Georgia AUXCOMM

Presentation to RATPAC

Date: September 30, 2021

Agenda

- Types of disasters
- GEMA Amateur Radio support history
- GEMA Support with AUXCOMM
- Georgia AUXCOMM, Inc.
- Missions
- Relationship with ARES
- Challenges
- Opportunities
- More information

Types of Support Needed

- Weather
  - Thunderstorms
  - Tornadoes
  - Flooding
  - Ice
  - Hurricanes
- FEMA Region 4 support
- Transportation
- Critical Infrastructure
- Terrorism
- Earthquake

Amateur Radio Support History

- Relationship with Georgia ARES
    - SOC staffing
    - Participation in exercises
        - Hurricane Irma
        - Georgia MCV Exercise (2018)
- GEMA AUXCOMM training
    - 4 AUXCOMM classes held
    - 138 completed AUXCOMM classes (pre-PTB)
- MOU between GEMA and ARES

GEMA Recognition of AUXCOMM

- 2019 official adoption of AUXCOMM
- Additional COMU training with PTB
    - COML, COMT, AUXC, ITSL
- GEMA set 12/31/20 to integrate AUXC to state operations
- Integrates Amateur Radio and other auxiliary modes of communication into COMU
- Developed SHARES operation and operators
- Creation of Georgia AUXCOMM, Inc. (501c3)
- What changed with ARES?
    - SOC and GEMA deployments staffed by AUXC
    - ARES role still provides local communications
    - Communications from local to state through AUXC

Georgia AUXCOMM, Inc.

- Created as a Georgia non-profit corporation to assist GEMA in providing qualified, certified, and trained AUXCOMM operators for SOC and official deployments
- Assist in developing training and exercises
    - 2020 Field Day deployment and training at state park
    - Planning underway for AUXC/ARES joint training in field in late 2021/early 2022
- Assisted in development of Georgia COMFOG and Georgia AUXFOG
- Currently, 138 certified AUXCOMM operators completed the AUXC course
- 22 fully certified with PTB completed

Georgia AUXCOMM Structure

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SHARES MANAGER
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GEMA LIAISON / DEPUTY SWIC
EDWIN WHITWORTH

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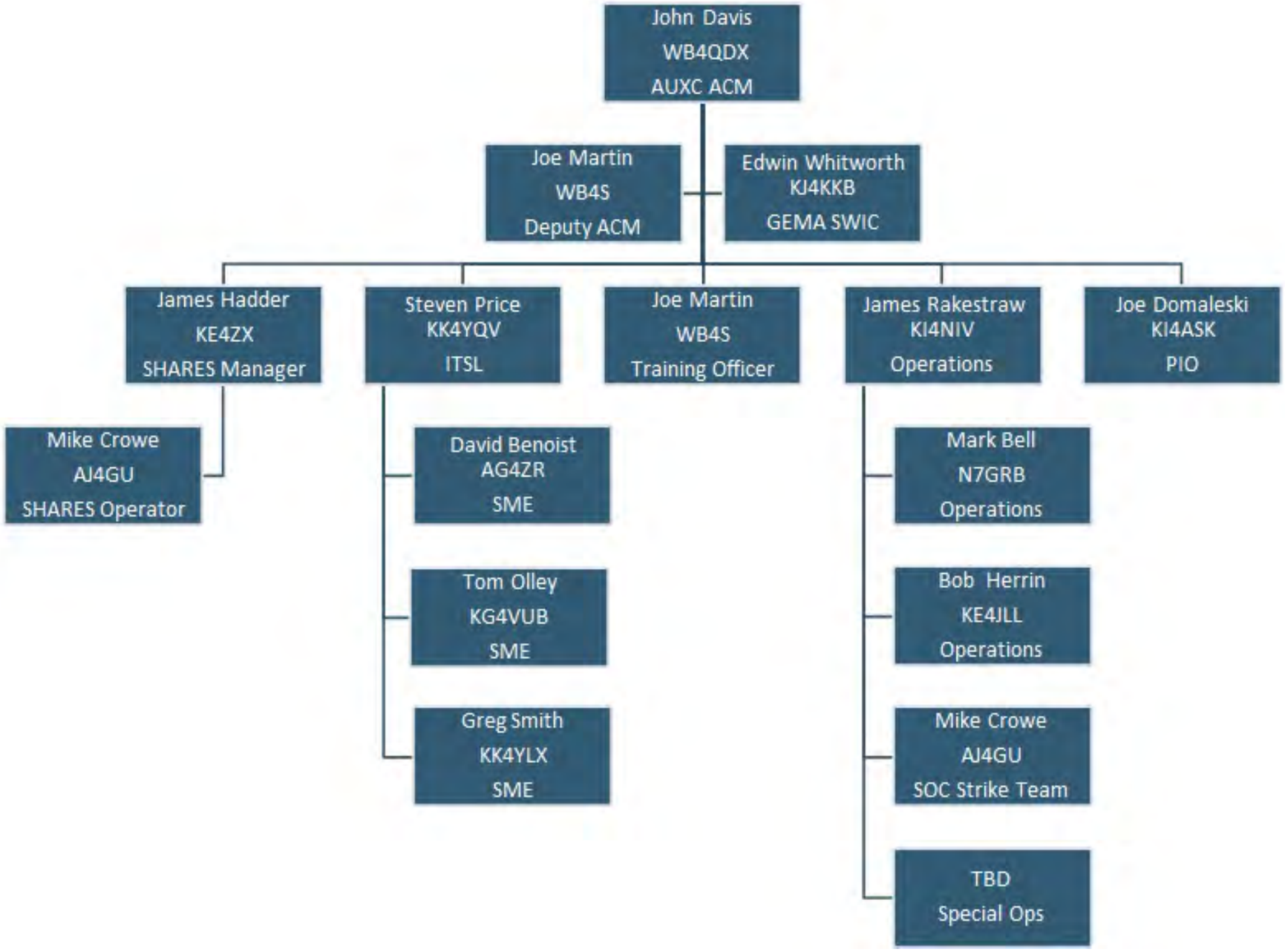
Georgia AUXCOMM Organization



AUXCOMM selected missions

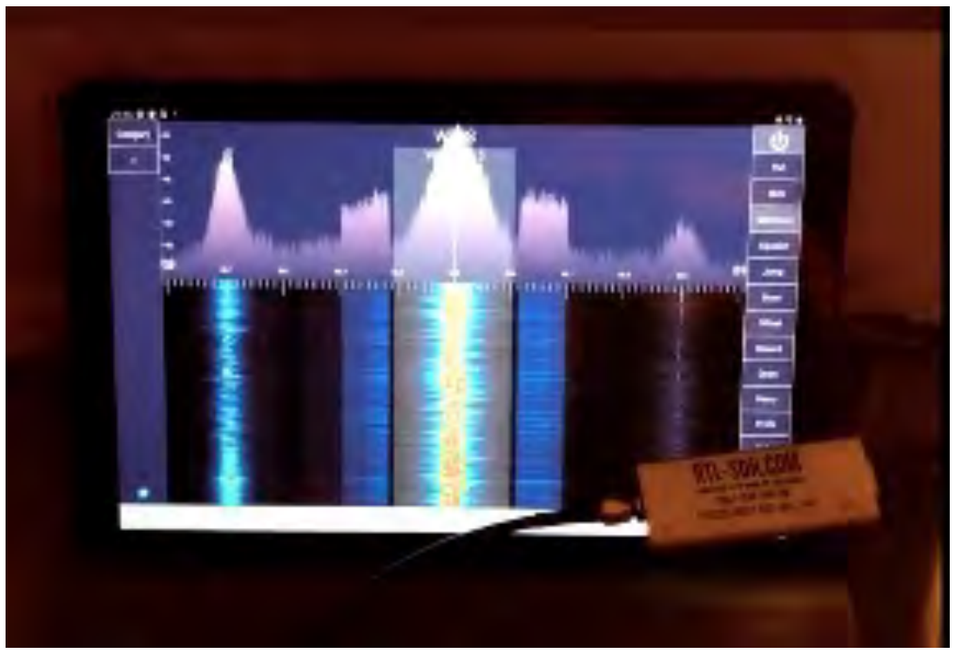
- MCV Exercise (11/2020)
- Operation Inauguration (1/2021)
- Operation Clean Sweep (2/2021)
- Operation Corral (2/2021)
- Operation Vax (3-6/2021)
- Hurricane Ida (8/2021)
- Operation Southwire (9/2021)

MCV Exercise (11/2020)

- Purpose – assist GEMA and Gilmer County in planning and implementing the MCV exercise.
- Activities
    - Assist with planning and staging
    - Assist with setup
    - Assist with activities
        - Assisted with airborne operations (fixed and rotary wing)
        - Completed assigned tasks
- Technologies used
    - Satellite phones
    - VOIP systems
    - 700/800 MHz state communications
    - Amateur radio
    - Drone surveillance

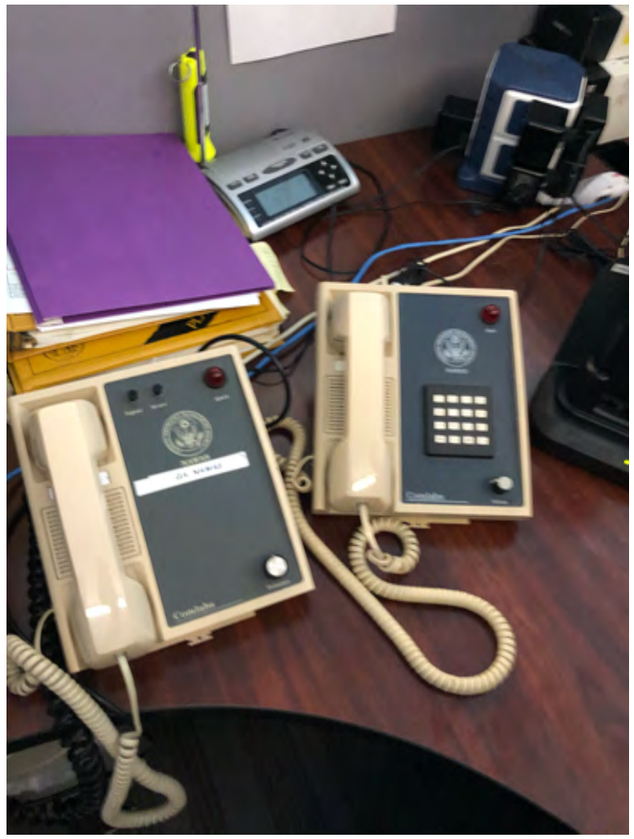
Operation Inauguration (1/2021)

- Purpose – assist GEMA in radio listening post operations to note protester radio traffic on VHF/UHF in Atlanta.
- Activities
    - Identifying likely frequencies on FRS, GMRS, Amateur Radio, Business bands
    - Setting up listening posts
    - Actively listening, noting suspicious traffic
    - Logging active frequencies
- Technologies used
    - SDR receivers
    - Scanners
    - Wide band receivers
    - Frequency counters
    - VHF/UHF radios



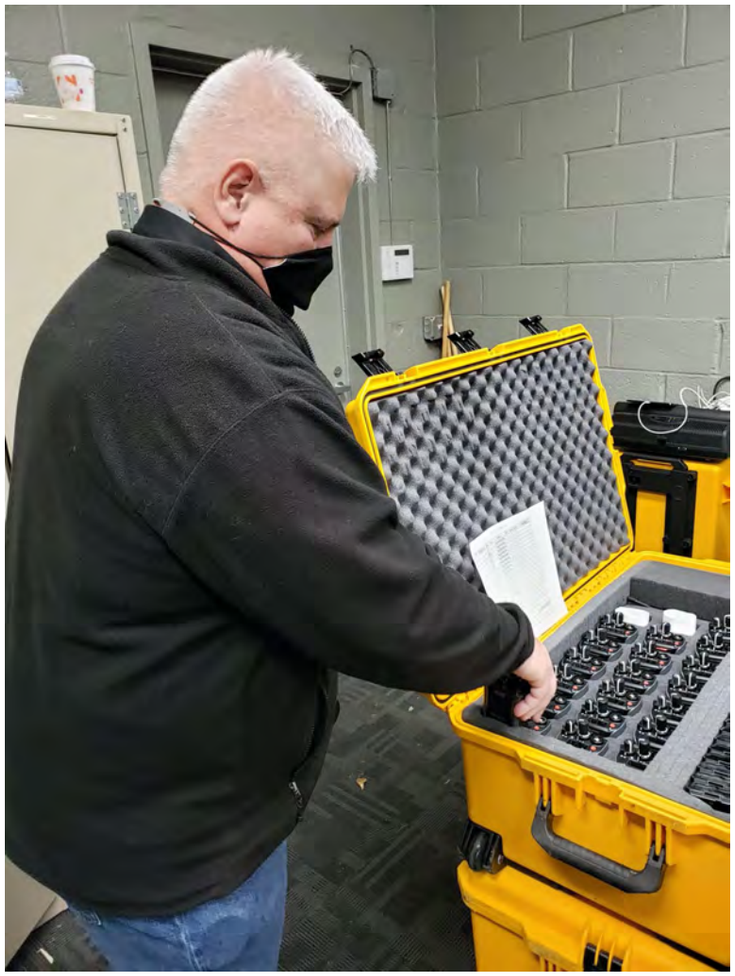
Operation Clean Sweep (2/2021)

- Purpose – assist GEMA in reorganizing radio room at SOC.
- Activities
    - Planning layout
    - Moving equipment
    - Configuring gear
    - Testing equipment
- Technologies used
    - HF radios
    - Computers
    - VHF / UHF radios
    - Network gear
    - Telephone gear



Operation Corral (2/2021)

- Purpose – assist Dept. of Corrections in programming radios
- Activities
    - Setting cache radios
    - Using programming software
    - Testing radio configurations
    - Deploying radios
- Technologies used
    - Dept. of corrections UHF radios
    - Programming software
    - Programming cables
    - Charging stations
    - Cache boxes

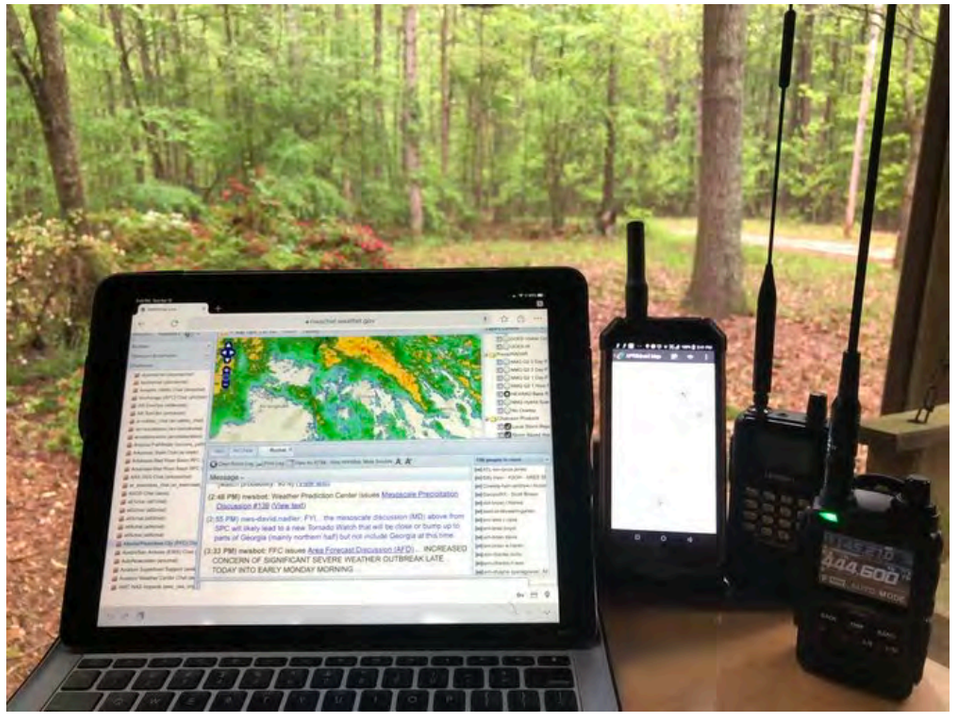


Operation Vax (3-6/2021)

- Purpose – assist GEMA in setting up communications at six mass vaccination sites around the state
- Activities
    - Planning communications setup
    - Deploying network / communications gear
    - Testing network setup
    - Deploying portable FM transmitter
    - Setting up Incident Command
- Technologies used
    - VOIP
    - Cradlepoint
    - FM transmitters
    - 700/800 MHz radio system
    - iPad configurations
    - Networking gear

Hurricane Ida (8/2021)

- Purpose – assist GEMA in monitoring hurricane-related radio nets.
- Activities
    - Monitor hurricane watch net on HF
    - Monitor other local radio traffic via SDR, remote receivers, and “hotspot” digital modes
    - Monitor local media sources in the affected areas
    - Monitor NWSChat (Skywarn-certified only)
- Technologies used
    - HF amateur radio
    - SDR remote receivers
    - Amateur radio “hotspots” – D-Star, C4FM, DMR
    - Internet



Operation Southwire (9/2021)

- Purpose – assist GEMA in setting up communications at an undisclosed location in preparation for visiting dignitaries
- Activities
    - Planning network layout
    - Implementing network design
    - Preparing network cables
    - Setting up VOIP, LAN, WAN
- Technologies used
    - Networking tools
    - Analyzers
    - Networking gear
    - Cable supplies

Challenges

- Dispel the myths
    - AUXCOMM is not replacing ARES. All AUXCOMM operators are also members of a local ARES group.
    - Reorganize the GEMA-AUXCOMM-ARES relationship and clearly define the roles
- COVID impact on training
    - Need additional COMU in-person classes
    - Need more in-state trainers
- Geographical coverage
    - Currently skewed towards more populated northern half of state
    - Working on ways to develop a stronger presence in the southern half of the state

Opportunities

- Define and document AUXCOMM and ARES roles for communications support
- Integrate other auxiliary (non-public safety) communications into COMU
- Provide additional joint training and exercises
- Develop additional certified instructors within state

- Provides opportunities to work with a diverse array of technologies not normally available to amateur radio operators like satellite phones, trunking systems, public safety radios, networking, surveillance devices, and other technologies.
- Offer additional training and certification for interested auxiliary communicators like ARES members.

Where to get more information

- All of these resources are freely available to anyone to access. You do NOT have to be AUXCOMM.
- Georgia AUXCOMM website – https://gaauxcomm.org
    - FAQ
    - Sign-up for newsletter (official monthly communication)
    - Links to social media, including YouTube Channel
    - CISA / COMU page - https://www.cisa.gov/publication/comu-training-documents
        - Complete AUXC training slides online
        - Training material for other COMU certifications – COML and COMT
        - Copy of the AUXC PTB
- Georgia AUXCOMM 60m Training Net, 2nd Sunday of the month at 1400 local on 5.403.5 MHz, USB
- Georgia AUXCOMM Training Meeting, last Thursday of the month at 2000 local via GoToMeeting
- Georgia AUXCOMM Facebook page

AUXC Coordinator Comments

*****Change Required*****

47 CFR 97.307(f)3 – Emission standards.

f) Only a RTTY or data emission using a specified digital code listed in 97.309(a) of this part may be transmitted. ~~The symbol rate must not exceed 300 bauds,~~ or for frequency-shift keying, the frequency shift between mark and space must not exceed 1 KHz.

AUXC Coordinator Comments

*****Additional Change Needed*****

Provision of at least two 2.8 KHz bandwidth allocations allowing any permitted voice or digital emission, in multiple HF Amateur Radio bands for EMCOMM-ONLY use, with enforced protection from encroachment.