All-Hazards Communications Technician (COMT)

Training Course

Unit 2: The Communications Technician

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Unit 2: Objectives

- Identify positions within the Communications Unit
- Describe responsibilities of positions within the Communications Unit
- Describe the COMT Task List
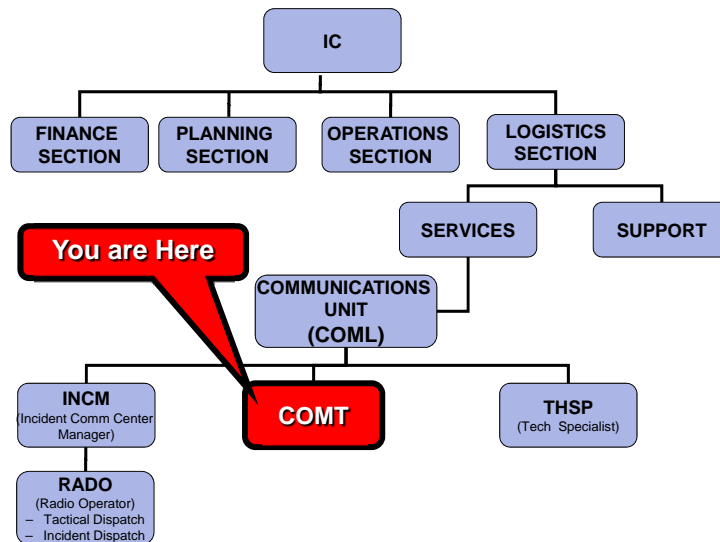- Identify components of the COMT Response Kit

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COMT UNIT 2 – THE COMMUNICATIONS TECHNICIAN

National Incident Management System (NIMS) Incident Command System (ICS)

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                          IC

  FINANCE      PLANNING      OPERATIONS      LOGISTICS
  SECTION      SECTION        SECTION         SECTION

                                        SERVICES        SUPPORT

         You are Here
                          COMMUNICATIONS
                              UNIT
                            (COML)

  INCM                         COMT                  THSP
(Incident Comm Center                            (Tech Specialist)
   Manager)

  RADO
(Radio Operator)
 –  Tactical Dispatch
 –  Incident Dispatch
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COMT UNIT 2 – THE COMMUNICATIONS TECHNICIAN

The Role of the COMT

- Provides for the technical implementation of incident communications systems:
  - Provides for equipment distribution
  - Tracks equipment
  - Trains users on use of equipment
  - Verifies proper programming of equipment for incident
  - Assist COML in the development of the ICS 205, Incident Radio Communications Plan

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"Responsible for Making Stuff Work"

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COMT UNIT 2 – THE COMMUNICATIONS TECHNICIAN

Suggested Homework Assignment

- Develop local training tools for equipment
  - Portable/Mobile Radios
  - Radio Infrastructure
  - Telephone
  - Gateways
  - Satellite Phones

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COMT UNIT 2 – THE COMMUNICATIONS TECHNICIAN

COMT Performance Expectations

- Personal responsibility
- Personal availability
- Professional responsibilities
- Support agency's responsibilities
- Education/outreach
- Performance expectations

Code of Conduct

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COMT UNIT 2 – THE COMMUNICATIONS TECHNICIAN

How do I become a Qualified COMT?

- Prerequisites (ICS 100, ICS 200, IS 700, IS 800)
- Pre-work
- COMT course (this is your learners permit)
  - Certificate of Completion
- Position Task Book (PTB)
  - Must be initiated by your sponsoring agency
  - Must be completed by supervisory personnel at incidents or training events
  - Can use three years prior experience
  - Must be completed within three years from now
  - Must ultimately be signed off by your agency

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COMT UNIT 2 – THE COMMUNICATIONS TECHNICIAN

The COMT Task List

- Overview of the PTB Task List
- The personal response kit with materials for initial 72 hours
- Tool Kit
- Upon initial activation
  - Acquire pre-arrival information from appropriate incident communications center(s)
  - Assess the incident assignment
- Incident arrival and check in procedures/policies

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COMT UNIT 2 – THE COMMUNICATIONS TECHNICIAN

The COMT Task List (Cont)

- Receive briefing from the Communications Unit Leader (COML) or current supervisory position performing the COML function
- Assisting the COML
  - Determining the technical capabilities and resource needs
  - Designing the communications system (network) to meet incident needs

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COMT UNIT 2 – THE COMMUNICATIONS TECHNICIAN

The COMT Task List (Cont)

- Install communications equipment
- Assign communications equipment
  - Deploy radios systematically
- Maintain accurate records of all communications equipment
- Monitor ongoing operation of incident
  - Operational requirements
  - Technical performance
- Coordinate with appropriate incident personnel

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COMT UNIT 2 – THE COMMUNICATIONS TECHNICIAN

The COMT Task List (Cont)

- The importance of maintaining the ICS Unit Log (ICS Form 214) accurately, legibly, and in a timely manner
  - Effective utilization of local resources
  - Identify resources and training material
    - Portable radios, mobile radios, and infrastructure (installed operational mobile radio infrastructure, satellite phones, etc.)

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COMT UNIT 2 – THE COMMUNICATIONS TECHNICIAN

The COMT Response Kit

- Response Kit components
  - Including cash, credit cards, medication
  - Appropriate for situational expectations
  - Personal support for up to 72 hours
- Tactical Interoperable Communications Plans (TICPs) and other regional plans, if available
- Local Mobilization Guide
- National Interoperability Field Operations Guide (NIFOG) and other Area Operations Plans or Field Operations Guides (FOG), as appropriate

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COMT UNIT 2 – THE COMMUNICATIONS TECHNICIAN

The COMT Response Kit
Suggested Personal Items

- Work/safety boots
- Safety glasses with dark and clear lens
- Spare eye glasses of current prescription
- Leather work gloves
- ANSI compliant safety vest
- 2 forms picture ID (driver's license/employer ID)
- Rain gear
- Ear plugs

- Cap/hat
- Pens, pencils and sharpie
- Pocket size notebook
- Cash (small bills and change)
- Small pocket compass
- Cell phone charger
- Flashlight w/batteries
- Any medications you need
  - prescription/non-prescription)
- Bottled water

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COMT UNIT 2 – THE COMMUNICATIONS TECHNICIAN

The COMT Response Kit
Suggested Personal Items (Cont)

- Meals Ready to Eat (MRE's)
- Hand sanitizer/wipes
- Extra socks
- Extra underwear
- Trash bag(s)
- Toiletry kit:
  - Toilet paper
  - Deodorant
  - Soap
  - Small towel
  - Toothbrush/toothpaste

- Hand lotion
- Nail clippers
- Sunscreen
- Lip balm
- Mole Skin Padding

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COMT UNIT 2 – THE COMMUNICATIONS TECHNICIAN

Assembling the COMT Response Kit (Cont)

- ICS Forms 201, 205, 213, 214, and 217A
- Inventories or other lists of local and regional communications response equipment
- Preplanned local system coverage maps
- Local technical personnel resources, their contact, capability, and availability for local and regional communications technicians and specialists
- Compatible portable radio(s) as appropriate for the region

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COMT UNIT 2 – THE COMMUNICATIONS TECHNICIAN

Assembling the COMT Response Kit (Cont)

- Radio programming equipment
  - Laptop computer, cloning cable, programming cables, adapters, (conventional systems), and suitable tools
  - Instruction manuals for appropriate radios and equipment
- Paper, pens, pencils, tape, and batteries (AA, AAA, and 9v batteries)

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COMT UNIT 2 – THE COMMUNICATIONS TECHNICIAN

Assembling the COMT Response Kit (Cont)

- COMT Technical Tools Kit overview
  - (see Response Kits tab in the Student Workbook)
- A Technical Tools Kit may include items that are highly "localized" and "personalized" depending on individual and physical regional situations

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COMT UNIT 2 – THE COMMUNICATIONS TECHNICIAN

Unit 2 Questions

QUIZ

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COMT UNIT 2 – THE COMMUNICATIONS TECHNICIAN