



**North Carolina Task Force-10**  
**Emergency Management**  
**URBAN SEARCH AND RESCUE RESPONSE SYSTEM**

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**AAR (After Action Report) USAR MISSION #40583**  
**Communication section only**

**Brief overview:**

ComL notified of ALERT status via SERVNC at 16:36 on 4-16-11. Started receiving reports from other USAR ComL's of team deployments throughout the state. Monitored weather and was taking precautions for local concerns of nearby tornado's. Contacted Network Specialist Al Perez to confirm Satcom and phone system were ready from a recent upgrade. Al confirmed all units were ready for service. At 20:59 received deployment orders via SERVNC for possible mission to Dunn NC for major damage. Arrived at USAR check in station to gather communication gear. Notified of mission change to Greene County for major damage and support. Gathered gear and began recon for what RF systems were running in Greene County. Tested Med 8/10 and Viper from USAR check in station and confirmed all were operational on the Greene Tower. Was unable to gather any info on what Greene EM was operating on. Contacted NCEOC and requested state event TG for Greene County Mission 40583. NCEOC was heavily loaded with state event requests due to the numerous incidents. TF10 ComL advised NCEOC that we had an alternative and would call back if we needed a TG assignment. Initial communications were placed on State USAR TG and used Pitt DPR for internal team communications. TFL, ComL and multi-hazard specialist responded in USAR vehicle to Greene County to establish operations ahead of the fleet. On arrival made contact with Greene EM and began planning. SHP Comm unit was on scene prior to arrival and operating with Trooper Lane Hobbs ComL. Made contact with Lane and asked if any assistance could be provided. Trooper Hobbs advised they had Event Charlie 3 established for Fire/EMS operations and Alpha 2 for Law operations. Also advised that NPS91 was active via on board repeater. Trooper Hobbs asked for an ICS205 to be established for the incident. Established ICS205 for the incident which is included in this report. Trooper Hobbs advised all communications were working fine and there were no issues needing attention. Assisted with determining a BoO location and confirmed no communication issues for Satcom. TF10 cache arrived and One BoO tent was placed in operation for command/planning/comms. Three additional Western Shelter tents established also. Established communications which included Viper (Multiple TG's), Med 8/10 system, VHF, UHF, MSAT, VSAT with one Cisco AP, (2) dedicated inbound voice lines, Echolink on 440DE link and the DVRS was placed in standby for possible field deployment to boost Viper signals if needed. Established data collection (ICS log forms) and also started recording all audio with time stamps. Proceeded with mission from field comm. setup.

**Timeline:**

See SIT REP report below

**Lessons learned/ items that could use improvement:**

- When calling into the EOC Comms to request a state event TG for a mission- try to find out if any progress has been made for the incident comms already. TF comms was under the impression that we were starting from scratch with establishing communications. In this mission the NCSHP command unit was already on scene and established two state event Viper TG's. (Charlie 3, Alpha 2). ComL made contact with NCEOC Comms for a state event TG request for the incident before departing. NC EOC Comms was heavily loaded with requests due to all the storm impacts across the state and did not have but 2 TG's available. TF ComL advised we had alternative comm. TG's and we would make contact if anything else was needed. \*\*Future recommendation is that state event TG is not requested until an adequate comm. size-up can be made from the incident scene. Transit TG's can be on State USAR or other team alternatives. This will prevent duplication of resource requests.
- Had no Intel on what modes Greene Emergency Management was operating on until arrival. \*\*Recommend a more aggressive report when making contact with POC on scene for what is in operation RF related.

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-As most state event TG's were in operation, decision was made to use the Pitt DPR TG for internal communications. Transit TG was NC USAR. It was determined that all the USAR vehicles were not updated with the Pitt DPR TG.  
\*\*Will be fixed this week.

-It would be nice to get the new state event TG's (Echo-Hotel) groups in operation. May assist with additional state event TG's during widespread disaster. State Event TG are common between all radios across state. DPR TG's have not been updated in numerous other radios out of county.

-During heavy loading it may be helpful to identify what constitutes a state event channel assignment. Not sure if there is "levels" or triage procedures established from EOC Comms? If 30 requests were made to EOC Comms- how are the requests processed and triaged?

-Was unable to deploy with entire comm. cache due to timeframe and location. Due to the amount of equipment the TF has, some of the equipment is stored in different locations. Some of the supporting equipment (Repair, Cabling, Surplus VHF/UHF radios, base antennas, weather station and additional equipment) was not sent. All main components were sent out the door. \*\*Recommend location change of some of the support equipment needed for an immediate deployment. Will be fixed this week.

### **Things that went well:**

-Viper was 100% operational with excellent coverage in all areas. All personnel reported how "easy" communications were for the incident. No busy signals were reported with Viper.

-Equipment performed flawlessly. All radios were fully charged and batteries lasted well beyond 1 operational period with heavy transmitting.

-Communications was made with NCEOC upon enroute and on scene. Constant communications were available with EOC and EBO while responding.

-Hasty "first out" team responded with 2 RCC (Rapid Deploy Comm Cases) with 16 Viper HT's, 8 Tri-band including air, (3) handheld satellite phones, and all accessory equipment, DVRS, ACU, MSAT immediately out the door. VSAT and additional cache enroute on BoO trailer.

-All radio traffic was recorded and time stamped for record keeping.

-Live audio link was established and on standby to the net if needed.

-Broadband established and distributed via one Cisco AP. All units reported good speed and download times. Some laptops did not have air cards which made the broadband essential.

-Digital server established for file sharing between Command/Logs/Planning/Comms. As files were updated to all positions automatically.

-All modes had no reported issues or downtime for entire mission.

-NCSHP very supportive and willing to assist in any way. Provided one telecommunicator for each operational period. Telecommunicator documented all traffic on ICS 214's while USAR comms was recording all traffic as the backup.

-Contact made with Pitt and Greene County 911 centers while responding. Advised them of team response and also forwarded initial ICS 205 for general info.

### **End opinion:**

-The communications for this mission were trouble free and considered a success. Minor changes will be made and with the potential of a communications support vehicle, the TF comm. section is ready for any mission presented.

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Example of Review log form used by TF Comms:

<b>COMMUNICATIONS LOG</b>		<b>TASK #10</b>		DATE PREPARED:4/18/2011
FOR OPERATIONAL PERIOD #		TASK NAME		
#04538		MISSION TO GREEN CO #40583		
<b>COM LOG</b>				
TIME	STATION I.D. FROM TO		SUBJECT	
08:09	HARDY	TRIPP	SEEKING LOGISTICS COUNT FOR LUNCH	
08:09	SAFETY	TRIPP	CALL CELL	
08:09	COM	TEAM4	SEEKING LOCATION	
08:10	TEAM4	COM	2514 (COMMICATON NOT CLEAR)	
08:30	TRIPP	HARDY	NEEDS LAT LONG FOR NAIGHBORHOOD PARK	
08:32	TEAM 3	COM	201 PINE SHORE POWER SURGES	
08:37	TRIPP	HARDY	DISREGUARD CORDANITES NEEDED FOR NAIGHBORHOOD PARK	
08:40	TEAM 3	COM	960 NOEL RD (NO POWER)	
08:50	TFL	MED SP	REPORT BACK TO COMPOUND	
09:25	TEAM 4	COM	POWER LINES DOWN 1562/1554 NOEL RD	
09:38	TEAM1	LOG	REQUESTING BATTERIES FOR CAMERA	
09:38	TFL	TEAM1	BATTERIES REQUIRED ARE SPECIAL BATTERIES FOR CAMERA	
10:00	TFL	TEAM1	WELLFARE CHECK OK	
10:01	TFL	TEA M2	WELLFARE CHECK OK	
10:02	TFL	TEAM3	WELLFARE CHECK OK	
10:03	TFL	TEMA4	WELLFARE CHECK OK	
10:04	TFL	CANINE	WELLFARE CHECK OK	
10:05	TFL	SAFETY	WELLFARE CHECK OK	
10:06	TFL	MED SP	WELLFARE CHECK OK	
10:30	TEAM 4	COM	POWER DISCONNECT 1891	
10:32	TFL	NCTF-10	ANNOUCEMENT 12:00 PRE LUNCH BREFING (ALL UNITS CHECKED IN)	
12:19	TFL	TF10	All units checked in for lunch meeting	
13:54	GRP 3	TF10	GRP 3 out the door	
14:12	GRP 1	CP	REPORT OF HEAVY DAMAGE/WATER LEAK BEAMON CRK	
14:13	TEAM 4	CP	GRP 4 on scene Vanderford Thomas Rd	
14:46	MED	GRP 2	Location check	
14:47	GRP2	CP	Fire unit request and sand, leaking fuel	
15:00	GRP2	CP	Leak secured	
16:20	CP	TFL	Task Complete	
16:20	TFL	TEAM1	Task complete	
16:20	TEAM1	TFL	SEARCH 80% COMPLETE	
16:21	TEAM2	TFL	SEARCH 80% COMPLETE	
16:22	TEAM3	TFL	SEARCH 100% COMPLETE	
16:25	TEAM4	TFL	SEARCH 97% COMPLETE	
16:28	TFL	TEAM3	CEASE OPERATIONS RETURN TO BOO	
16:43	UTIL	COM	245 ALLBERT RD NEEDS MEETER PULLED	

Sample comm. unit log from 4-1-11

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Example of SIT REP sent out per operational period:

**Date:** APRIL 17, 2011  
**To:** EBO, RCC  
**From:** Charles Tripp, USAR TF-10 TFL  
**Subject:** SIT REP FOR GREENE COUNTY EVENT

- On April 16, 2011 at 1930 hours, NCEM Eastern Branch Manager Dianne Curtis notified NCTF-10 for a deployment to Greene County to assist with search and rescue efforts due to tornado activity.
- At 2000 hours NCTF-10 received Mission # 40583 via NCEM Darlene Johnston for deployment.
- 2030 Overhead team was notified via servnc to report for deployment and department administrators were notified of confirmed deployment.
- 2045 32 Task force team members were notified via servnc to report for deployment to Greene Co. due to severe structural damage in area.
- 2300 USAR TF-10 "FAST" team with: Task Force Leader, Rescue Technician and CommL was en-route to Greene Co EM base. On arrival TFL was briefed by Greene County EM, Randy Skinner, NCEM Area Coordinator, Melissa Greene and Snow Hill Fire Chief Hill.
- At 0005 on April 17, 2011 all NCTF-10 assets were on location and Greene County EM site located on Martin Luther King Parkway. Team members were briefed and Base of Operation was established to include four Western shelter tents and sustained by generator power.
- 0030 USAR management team attended incident briefing with local, regional and state officials. Team was briefed of current situation and identified local asset needs.
- 0045 USAR TF-10 K-9 search team was deployed to search a commercial structure that could not be accessed by local rescue personnel due to severity of damage. 0115 K-9 search team advised commercial structure was all clear and returned to base of operations.
- 0315 Base of Operations set up was complete along with tactical operation tent and communications in place to include: Viper Radio, UHFMED System, NPS Repeater, 800 DVRS, Echolink, MSAT, VSAT and Broadband capabilities.
- Tactical action plan was developed for 0530 briefing with task force assignments and copies provided to IMT.
- 0530 Management team attended IMT briefing and provided TAP and necessary documents to assist with operational period beginning at 0600.
- 0600 new operational period

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Picture of comm. unit in main BoO tent.



Outside of main BoO tent with comms. VSAT, MSAT antennas pictured. Note safety area around antennas.

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Date	Time	Duration	Relative Time
2011/04/17,	10:52:36,	000002.0,	00:00:00
2011/04/17,	10:52:39,	000001.3,	00:00:02
2011/04/17,	10:52:42,	000002.3,	00:00:03
2011/04/17,	10:52:48,	000001.1,	00:00:05
2011/04/17,	10:52:54,	000001.1,	00:00:06
2011/04/17,	10:52:58,	000001.2,	00:00:07
2011/04/17,	10:53:05,	000001.0,	00:00:09
2011/04/17,	10:53:11,	000001.0,	00:00:10
2011/04/17,	10:54:53,	000001.1,	00:00:11
2011/04/17,	10:57:52,	000001.0,	00:00:12
2011/04/17,	10:57:53,	000001.4,	00:00:13
2011/04/17,	10:58:13,	000001.0,	00:00:15
2011/04/17,	10:58:15,	000001.1,	00:00:16
2011/04/17,	10:59:57,	000001.1,	00:00:17
2011/04/17,	11:00:12,	000003.7,	00:00:18
2011/04/17,	11:01:25,	000001.0,	00:00:22
2011/04/17,	11:01:28,	000001.1,	00:00:23
2011/04/17,	11:01:40,	000001.0,	00:00:24
2011/04/17,	11:01:51,	000002.7,	00:00:25
2011/04/17,	11:02:00,	000001.5,	00:00:28
2011/04/17,	11:02:04,	000001.5,	00:00:29
2011/04/17,	11:02:06,	000007.2,	00:00:31
2011/04/17,	11:02:18,	000001.4,	00:00:38
2011/04/17,	11:02:48,	000001.9,	00:00:39
2011/04/17,	11:02:51,	000001.1,	00:00:41
2011/04/17,	11:03:09,	000001.2,	00:00:42
2011/04/17,	11:03:11,	000001.3,	00:00:44
2011/04/17,	11:03:13,	000001.1,	00:00:45
2011/04/17,	11:03:15,	000001.9,	00:00:46
2011/04/17,	11:03:16,	000002.4,	00:00:48
2011/04/17,	11:03:52,	000001.0,	00:00:51
2011/04/17,	11:03:56,	000001.2,	00:00:52

Example of radio recording log. Actual time of audio, duration and location on the recording.

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<b>INCIDENT RADIO COMMUNICATIONS PLAN</b>		Incident Name		Date/Time Prepared		Operational Period Date/Time	
		#40583 Greene Co.		04/17/2011 02:45		04/17/2011	
<b>4. Basic Radio Channel Utilization</b>							
System/Cache	Radio Type/Cache	Group/Channel	Frequency/Tone	Assignment	Remarks		
VIPER	800	NP5TAC91	RPT	LOCAL AREA	LOCAL AREA OPS		
VIPER	800	ALPHA 2	N/A	LAW OPS	WIDE AREA OPS		
VIPER	800	CHARLIE 3	N/A	FIRE/EMS OPS	WIDE AREA OPS		
VIPER	800	PITT DPR	N/A	USAR	WIDE AREA OPS		
MED SYSTEM	NCMED 10	MED 10	RPT GREEN F	BACKUP	WIDE AREA OPS		
ECHOLINK	VOIP/VHF	440Net	440net node	BACKUP			
USAR MSAT	18775928106	USAR			ALSO ON TSKFRC TG		
USAR SATCOM	2525580081	USAR					
VIDEO	SKYPE		TF10COML				
5. Prepared by (Communications Unit)							
Lt. Matt McMahon COML 252-814-0808 CELL							

Initial on-site 205

ISC 205





Example of heavy damage to large buildings. Pictured is Green County Middle School.