

# 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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## 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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## 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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## 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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## 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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## 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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## 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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## Other Resources – NIRSC

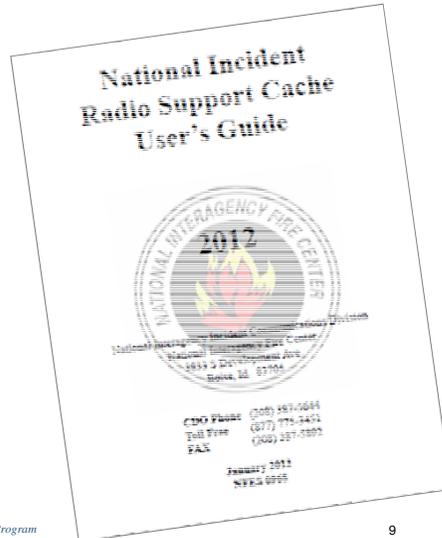
### NIRSC

- 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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## 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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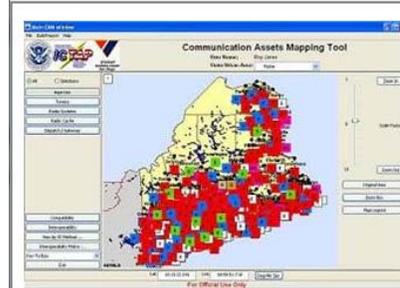
## Other Resources (Cont)

### 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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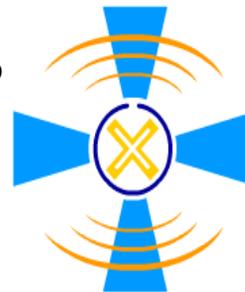
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## Other Resources – EMAC

- 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](http://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



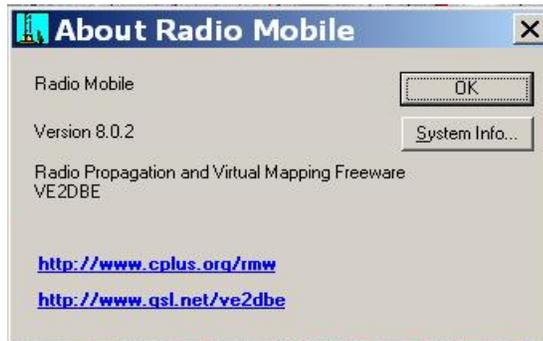
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## Other Resources – Software

Radio propagation software



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## Other Resources – Software (Cont)

Radio Propagation Example

Mt. Ararat / 90 Feet AGL / 1 Watt Portable / Uplink



Site: Mt. Ararat - STAC91  
Coordinates (NAD 83): 38-41-13.0 N 120-06-27.0 W Elevation: 2000 Ft AMSL  
Date: September 22, 2009

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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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## 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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## Other Resources – Miscellaneous

- To create a mini-logging recorder using a Scanner/PC:
  - [www.butelsoftware.com](http://www.butelsoftware.com)
- To get many frequencies, Continuous Tone Coded Squelch System (CTCSS) tones, and Talkgroup:
  - [www.RadioReference.com](http://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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## 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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## 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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## Review

### **Closing Discussion and Review of Course Objectives**



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## 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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## Unit 14 Questions



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