



# The Salvation Army

## Emergency Disaster Services

### Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network



18 October 2018

#### Department of Defense Announces Fourth Quarterly Communications Exercise



NHQ - Alexandria, VA (10/04/2018) – SATERN has been invited by the U.S. Department of Defense to participate in the upcoming DoD Contingency Communications Exercise (COMMEX) 18-4 exercise to be conducted on 22-26 October 2018.

During a partners conference call hosted by U.S. Army MARS and the Department of Defense (DoD), several federal military, government and national non-profit amateur radio organizations were given an opportunity to better understand the exercise agenda and underlying scenario for COMMEX 18-4. They also discussed the exercise's goals and objectives as they applied to each of the individual organizational participants.

The overall objective of the exercise is to exercise DoD's ability to effectively transmit and receive critical information with both government and amateur radio sources in the midst of a "Very Bad Day" event. "Very Bad Day" events include those that disrupt the national power or communications infrastructure. Such disruptions might be the result of a cyber attack or a natural disaster such as a major New Madrid earthquake.

SATERN will have two roles in this exercise. The first will be to monitor 60 meters Channel 1 (5.330.5 MHz) beginning at 2000 (8:00 PM) ET on Tuesday, 23 October, for a series of special government broadcasts. These high-power broadcasts will contain instructions for other parts of the exercise including amateur radio contacts with government stations on 60 meters. The broadcasts will originate from the MARS station at Fort Huachuca, AZ, and a U.S. military station on the East Coast. W1AW will include the information in their regular bulletins.

During the exercise, the International SATERN SSB Net and possibly the Central and Eastern Territory SATERN Nets, will receive check-ins from MARS stations using their Amateur Radio call signs. Beginning on Tuesday, 23 October through Friday 26 October, MARS stations may check in and request local information from net check-ins either directly or through Net Control. Information requested will include the operator's call sign, county and state and the general operational status of the county's power, communications, water and road systems.

All SATERN stations are encouraged to participate in the 60 meter portion of the exercise on Tuesday evening, 23 October. Please send reports of your participation to your Editor at [Bill.Feist@USS.SalvationArmy.org](mailto:Bill.Feist@USS.SalvationArmy.org).

#### Bob Langsfeld (WB9TZC) Appointed As Central Territory SATERN Coordinator

Central THQ (10/17/2018) – Robert E. Langsfeld (WB9TZC) has been appointed as the new Central Territory SATERN Coordinator by Territorial Disaster Coordinator Kevin Ellers. Langsfeld holds an FCC Extra Class Amateur Radio License.

In addition, Ellers also appointed former Central Territory SATERN Coordinator Bill Shillington (W9ZCL) and Kenneth Panczyk (W9KMP) as Assistant Territorial SATERN Coordinators. Maj. Michele Heaver (KC8NAI) has been assigned as the staff liaison to SATERN and "to work closely with Bob. She will be scheduling the Territory's first SATERN strategic conference call soon. Ellers said, "It is my goal to strategically advance the SATERN program in 2019."

Langsfeld says, "I became interested in radio as a teen, starting out with a citizen's band radio and a kit-built shortwave radio. Soon I wanted more. I attended a ham radio class. Shortly afterwards, in the 1970's, he became an amateur radio operator and immediately began to concentrate on public service and emergency communications. He later became a paid, on call EMA volunteer and was soon promoted to Team Leader. For the past five (5) years Bob has been the paid EMA Coordinator for the Village of Hoffman Estates, Illinois, where Central Territory Headquarters is located. He



helped the village EMA office earn its State of Illinois accreditation with a program that included different units for volunteers, paid on call responders, public education, ground search teams, CERT and AUXCOMM. Langsfeld also served as the Emergency Communications Chairman with the Schaumburg Amateur Radio Club and the local ARRL ARES Emergency Coordinator.

Langsfeld has just recently retired from his positions with both local EMA and the Schaumburg Amateur Radio Club and has become involved with The Salvation Army and SATERN in his retirement.

Langsfeld welcomes any communications about SATERN in the Central Territory. He can be reached by email at [BobLfeld@Comcast.net](mailto:BobLfeld@Comcast.net).

Participate in DoD COMMEX 18-4 Exercise  
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## SATERN Responds To Hurricane Michael

**NHQ SATERN (10/10/2018)** - The Southern Territory SATERN Net was activated on Wednesday, 10 October in response to Hurricane Michael as it was about to make landfall on the Florida Panhandle as a maximum category 4 hurricane. It was in operation from 0900 until 1800 (Eastern) on Wednesday and from 0900 to 1200 (Eastern) on Thursday.

According to Net Manager Ken Standard (AD5XJ) there were about 60 check-ins for the Net on Wednesday with additional check-ins on Thursday. Many operators were referred to the Southern Territory Net from the International SATERN SSB Net. Although no messages were handled, the Net did assist FEMA with their request to frequently announce life-safety and disaster relief information from both FEMA and the Florida Division of Emergency Management.

Standard later said, "I want to take the time to personally thank each and every one who faithfully monitored the frequency yesterday [Wednesday, 10 October 2018]. Several were kind enough to offer AD5XJ much needed breaks and act as alternate Net Control Stations. Their help and kindness is much appreciated. My special thanks to W4HW, W3RIK, WA5EEZ and WA5DTY for their tremendous help during the Net."

On Wednesday, 10 October, the Florida Division asked Southern Territory SATERN Coordinator Bill Feist (WB8BZH) to recruit SATERN / Amateur Radio operators to support their anticipated operations in Tallahassee, Panama City and Pensacola with communications to their Divisional EDS Center in Tampa. The next day, the Georgia Division asked for similar assistance between their Disaster Headquarters in Atlanta and several local Corps in southern Georgia.

With the help of ARRL West Central Florida Section EC Bob Henley (KI4IGX) and John Rubin (KJ4NYD), operators were recruited to support the Tampa and Pensacola operations. SATERN operator Jere Couch (N4DQ) agreed to deploy to Panama City. Dominic Profaci (KX4CO) assisted the Georgia Division with the recruitment of operators for their operation.

Ultimately, none of the deployments were made because within two days The Salvation Army had deployed one Mobile Broadband Kit (MBK) that had been fortuitously shipped to Feist for inspection and testing just a few days prior to Hurricane Michael's landfall. The Salvation Army also acquired two more and deployed them to the Florida Panhandle. In Georgia, regular commercial communications were re-established relatively quickly negating the need for SATERN.

Feist wishes to thank AD5XJ for managing the Southern Territory Net and KI4IGX, KJ4NYD, W1WCN, N4DQ and KX4CO for their assistance and willingness to help with deployments or to be deployed.

## KWM SATERN PARTICIPATES IN SIMULATED EMERGENCY TEST

**Kansas City, KS (10/15/2018)** - SATERN in the Kansas and Western Missouri (KWM) Division took part in a Simulated Emergency Test (SET) sponsored by the Metropolitan Emergency Communications Council (MECC) of the Kansas City Metro Area on 06 October 2018.

In the past the MECC SET in the Kansas City Metro Area has been based upon disaster relief responses to tornadoes and fires. This year it was a simulated Complex Coordinated Terrorist Attack including the requisite crimes terrorist groups might commit and the response of agencies providing relief services.

The annual SET encourages participation by Amateur Radio operators, partner organizations, and national, state, and local officials (particularly Emergency Managers) who typically engage in emergency or disaster response. During the SET, SATERN members joined volunteers from Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES), Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES), KCHeart (the Kansas City Hospital Emergency Radio Team) and a variety of other similar volunteer and public service-oriented radio amateur groups.

SATERN volunteers (other than the controller) were unaware of the nature of the SET scenario until it began. Throughout the SET the volunteers were given injects that were both internal and external which were used to drive the scenario. The injects were unknown to the volunteers until they were provided as the SET progressed. This made the SET challenging and required the volunteers to come up with solutions to various problems which were encountered throughout the SET. The SET often forced volunteers to test equipment and their skills or resolve equipment related issues.

SATERN volunteers used various modes of communication including digital and voice. Communications were established via HF, VHF and UHF.

## SATERN Coordinators Being Deployed

**NHQ SATERN (10/17/2018)** – Western Territory SATERN Coordinator Ian Anderson (KO2IAN) is being deployed to Indonesia by International Headquarters Emergency Disaster Services to respond to the recent earthquake there.

Southern Territory SATERN Coordinator / National SATERN Liaison Bill Feist (WB8BZH) is being deployed as the Planning Section Chief for the Georgia Division's operation in Albany, GA.

Both deployments are EDS related and not related to SATERN.

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