

COMMUNICATIONS
2008 - 2015

Serving in ORSDF as DCS Signal, I was responsible for setting protocol and SOP for communications, both voice and digital. This included working with the DCS, Operations and Training to insure communications training was consistent throughout the ORSDF, and supervised monthly training and quarterly exercises.

I obtained a HAM license in 1963 and currently hold an Advanced Class Amateur license, MARS – Military Auxiliary Radio Service license as the past Deputy Director, Region Ten Army MARS, CERT – Community Emergency Response Team certification, First Aid, CPR, and AED certification, plus certificates of achievement in over fifteen FEMA classes.

I ensured that the ORSDF trained in all modes of communication – telephone, internet, HF/VHF radio both voice and digital allowing a Microsoft Word document to be sent from a laptop over the radio using modes like MT63, Olivia, MMSSTV and received and printed by the receiving station.

In 2006 while on SAD, ORSDF demonstrated the value of Ham radio during the Vernonia Flood. ORSDF members were able to connect Vernonia with Washington county and ORSDF HQ, providing SIT-RPTS to the JOC (Joint Operations Center).

In 2013, the ORSDF semi-annual training was cancelled by the Military Department due to lack of funding. A decision was made to use our existing coms plan, but have stations operate from their home location.

Camp Withycombe acted as HQ, members provided their own radio equipment and we were able to contact and pass traffic with ORSDF stations in Ashland, Medford, Roseburg, Brookings, Coos Bay,

COMMUNICATIONS
2008 - 2015

Springfield, Salem, Warrenton, Portland metro, Bend, Hermiston and La Grande.

ORSDF used an old antenna technique called a NVIS (designed and built by a volunteer member) – Near Vertical Incident Sky wave, yielding a signal which radiates straight up and back to earth in a 400-600 mile radius. We had stations not part of ORSDF checking into our exercise because it was conducted in the open on amateur HAM frequencies, from Northern Washington, across to mid Idaho and down to N California.

Also in 2013, Gen Beach, commander of the 82nd RG, visited an ORSDF staff meeting and toured the coms room. He advised he would like ORSDF to assist in an exercise he was planning to run from Camp Rilea, but was uncertain of the reliability of his SAT phone capability.

ORSDF conducted weekly nets, monthly drills and quarterly exercises to insure all corners of Oregon are covered and equipment is working as expected.

ORSDF/MARS also checks into the monthly Joint Operations Center (JOC) radio test at the end using our MARS calls and occasionally there had been as many MARS members check in as National Guard armories.

Imagine you are in an EOC or the JOC and you receive a completed ICS 213 form stating the Salem Hospital has just been damaged by a 9-0 earthquake and the bottom two floors have pancaked. What image goes through your mind? It will be different for each of us.

Now consider the use of MMSSTV! It is a free download which can take a HD digital photo and transmit it in 8-1/2 x 11” format to the receiving

COMMUNICATIONS
2008 - 2015

station in 2-3 minutes. Meaning that you can hand the Battle Captain in the JOC a HD photo of the actual scene of the hospital?

That's what we did, that's who we were. Prior Service Military members just wanting to give back to the state ... much like you in the Oregon Legislature.

Please carefully consider SB 1000 and work to assure its passage.

Citizens of Oregon deserve it. Agencies in Oregon need it.

Thank you for your consideration.

v/r

James Meyers, Major

DCS Signal, ORSDF