



NATIONAL REGISTRY OF CERTIFIED EMCOMM VOLUNTEERS

EmComm Communications Support Team Certification Program



CST Resource Definitions

NRCEV PUB 250

Dated: *December 2008*

Overview

Resource Typing

Many will notice that the NRCEV is no longer using the resource typing matrix originally proposed. The original typing matrix was based on the one developed by the World Radio Relay League (WRRL). This typing matrix is the one most familiar to those involved in emergency communications.

However, after much research and discussion, the NRCEV has decided not to continue to utilize the modified WRRL typing matrix for two reasons.

1) Type I teams defined in the WRRL matrix are in actuality a Task Force as defined by NIMS and the NRP. The WRRL matrix, and the one modified by the NRCEV describe a Type I team as a combination of 1 Type II team and 4 Type III teams.

The NIMS/NRP definition of a “Task Force” is as follows: “Any combination of resources assembled in support of a specific mission or operational need. All resource elements within a Task Force must have common communications and a designated leader”. Clearly, the Type I team described above falls under the Task Force definition.

Additionally, The NIMS/NRP definition for a “Type” is: A classification of resources in the ICS that refers to capability. Type 1 is generally considered to be more capable than Types 2, 3, or 4, respectively, because of size; power; capacity; or, in the case of incident management teams, experience and qualifications.

While, the Type I ARCT as defined the WRRL and original NRCEV typing definition is larger in number of personnel than the other Type ARCTs, the Type I does not specify any additional capabilities. Therefore, it can be argued it is not a different type of resource.

2) The National Integration Center (NIC) has already defined a resource type for Communications Support Teams (CST). The CST already defined is for Civil Air Patrol (CAP) resources. And the Type I CAP CST is appreciably different from the Type I ARCT proposed by the WRRL and that the NRCEV also originally adopted.

Therefore, the NRCEV has concluded that, until a definitive ruling is made by the NIC on resource definitions for Amateur Radio EmComm resources, we should align the typing definitions for NRCEV CSTs with those already adopted, for similar resources, in order to remain compliant and consistent with both NRP definitions and existing resource typing structures established by the NIMS Integration Center.

Should the NIC publish a different typing matrix or adopt the one submitted by the WRRL, the NRCEV will make any necessary changes to remain compliant with NIMS.

CST Certification Levels

The certifications that EmComm Communication Support Teams may obtain shall be:

- Type IV – Mobile/Portable (VHF)
- Type III – Mobile/Portable (VHF/HF)
- Type II – Field/Base (VHF/HF/Digital)
- Type I – Field/Base (VHF/HF/Digital)
- CST Strike Team

See the Resource Typing Matrix for the required capability minimums for CSTs.

CST Strike Team – a group of 3-5 CST teams of the same type and a Strike Team Leader. Whether it is 3, 4 or 5 teams, the number must be specified. The CST Strike Team provides an operational grouping of CSTs complete with supervisory elements for organizational command and control. A Strike team may consist of all Type IV, all Type III, all Type II or all Type I CSTs.

Team Structure

CST team rosters shall have a minimum of twice the number of members needed to deploy the team. This is to help ensure that, when requested, a team can be quickly deployed as well as to facilitate rotating team personnel during extended deployments.

In accordance with federal regulations, the NIMS must be utilized at all emergency/disaster scenes.

Therefore, each CST and each CST Strike Team shall have at least 2 members who will act as CST Coordinators. These CST Coordinators will act as the liaison

to the served agency representative, incident Logistics Section Chief or Communications Unit Leader.

The CST Coordinators need to have competency in the following areas:

- The ability to implement the CST's incident command system,
- The ability to implement the CST's emergency response plan,
- Have knowledge and understanding of the hazards and risks associated with team EmComm Volunteers working in potentially dangerous and stressful situations, and
- Each CST shall designate one (1) CST Coordinator as the Unit Leader; the remaining CST Coordinators shall be designated as Assistant Unit Leaders

Unit Leaders and Assistant Unit Leaders shall be certified to at the levels indicated below:

- Type IV – Emergency Communications Operator II (minimum)
- Type III – Emergency Communications Operator II (minimum)
- Type II – Emergency Communications Specialist I (minimum)
- Type I – Emergency Communications Specialist II
- CST Strike Team – Emergency Communications Specialist II

CST members should all belong to the same organization, if the team is sponsored or affiliated by a specific organization. This is to facilitate team cohesiveness and common training and operational practices.

CST Strike Teams may consist of a combination of individual Certified EmComm volunteers and/or Certified CSTs.

If the individuals and CSTs, that are coming together to form a Certified CST Strike Team, are not of the same sponsoring or affiliated organization, a mutual aid agreement or statement of understanding shall be drawn up and signed by all team members and sponsoring or affiliated organizations, and shall be submitted with the CST's application for (re)certification. These agreements shall specify how individual members and/or member CSTs will address the following issues:

Team management;

- Conflicts of interests/priorities between sponsoring or affiliated organizations;
- Training; and
- Any other issues relating to any real or potential differences or disparities exist between members or sponsoring or affiliated organizations.

NRCEV
CST RESOURCE DEFINITIONS

These mutual aid agreements or statements of understanding are necessary in order to insure that a Certified Strike Team is able to function and deploy if and when requested and that all conditions, procedures and/or limitations for doing so have been previously addressed.

CSTs may list other EmComm Volunteers, which have not been certified by the NRCEV, on their Team Rosters as “Trainees”. However, CSTs may not utilize non-certified members towards minimum staffing requirements for Team Certification or for deploying as an “NRCEV Certified CST”.



RESOURCE:		COMMUNICATIONS SUPPORT TEAM (AMATEUR RADIO)			
CATEGORY:		RESOURCE MANAGEMENT		KIND:	TEAM
MINIMUM CAPABILITIES:		TYPE I	TYPE II	TYPE III	TYPE IV
COMPONENT	METRIC				
Personnel	Manning	4 radio operators (2 operators General Class or higher, the remainder may be Technician Class or higher) 1 Unit Leader (Technician class or higher)	3 radio operators (2 operators General Class or higher, the remainder may be Technician Class or higher) 1 Unit Leader (Technician class or higher)	2 radio operators (Technician Class or higher and 1 General class) 1 Unit Leader (Technician class or higher)	1 radio operator (Technician Class or higher) 1 Unit Leader (Technician class or higher)
Equipment	Communications	1 each - Mobile Dual Band VHF (2 Meter) FM/ UHF(70 Cm) FM radio and 2 each - Portable VHF (2 Meter) FM or Dual Band VHF/UHF Radio 1 - Mobile/Portable VHF (2 Meter)/UHF (70 Cm) crossband repeater 1 - Portable VHF (2 Meter) FM repeater or Portable UHF (70 Cm) FM repeater 1 - HF Radio with automatic antenna tuner VHF (2 Meter) E-mail Link Capability Packet Capability APRS Capability HF E-mail Link Capability Cell Phone	1 each - Mobile Dual Band VHF (2 Meter) FM/ UHF(70 Cm) FM radios and 2 each - Portable VHF (2 Meter) FM or Dual Band VHF/UHF Radio 1 - Mobile/Portable VHF (2 Meter)/UHF (70 Cm) crossband repeater 1 - HF Radio with automatic antenna tuner VHF (2 Meter) E-mail Link Capability Packet Capability APRS Capability Cell Phone	Same as Type IV Plus 1- HF Radio with automatic antenna tuner	VHF (2 Meter) FM radio and/or Dual Band VHF/UHF (70 Cm) FM radio Cell Phone (Recommended) VHF (2 Meter) E-mail Link Capability Packet Capability APRS Capability
Equipment (Cont)	Vehicle	1 - Converted SUV, Travel Trailer or other vehicle, or trailer requiring an additional tow vehicle. Independent of outside power source or infrastructure	1 - Converted SUV, Travel Trailer or other vehicle, or trailer requiring an additional tow vehicle. Independent of outside power source or infrastructure	1 – Vehicle (4x4 or AWD recommended)	1 – Vehicle (4x4 or AWD recommended)
Team	Availability and Duration	Same as Type II	Extended operations (greater than 1 week)	Same as Type IV	Short duration (up to 1 week)
Management Support	Coordination Capabilities	Team management only	Team management only	Team management only	Team management only
Notes		<p>Availability does not require continuous availability of specific personnel, only that teams are available to those specifications. Type III & IV teams are expected to support local level incident operations or as local relay points. Type II teams are expected to support regional incident operations with multiple agencies. Type I teams are expected to support regional, state or national incident operations with multiple agencies. All teams are designed to provide 24/7 coverage, utilizing 12 hour shifts, and to be self sustaining for a minimum of 72 hours.</p> <p><i>CST Strike Team – is a group of 5 CST teams of the same type/kind and a Strike Team Leader. The CST Strike Team provides an operational grouping of CSTs complete with supervisory elements for organizational command and control. A Strike team may be all Type IV or all Type III or all Type II or all Type I CSTs</i></p>			