

Local Memorandum of Understanding
Between the
St. Louis County Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES®)
A voluntary emergency and public service communications organization
sponsored by the American Radio Relay League, Inc.
and
St. Louis, Missouri Veterans Administration Medical Center

Introduction

Veterans Administration Medical Center and Clinics in St. Louis County, Missouri, St. Charles County, Missouri and Belleville, Illinois; here after referred to as St. Louis VAMC and the St. Louis County Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES®) group in St. Louis County, Missouri; here after referred to as St. Louis County ARES®, responsible for the St. Louis County area and representing public-service oriented radio amateurs within this area, have agreed to enter into these local agreements which have formed the basis for this memorandum.

Purpose

This agreement between St. Louis County ARES, the local Amateur Radio Emergency Service group and St. Louis VAMC establishes a framework of cooperation and a close working relationship with volunteer radio amateurs organized under the authority of the ARRL Emergency Coordinator and officials of the St. Louis VAMC. It is intended through joint cooperation of the local resources available to both signees, the public will best be served under disaster, emergency or public-service related situations. This document is not meant to be considered legally binding; it is a statement of cooperation between the two parties.

Organization

The Amateur Radio Emergency Service consists of federally licensed radio amateurs who have voluntarily registered their qualifications and equipment for communication duty in the public service when disaster strikes pursuant to Federal Communications Commission Rule 97.1 (a) which states that a "fundamental purpose" of the Amateur Radio Service is: "Recognition and enhancement of the value of the amateur service to the public as a voluntary noncommercial communication service, particularly with respect to providing emergency communications."

The American Radio Relay League Inc, comprising more than 156,000 radio amateurs in the U.S. sponsors the ARRL Field Organization. More than 8,900 amateurs are registered as members of this national field organization which is divided into 71 geographical sections. The Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) is one segment of the ARRL's commitment to service the public in time of need. Local ARES groups are established components within ARES. "ARES" and "Amateur Radio Emergency Service" are registered service marks of the American Radio Relay League, Incorporated, and are used by permission.

The ARRL Missouri Section leadership within the Amateur Radio Emergency Service is exercised by the Section Emergency Coordinator (appointed by the elected ARRL Section Manager) with the Section Emergency Coordinator appointing District Emergency Coordinators and Emergency Coordinators within the section.

The local Emergency Coordinator is the key person within the ARRL Field Organization to provide an ARES response in a given locale.

The St. Louis County Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) is organized in the following manner:

Steve Wooten, KC0QMU: Emergency Coordinator (EC)

Gary Hoffman, KB0H: Assistant Emergency Coordinator (AEC) – Operations

Recognition

The St. Louis VAMC mission is to continually strive to provide the highest quality health care, exceptional patient service, coordinated, efficient care, and excellence in Research and Education. The St. Louis VAMC provides inpatient and ambulatory care in medicine, surgery, psychiatry, neurology, and rehabilitation, as well as over 65 subspecialty areas. It is a two-division facility that serves veterans and their families in east central Missouri and southwestern Illinois.

The John Cochran Division, named after the late Missouri congressman, is located in midtown St. Louis and has all of the medical center's operative surgical capabilities, the ambulatory care unit, and a six-story Clinical Addition that includes surgical facilities, intensive care units, outpatient psychiatry clinics, and expanded laboratory.

The Jefferson Barracks Division is a multi-building complex overlooking the Mississippi River in south St. Louis County. It provides psychiatric treatment, regional spinal cord injury treatment, a nursing home care unit, geriatric health care, rehabilitation services, and a rehabilitation domiciliary program for homeless veterans.

The St. Louis VAMC is associated with Community Based Outpatient Clinics (CBOCs) in Belleville, IL; St. Charles, MO; and the Missouri Veterans Home in North St. Louis. Additionally, the St. Louis VAMC also sees patients that receive care at the CBOC in Springfield, IL.

Since 1954, we have provided quality care to veterans of our community and surrounding areas. In 1970 the John Cochran Veterans Administration Hospital was consolidated with the Jefferson Barracks Veterans Administration Hospital. This consolidation was a major step in providing St. Louis area veterans coordinated, integrated health services. From surgery to diagnostics, fitness to rehabilitation, depend on us for care focused on America's heroes.

Method of Cooperation

For the communications resources of the St. Louis County ARES to be coordinated and used to the fullest advantage during disasters and emergencies, and to the extent permitted or required by law and regulation, St. Louis County ARES and St. Louis VAMC have agreed to the following:

1. The points of contact between St. Louis County ARES and the St. Louis VAMC office are:
 - St. Louis County ARES
 - Steven J Wooten, Emergency Coordinator
 - Gary Hoffman, Assistant Emergency Coordinator of Operations
 - St. Louis VAMC
 - Jeff Vaughn, Emergency Program Coordinator
2. St. Louis County ARES will identify an individual as the key contact within the St. Louis VAMC office. This individual will provide the closest possible cooperation and direct operational assistance to St. Louis County ARES in emergency communications planning, and in coordination of amateur radio communications facilities during an emergency.
3. St. Louis County ARES and St. Louis VAMC will engage in an on-going dialog on

emergency preparedness with each other. They will urge both staff and volunteers to create and maintain appropriate communications and effective relationships at all levels of both organizations.

4. St. Louis County ARES will cooperate with St. Louis VAMC in pre-emergency planning, drills, exercises, and training programs at the level designated by St. Louis VAMC.
5. St. Louis County ARES and St. Louis VAMA will work together to develop operating plans such that communications services, equipment, and facilities of the Amateur Radio Service may be suitably used.
6. Whenever there is a disaster requiring amateur radio communications, St. Louis VAMC will request the assistance of St. Louis County ARES. This assistance may include:
 - Alerting and mobilizing St. Louis County ARES members in accordance with the St. Louis County ARES Emergency Plan
 - Establishing and maintaining fixed, mobile, and portable station emergency communication capabilities for local amateur radio coverage and point-to-point contact between St. Louis VAMC and remote locations, as required
 - Maintaining the continuity of communications for the duration of the emergency period or until normal communications channels are substantially restored.
7. At no time will St Louis County ARES operators broadcast any patient information.

Implementation

This memorandum shall take effect upon its signing by authorized representatives of the local Amateur Radio Emergency Service group and their ARRL Section Leaders and representatives of St. Louis VAMC. This memorandum may be amended by mutual agreement of both parties, and it is understood by both parties that at any time this Memorandum of Understanding may be terminated by written notification from either party to the other. Six months prior to the termination date of this MOU, which is 09/21/2013 (a two year term), the parties shall meet to review the progress and success of this MOU and determine whether it shall be extended for an additional five years and in no event shall any single extension of this MOU be for a term exceeding five years.

Miscellaneous

This Statement of Understanding does not create a partnership or a joint venture, and neither party has the authority to bind the other.

Date 9/27/2011

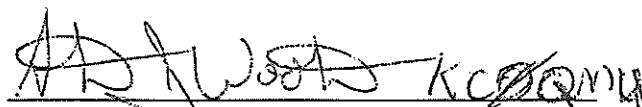


Rimaann O. Nelson, Director St Louis VA Medical Center

Date _____

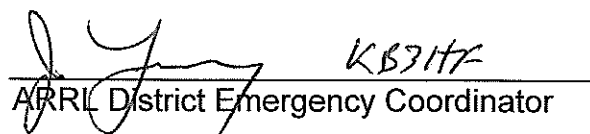
Title

Date 11/10/11



ARRL Emergency Coordinator

Date 11/5/11



ARRL District Emergency Coordinator

Date 11-1-2011

Ken Barmon W0KRB
ARRL Section Emergency Coordinator

Date Sept 30, 2011

Dale Bagley K0KY
ARRL Section Manager (Required for
Recognition by ARRL Field Organization)