

Annex C
Appendix 1

REGION FOUR EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS PLAN

C1-100. PURPOSE

This Emergency Communications (ECOM) Plan provides guidelines in addition to those promulgated in Annex C to this Central Area Operations Guide that are unique to the requirements of Region FOUR for establishment of ECOM procedures to support military and civilian agency activities in the event of an emergency as defined in NTP 8(SERIES), Annex D.

C1-130. SCOPE

This Appendix is applicable to all NAVMARCORMARS stations within the boundaries of Region FOUR.

C1-140. POLICY

It is the policy that NAVMARCORMARS resources within Region FOUR shall be used to fully support the policies as set forth in NTP 8(SERIES), paragraph D140.

C1-150. ORGANIZATION

ECOM organization within Region FOUR shall be in accordance with NTP 8(SERIES), paragraph D150.

C1-200. RESPONSIBILITIES

a. The responsibilities of all directors, stations, and personnel within Region FOUR shall be in accordance with NTP 8(SERIES), paragraph D200.

b. States within Region FOUR are expected to have viable and effective ECOM plans and conduct exercises as specified in NTP 8(SERIES), paragraph D220.

C1-300. EXECUTION

Execution shall be in accordance with NTP 8(SERIES), paragraph D300.

C1-400. ALERTING

Alerting shall be in accordance with NTP 8(SERIES), paragraph D400. State directors may at their discretion direct a lower guard level (such as frequency monitoring, ALE activation, etc.) than those set forth in D400 without activating this ECOM Plan.

C1-500. MINIMIZE

Minimize shall be in accordance with NTP 8(SERIES), paragraph D500.

C1-600. OPERATIONS AND PROCEDURES

C1-610. GENERAL OPERATIONS

ECOM operations and procedures shall be in accordance with NTP 8(SERIES), paragraph D600.

C1-620. NET/FREQUENCY ASSIGNMENTS

a. The following frequencies shall be used as required to meet ECOM net requirements in Region FOUR (users of this Appendix should fill in the frequency from the NAVMARCORMARS Frequency Matrix):

		<u>Designator</u>	<u>Frequency (KHz)</u>
1200Z - 2159Z	Primary	NFH	_____
	Secondary	NBJ	_____
		NCK	_____
		NEB	_____
2200Z - 1159Z	Primary	NFH	_____
	Secondary	NCK	_____
		NEB	_____

NOTE: If propagation conditions or interference require, any Region FOUR frequency may be used.

b. The main purpose of the Region FOUR Primary Frequency shall be Command and Control and to handle administrative traffic. Secondary frequencies should be used to pass traffic for further relay via SCD on the MDS.

c. Members are reminded that if Region frequencies are unusable, the National Frequencies as listed in paragraph D620 of NTP 8(SERIES) may be used unless otherwise directed by the Chief, NAVMARCORMARS (NNN0ASA) or the Assistant for ECOM (NNN0ASZ).

C1-630. NECOS ASSIGNMENTS AND DUTIES

a. In the event that it is necessary to activate a Region FOUR Emergency Net, the station activating the net shall take firm control as Net Control Station (NECOS) and conduct Directed Net Operations until relieved by or directed by higher authority. If the Emergency net is activated during the time a regularly scheduled Region FOUR traffic net (4X1B or 4X9B) is in progress, NECOS of the Traffic Net will assumed the duties of the Emergency Net NECOS and continue Emergency Net Operations until relieved by the NECOS assigned by the rotation schedule in the following paragraph.

b. States are assigned responsibility for providing a NECOS for Region FOUR ECOM Nets in accordance with the rotation schedule below. State Directors shall assign members of their state to act as NECOS for the assigned time block. The rotation indicated below will then continue until the Emergency Net is secured. (Note: As the rotation continues into the second and subsequent cycle a state's time block(s) during any particular cycle will change as the rotation schedule continues.)

STATE	TIME
ALABAMA	0001Z - 0200Z
FLORIDA	0201Z - 0400Z
GEORGIA	0401Z - 0600Z
KENTUCKY	0601Z - 0800Z
MISSISSIPPI	0801Z - 1000Z
NORTH CAROLINA	1001Z - 1200Z
SOUTH CAROLINA	1201Z - 1400Z
TENNESSEE	1401Z - 1600Z *

* NOTE: ROTATION CONTINUES WITH ALABAMA, FLORIDA, GEORGIA, KENTUCKY ... ETC.

In the event a state does not assume NECOS within one minute, any station shall assume the duties and NNN0AS4, NNN0AS4 ONE and NNNOAS4 TWO notified.

c. All ECOM nets shall be directed nets (unless otherwise designated by

NECOS). All stations other than Net Control will maintain **RADIO SILENCE** except to respond to the Net Control, file Emergency Traffic into the system, acknowledge receipt of traffic, and check out of the net.

d. NECOS shall assign a station to guard one or more of the National ECOM frequencies and other frequencies as may be required. Stations guarding other frequencies shall report activity on their guard frequency to the Primary Net at least once per hour.

e. NECOS may utilize any Region FOUR frequency if propagation conditions or interference require. NECOS shall designate a station to remain on the primary frequency and advise late checks ins of the new ECOM frequency. The station shall remain on the old frequency for thirty minutes.

f. NECOS shall conduct a net call by state at or near the top of the hour and if net activity is low, shall announce that a Region ECOM Net is in progress. This announcement should also include the current COMCON level and the event for which the net is in operation.

g. NECOS shall send a 'ECOM NECOS REPORT' to NNN0AS4 TWO, info to NNN0AS4 and NNN0AS4 ONE, at the end of his/her "watch" or every four hours whichever occurs first. This report will be submitted using the following format:

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P (DTG)
FM NNN0___ (state)
TO NNN0AS4 TWO AL
INFO NNN0AS4 GA
NNN0AS4 ONE GA
BT
UNCLAS
SUBJ: ECOM NECOS REPORT
1. DATE AND TIME COVERED BY REPORT
2. FREQ(S) AND TIMES
3. TRAFFIC COUNT BY FREQ
4. RELIEVING NECOS
5. STATIONS ABOARD
6. BRIEF OF SITUATION AND COMMENTS
BT
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Example text:

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BT
UNCLAS
SUBJ: ECOM NECOS REPORT
1. 130100Z - 130300Z JUL 2006
2. NFH - 130100Z-130150Z
   NCK - 130150Z-130300Z
3. NFH - 3 EEI
   NCK - 1 ECOM NECOS REPORT
4. NNN0EVT AL
5. SYF AL, EVT AL, IBM FL, JQC GA, (... etc.)
6. HURRICANE ASHORE IN FLORIDA. COMMS POOR DUE PROPAGATION.
BT
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This report should be submitted to ensure delivery to addressees as rapidly as possible. If placed in the MDS the send command should be: SX MULTI

C1-640. REGION FOUR COMMAND AND CONTROL NET

a. Each year natural disasters such as hurricane/major tropical storms and

other severe weather systems present a major threat to Region FOUR with the possibility of impacting several states in a short period of time. The purpose of this section is to establish operating procedures for an ECOM Command and Control (C-and-C) net within Region FOUR. The Region C-and-C net shall be established for the purpose of coordinating efforts between states and the region staff. The C-and-C net will use the frequencies specified in paragraph C1-620 above. The first C-and-C net of any given month shall be designated the 4X1E net. Subsequent nets shall be designated 4X2E, 4X3E, etc.

The C-and-C net will not normally be used for the purpose of passing traffic. However, traffic may be listed, in which case NECOS should direct stations to another frequency to pass the traffic; or, NECOS may at their discretion pass traffic on the C-and-C net frequency. The station sending traffic on an alternate frequency shall be responsible for submitting a frequency usage report to NNN0AS4 THREE for the frequency on which the traffic was passed. The designation of this traffic net shall be 4X3B.

b. The responsibility for actions within a given state remains with the State Director.

c. Upon knowledge that a natural disaster may impact the Region, NNN0AS4 TWO shall contact NNN0AS4 or NNN0AS4 ONE requesting authority to set an appropriate ALERT CONDITION as listed below. In the event that they are unavailable, NNN0AS4 TWO shall assume the responsibility for setting a region ALERT CONDITION. Actions to be taken for establishment of a C-and-C net areas follows:

ALERT CONDITION THREE: A natural disaster is expected to affect the Region within 48 hours. Established a radio listening guard on the designated C-and-C frequency. No NECOS is required. Alert all NAVMARCORMARS stations in Region FOUR via State Directors. Check equipment and procedures needed for activation. Any advisory information for states or staff will be transmitted on this net.

ALERT CONDITION TWO: A natural disaster is expected to affect the Region within the next 24 hours. Establish the C-and-C net (free net) on the designated frequency. A NECOS is assigned and all states are requested to provide a station to guard the C-and-C frequency. NECOS assignments and responsibilities shall be as set forth in paragraph C1-630 above. Net operations shall be from 1200Z to 2359Z (unless otherwise directed). All NAVMARCORMARS stations shall be prepared to increase net operations to a directed net. States curtail routine operations as necessary to increase their state-of-readiness.

ALERT CONDITION ONE: A natural disaster affecting the Region is imminent (less than 24 hours). Establish a directed C-and-C net on the designated frequency. NECOS assignments and responsibilities shall be as set forth in paragraph C1-630 above. All states provide a station to the C-and-C net for the purpose of relaying information back to their areas. If appropriate, NNN0AS4 ONE shall attempt to establish contact with NNN0GCR or any NAVMARCORMARS station in Puerto Rico, on any Region FOUR assigned frequency.

ALERT CONDITION ZERO: A natural disaster exists within Region FOUR. A directed net shall be in operation 24 hours a day (unless otherwise directed). NECOS assignments and responsibilities shall be as set forth in paragraph C1-630 above.

d. It is the responsibility of NNN0AS4 TWO to contact NNN0AS4 or NNN0AS4 ONE for authorization to change Region ALERT levels. Should NNN0AS4 and NNN0AS4 ONE not be available NNN0AS4 TWO is authorized to take the necessary action. The change in ALERT levels shall be accomplished by a SITREP message. The precedence of the SITREP shall be IMMEDIATE vice PRIORITY. SITREPs may be passed on the C-and-C net on a not to interfere with coordination efforts.

e. NECOS assignments and responsibilities shall be as set forth in paragraph C1-630 above. Should a state fail to assume NECOS any station may assume the duties of ALTNECOS. ALTNECOS stations may be from any state. In the case of a hurricane/tropical storm, stations from inland states (KY and TN) are desired since they are less likely to be in harms way of the hurricane/storm. ALTNECOS should try to raise the "duty state" for relief.

f. Each NECOS shall send a ECOM NECOS REPORT in accordance with paragraph C1-630.g above.

g. NNN0AS4 TWO is responsible for collecting and providing a frequency report for C-and-C net operations to NNN0AS4 THREE.

C1-700. REPORTS

Reports shall be in accordance with NTP 8(SERIES), paragraph D700, Annex C to this Central Area Operations Guide, and paragraph C1-600 of this ECOM Plan.

C1-800. EXERCISES

C1-810. GENERAL

All states are expected to conduct a minimum of one exercise per quarter in accordance with NTP 8(SERIES), paragraph D220.f.

C1-820. JOINT EXERCISES

Joint exercises shall be in accordance with NTP 8(SERIES), paragraph D830.

C1-900. ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS OF INFORMATION (EEI) MESSAGES

a. EEI reporting shall be in accordance with NTP 8(SERIES), paragraph D900, and paragraph C900 of Annex C of this Central Area Operations Guide.