

Vice President Field Services
Radio Amateurs of Canada Inc.

December 12, 2010

RECORD OF DECISIONS –
VPFS/SECTION MANAGER TELECONFERENCE 09 DEC. 2010

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| Participants: | VO1DTM | Doug Mercer | Vice-President Field Services |
| | VA7DR | Drew Watson | SM British Columbia |
| | VE6CIA | Garry Jacobs | SM Alberta |
| | VE4JS | Jan Schippers | SM Manitoba |
| Regrets: | VE3AJB | Allan Boyd | SM Ontario |
| | VO1VZ | Charles Marsh | SM Newfoundland Labrador |
| Advisors Present: | VA7HU | Hew Lines | NTS Coordinator |
| | VE9FK | Dave Drinnan | National Training Coordinator |
| | VA3TSA | Merv Halvorsen | Manager, NARED |
| | VA3QT | Ian Snow | Special Advisor |

1. Introductions. Doug called the meeting to order at 0032Z. Introductions followed.
2. Field Organization Review. At Doug's request Ian then outlined the factors behind the need for a Canadian field organization and a comprehensive modernization of the Field Service and ARES in particular. Ian stressed that these are inter-related objectives and their long-term success significantly depended upon a training system that both produced competent FS operators and developed follow-on leaders. This was followed by a round-table discussion:
 - a. Hew commented on the extraordinary scope of NTS change now ongoing in the ARRL caused by DHS intervention and guidance on the need to conform with ICS standards and procedures;
 - b. Doug, an ex officio member of the ARRL Emergency Communications Advisory Committee, confirmed that ARRL discussion is very wide ranging and indicative of significant forthcoming change.
 - c. Drew commented that the provinces are taking the lead and ARES is becoming secondary. In BC there are initiatives to bridge this gap.
 - d. Garry supported this view and commented that the strength of the Amateur community was its ability to provide communications training for clients and support agencies.
 - e. Dave noted that the Alberta government was proactive with its Fire and Emergency Services Training Initiative "FESTI" initiative and was developing a training management system. He commented that this allows served agencies to audit the process for due diligence. In his view ARES should be focusing on digital and tactical communications. Dave concluded on the note that he saw his role as a "hub" for training development but that there is no support system or logical process in place to accomplish this.
 - f. In a second round of the table Drew commented that there was an expectation on the part of government and support agencies that AROs were capable of operating in all services. This was supported by Hew who noted that his group routinely provided SAR comms support using SAR frequencies and SAR supplied commercial equipment.
3. Steering Committee. Doug posed the question to the SM's and it was agreed that they would serve as the steering committee, managing the development/review process.
4. Next Steps. The following were tabled as "next steps":
 - a. The SM's should meet in committee to further discuss the above factors and come to a consensus on the objectives and development process.
 - b. The committee should appoint a secretariat to maintain written records.

- c. SM's should consider replicating this development process within their sections, with the objective of creating parallel administrative organizations in each section, based on the same organizational model.
 - d. The committee consider appointing the SECs as a steering group to initiate the development of a "Training Specification".
5. SM Reflector. Doug volunteered to create an SM reflector to facilitate the development process.
6. Adjournment. Doug proposed that the next teleconference take place on 13 Jan, 2011 at 0030 UTC (1930 EST). Meeting adjourned at 100123 UTC.

Submitted by:

Ian Snow, VA3QT
Special Advisor

12 Dec 10

Approved by:

Doug Mercer, VO1DTM CEC
Vice President Field Services