

Rich Zanni

From: Jim Aspinwall K9GVF [K9GVF@raisin.com]
Sent: Saturday, November 18, 2006 8:16 PM
To: null@kilroy.jpl.nasa.gov; Rich Zanni
Cc: Dave Larton
Subject: OES and NorCal OAs thank you!

Pre-empting other officials who may/should pass down kudos...

I want and need to issue a VERY warm thanks and congratulations to the CalNet and PATIO systems - members, system owners, et al - for helping make two significant OES (including DHS/FEMA, etc.) communications exercises for Northern California as much of a success as they could be!

Not only did the CalNet and PATIO systems of Norcal cover all and then-some of the 'affected' operational areas in the South-end and some of the Northern half of the OES Coastal region, they provided an unprecedented clear link to the Inland and Southern Regions as well as HQ - which are crucial for providing backup resources and HF relay as may be needed.

As for those affected during morning drive-time, I truly meant for you to carry-on with normal traffic, and appreciate the respect and support for letting non-crucial exercise traffic flow instead - this was a courtesy above and beyond under the circumstances. I did not mean to "take control" of the system overall - that is not within my scope or ability as OES or CalNet member. I only wish the EOC activity was such that I could have been on the Wed PM net to convey this personally with officials present.

As part of the after-action summary - CalNet carried more traffic and provided more value/participation than even some of the public safety facilities the 'affected' areas should have been monitoring. This is a significant testament to the value of amateur radio done right. When you cannot get a public safety agency to turn on, maintain or use public-provided government radio systems and instead have active hams at all levels checking in and passing traffic, well, that says a lot about all of us.

Amidst the sadly low traffic exercise operations, OES was also active and monitoring potential tsunami activity before our exercise began. The Cal Warning System was non-stop from 3PM-on when the 30 MPH swells hit our coastal areas - fortunately issues were localized and required no exceptional comm intervention.

Overall, I'm very proud of and absorbing/conveying high-level kudos for two things - first, that the comm-plan that involved CalNet and PATIO systems worked 100% as conceived (and on-record with DHS/FEMA) {blush}, and that we gained exceptional cooperation from two of the finest systems in the State. While the face of public safety, awareness and systems APPEARS to be changing (see this month's Mobile Radio Technology magazine and any credible account of Katrina), the core of amateur radio - from no-code Tech to Extra - is in reality un-phased - reliable, clean, uncomplicated technology and a spirit of service will and does overcome almost any hierarchy, budget, politics and stress.

As Deputy ACS Officer, MAR II, Coastal Region - CalNet and PATIO are VERY much appreciated !! As a member and system owner within CalNet I am exceptionally proud of our mutual efforts and accomplishments!!

In the words of Lucy Van Pelt from "You're a Good Man Charlie Brown": "these five fingers, individually they are nothing. But, when I curl them they become..." a powerful force for good.

Please, all, take a bow and ovation from the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services!
VERY well done indeed!

Humble thanks and respect!

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/s/ Jim, K9GVF

"lack of (the right) information is a dangerous thing"
AEC - Campbell, CA // Deputy ACS Officer (South) - Mutual Aid Region II - Calif Gov's OES
B.A.R.F. UHF Repeater - 443.750 - San Jose PL 100 - Vaca PL 127.3

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