspect deployment is probable, prepare accordingly
 - Advise your family/friends, prepare deployment gear
 - Scheduled Events
 - Follow Instructions as given prior to event. Prepare accordingly.

ARES/RACES Training

- Activation vs Deployment
 - An Activation sets the process in motion
 - May or may not include deployment
 - You may be requested to operate from your home
 - Deployment means you are going somewhere
 - Usually to a facility of our served agencies
 - May be mobile if needed
 - Conditions of deployment will be provided by NCS or directly from EC

ARES/RACES Training

- Activation...
 - Requests for activation will come to you through the EC
 - Notify team members per “Contact Tree”
 - Check in to designated Net(s) as requested
 - If deployment is needed...
 - Prepare family
 - Load deployment gear
 - Move to requested destination
 - Set up communications and check in to Net(s) as required

ARES/RACES Training

- During Activation...
 - Maintain communications as directed
 - Use required forms and formats as prescribed
 - Maintain accurate records
 - Times of arrival / departure
 - Net “traffic” sent/received
 - Problems/issues encountered
 - Significant details or information
 - Comments and/or responses from served agencies

ARES/RACES Training

- Post-Activation...
 - When released: “permission to secure”...
 - Tear down and remove required equipment brought by you
 - Prepare and package records, including traffic, to be turned over to EC
 - Return facility to “arrived at” condition
 - Notify served agency of your departure
 - Ask for any feedback on event
 - Prepare for de-briefing (evaluation)

ARES/RACES Training

- Debriefing...
 - An evaluation of the event
 - Overview of event and our participation
 - What went right?
 - What went wrong?
 - Improvements that can be made
 - This is the time to bring up and discuss any issues or complaints about the event.
 - More importantly, to discuss ways to improve our performance.