

# Marion County Emergency Management

Division of the Marion County Sheriff's Office



# AUXCOMM Work Group Concept Meeting



## WELCOME

Thank You for attending today's  
concept meeting for a

Regional AUXCOMM Work Group



# AUXCOMM Work Group Concept Meeting



Host: Preston Bowlin

Director, Division of Emergency Management

Presenter: Harlan Cook

Coordinator

Marion Emergency Radio Team (MERT)

# AUXCOMM Work Group Concept Meeting



Alachua; Bradford; Citrus; Flagler; Hernando; Lake; Levy; Putnam; Sumter and Volusia

## Participants:

- Directors and Managers of Emergency Management;
- County Communications Leaders responsible for AUXCOMM (or EMCOMM) programs;
- AUXCOMM Leaders (amateur radio) personnel responsible for supporting each EOC during declared emergency events





**Regional AUXCOMM Work Group Counties**



# AUXCOMM Work Group Concept Meeting



## Objective:

Explore development of an intra-county AUXCOMM Work Group providing Emergency Management Leaders a new option for regional voice and digital message communications between EOC's



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## Outcome:

Propose a designated group of NIMS/ICS task knowledgeable volunteers and personnel with extensive experience in County EOC communications systems for the regional AUXCOMM Work Group.

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The AUXCOMM Work Group could focus on:

- ✓ Create contact lists and establish communications channels between County AUXCOMM teams;
- ✓ Identify, catalog and share regional communications resources and networks available & used by each AUXCOMM team;
  - Traditional voice and digital messaging (Winlink)
- ✓ Be a resource sharing information and best practices;



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- ✓ Develop/share cooperative training resources with each AUXCOMM team in helping achieve each Counties Mission;
- ✓ Provide speakers sharing the benefits of volunteer service by amateur radio operators in support of County EOC's;
- ✓ Develop common EMCOMM procedures used during emergencies;
- ✓ Conduct regular network tests verifying operational readiness of intra-EOC communications by AUXCOMM teams;

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- ✓ Be a regional resource for Emergency Management Leaders in providing information and expertise on AUXCOMM matters



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## Task:

- ✓ Foster the creation of a coast-to-coast voice and digital message radio network between EOC's.
- ✓ Provides Emergency Management Leaders a new communications link which is separate and independent of the traditional telecom networks.

## AUXCOMM NETWORK CONCEPT

Every EOC has at least two adjoining EOC's for  
backup comm's into the NET



**Regional AUXCOMM Work Group Counties**

Population = 2.6 million residents





# AUXCOMM Work Group Concept Meeting



Introducing the Marion Emergency Radio Team (MERT);

- ✓ Created in 2004 by the Division of Emergency Management;
- ✓ All volunteer group of amateur radio operators;
- ✓ Sheriff's Office background vetted w/credentials;
- ✓ ICS/AUXCOMM trained;
- ✓ Provides Operators to all open Shelters during Activations;
- ✓ Supports CERT communities, Hospital Radio Team and ARES

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Examples of resources available in support of the Work Group from Marion County:

Network Resources:

- ✓ Marion County AUXCOMM Network





Marion County Sheriff's Mobile  
Command Center (MCC)

**MERT Mobile Radio Unit**

Truck Height = 12 ft  
**2 Meter & 70 cm Antenna**  
Diamond X50A Dual-band  
(Antenna 5.6 ft tall)  
**HF Band Antenna**  
Little Tarheel II Screwdriver  
(Antenna 4.5 ft tall)



**MERT EOC  
Tower &  
Gateway**

Tower Height  
50 ft

**Primary Radio EMCOMM Center**

5 - 2 M/70 cm & 3 HF Radio's  
7 - 2 M/70 cm & 2 - HF Antennas  
(OCF & Delta)  
**KG4NXO-10** Winlink Gateway  
145.0300 MHz  
Dual 200 KW AC Gensets



Marion County Sheriff's Complex  
692 NW 30<sup>th</sup> Ave, Ocala, FL 34475

**MERT Repeaters & Gateway**

Tower Height = 188 ft AGL  
**KG4NXO-V** 145.1700 MHz D-Star  
(Antenna 180 ft)  
**KG4NXO-U** 443.8750 MHz D-Star  
(Antenna 170 ft)  
**KG4NXO-10** Winlink Gateway  
145.630 MHz  
(Antenna 160 ft)  
Repeater backup AC via 50 KW UPS  
with natural gas 45 KW genset



Marion County Forest Tower  
896 NE 231st Ave,  
Silver Springs, FL 34488

**MERT Repeater**

Tower Height = 367 ft  
**NA4DA** 147.210 MHz  
(Antenna = 260 ft)  
Repeater backup AC via 1 KW  
UPS with LP powered genset  
(Future KK4AEG)



Marion County Baseline Landfill  
5601 SE 66th St., Ocala, FL 34480

**MERT Repeaters**

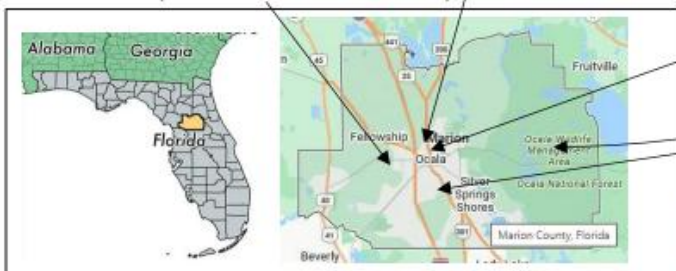
Tower Height = 350 ft AGL  
**KJ4CLL** 145.3300 MHz  
(Antenna 300 ft)  
**KK4DFC** 146.7900 MHz D-Star  
(Antenna 285 ft)  
Repeater backup AC via 50 KW  
County UPS & LP powered genset



Ocala International Airport

**MERT Digipeater**

Tower Height = 139 ft  
**KG4NXO-07 (Ocala)**  
145.0300 MHz  
(Antenna 139 ft on East side)



**Shelter Radio Emergency Kits (SHREK)**

14 - 2 M/70 cm D-Star EMCOMM radio  
systems w/backup battery & radio equip. inventories



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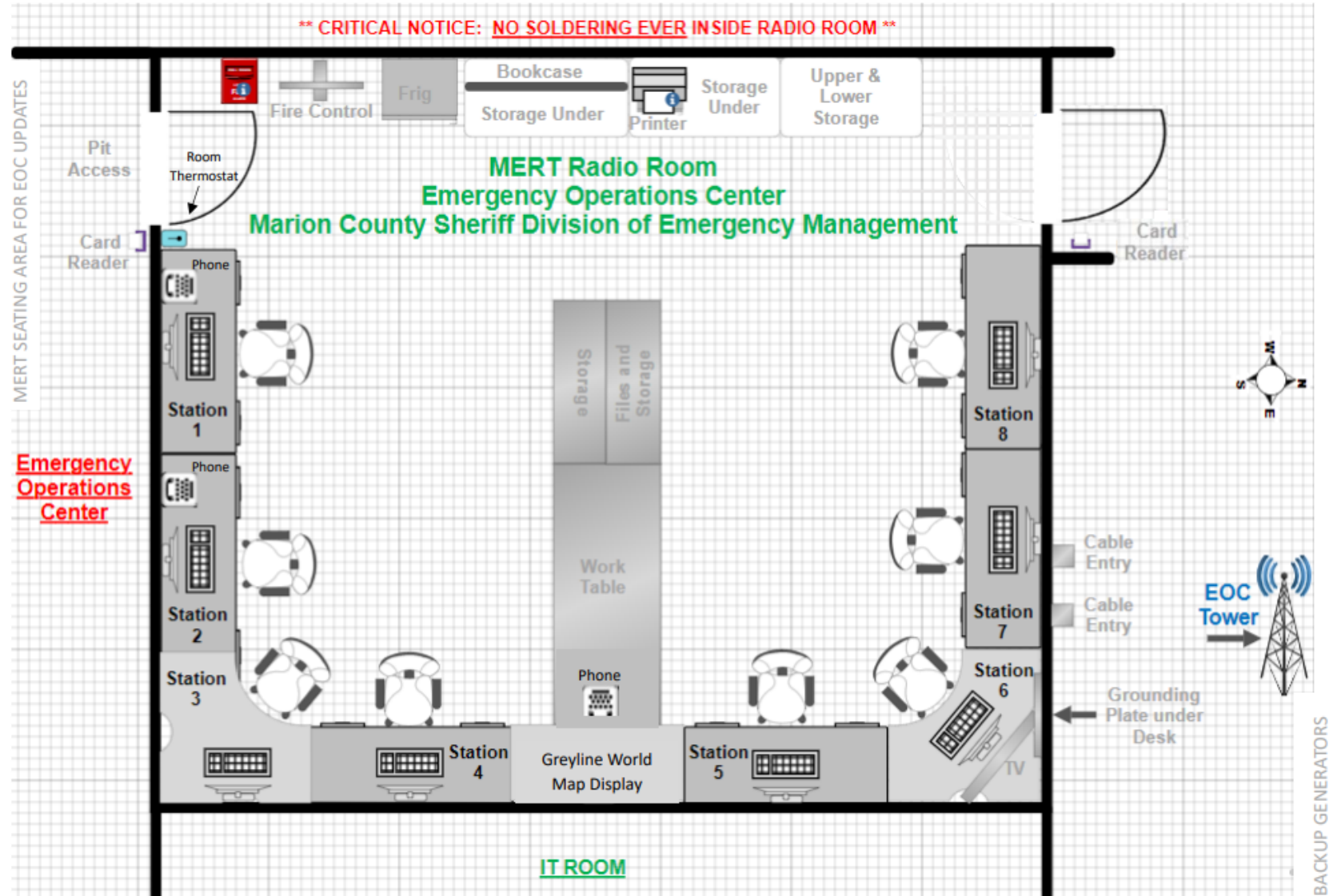


## Network Resources:

- ✓ Fully equipped all-band EOC Radio Room
- ✓ Experience with network upgrades
  - ✓ New Repeater Sites
  - ✓ HF & NVIS Antennas
  - ✓ SHARES



## Marion County Emergency Radio Team (MERT) Radio Room Layout



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- ✓ Experience with network upgrades increasing resilience and reliability

EOC & HF Tower rebuilds





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## Operational Resources:

### ✓ RED BOOK

- MERT Incident Commander Action List
  - Pre-activation, Activation and Post-activation procedural checklist



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## Operational Resources:

### ✓ Training Skill Book

➤ Comprehensive training resource and

### New Member Orientation Guide

- Self-Paced Learning guide

- 4 Levels

**MERT**  
Marion County Emergency Radio Team

**TRAINING SKILL BOOK**  
and  
**New Member Orientation Guide**

Skill Book Assigned To:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Call: \_\_\_\_\_

MERT Member Since: \_\_\_\_\_ Position/Assignment: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Skill Book Initiated By:

MERT Leader: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Position: \_\_\_\_\_ License: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

The Marion County Emergency Radio Team (MERT) is a Volunteer organization created, supported and administered by the Marion County Sheriff's Office (MCSO) Division of Emergency Management.

Specific information on Emergency Management Volunteer Programs along with an Application can be found at: <https://www.marionso.com/emergency-management-volunteering>

All questions about MERT, its roles, responsibilities and the materials herein are to be directed to the MERT Coordinator or MERT Assistant Coordinator at: [KG4NXO@marionso.com](mailto:KG4NXO@marionso.com)

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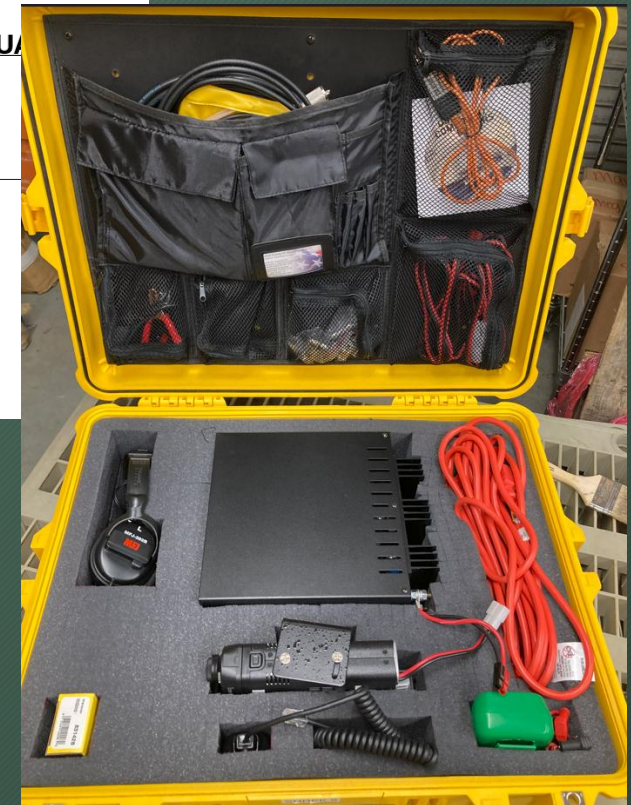
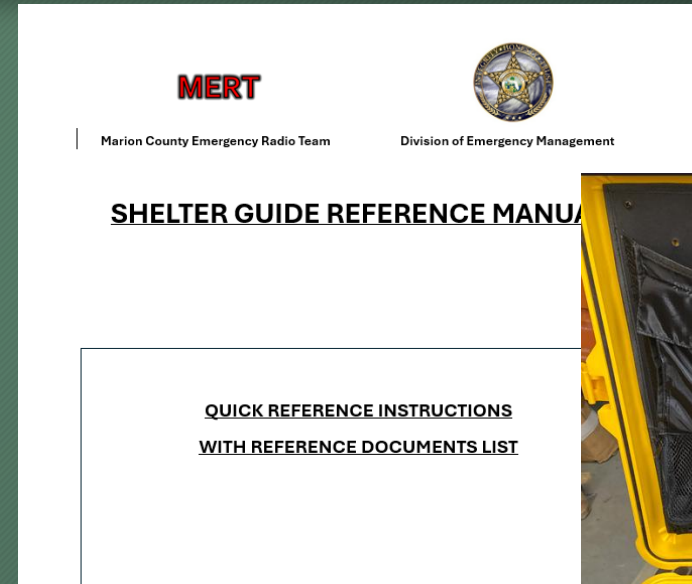


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## Operational Resources:

- ✓ Shelter Guide and Reference Manual
- ✓ Shelter Radio Go Kits
- ✓ HF Go Kit & NVIS Go Kit



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## Personnel Resources:

- ✓ AUXCOMM Trained Leaders
- ✓ NIMS/ICS Certified
  - County AUXCOMM Certified - Shelter Manager  
Repeaters/Networks Mgr.
  - Interoperability Agreements - Hospital Radio Team  
Marion County ARES



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## Summary:

Each Counties team will bring knowledge, expertise and skills benefiting the AUXCOMM Work Group and the development of the regional network.

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Open Discussion and Questions

Thank You for participating today.

Harlan Cook      KG4NXO@marionso.com