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Expectations for the SET: To gain operational knowledge of the Lewis Gale Hospital Montgomery (Blacksburg,VA) amateur radio communications equipment and its related capacity to perform simultaneous voice and winlink operations. In addition, it was the team's goal to become more proficient in the use of digital Winlink and voice net operations, with the ancillary goal of utilizing ICS forms for communication documentation.

The operating plan involved utilizing a interior quarter wave antenna with a 2 mtr 65 watt transceiver to facilitate winlink operations via the New River Valley Amateur Radio Club's digital gateway located on Brush Mt. in Montgomery County. Voice operations would be conducted via a dual band 50 watt transceiver that utilizes the hospital facility's external dual band antenna.

What Occured The primary focus of this amateur radio team was utilization of the digital Winlink system and the use of ICS communication forms. Secondary emphasis was placed on voice communications, with collateral knowledge gained from monitoring the central command that in addition to several sub-nets and a relay frequency. Overall, the team leader was quite pleased with the progress exhibited by the new operators in the use of Winlink and the ICS documentation format.

What Went Well and Why The entirety of digital and voice communications originating and/or received at Lewis Gale Hospital Montgomery (Blacksburg,VA) was handled in a timely and efficient manner. The new operators acclimated quickly to the digital Winlink operations while maintaining a moderate level of situational awareness provided by monitoring and or utilizing voice communications on the hospital's dual band transceiver. The six-hour exercise and the steady amount of simulated traffic being conveyed and/or received to and from numerous points in the state was a most appropriate use of the team's time and effort.

Improving Operation and How All parties should continue to emphasize how situational awareness provides for the continuity and timeliness of communication via Winlink and/or voice operation.

In order to ensure a clear understanding of the overall fluidity of the nets including the central net, new participants should be directed to initially check into their local net and/or convey that their station is operational from a stated location.

The ability to convey traffic in a timely and prudent manner is of critical importance, thus operators must be aware how to navigate the nets and/or where to seek direct assistance. By doing so, they will increase their level of situational awareness and substantially improve the conveyance of traffic to and from various points on a timely basis.

It was a pleasure to work with Ken Walker (KO40M), Ed Lener (AK4IS), David Huffman (KM4CUT), and Donald (DJ) Douglas (K4XDJ). 73, Roger Bell, N4FPA (A.E.C. ARES - Pulaski County, VA)
10/07/14

Your Call N4FPA

Your Location Lewis Gale Hospital-Montgomery

Other Calls at Your Location KO40M, AK4IS, KM4CUT, K4XDJ

Messages Sent 26

Messages Received 29