

Do We Want a Team Approach to EmComm?

*"An army is a team. It lives, eats, sleeps, fights as a team. This individuality stuff is a bunch of bull s***." - General George Patton Jr.*

Many years ago I saw a cartoon that I have never forgotten. It depicted a hook and ladder truck on its way to a fire. The front of the truck had made a left turn, and the rear of the truck with the tillerman aboard, had broken away and was headed straight down another street. The caption (captain to engineer) read: "That doggone Fred and his @#%&* short cuts!"

During an emergency or disaster incident is NOT a good time to start recruiting, training, form a committee, or change standard operating procedures (SOP).

An army, a division, a company. An engine or truck *company*. A rescue *squad*. An aircraft, ship or NASCAR *crew*. An Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) *unit*. A *concert* band or a *symphony* orchestra. A surgery or trauma *team*. These all have one thing in common. They are all TEAMS!

Mankind learned very early that an organized and coordinated team effort is the quickest and most effective way to accomplish a common goal. What amazes us that in 2006 there are still some within amateur radio promoting the idea that "if and when the 'big one' hits", we'll be able to provide emergency communications by assembling a group of individual operators who have never trained or drilled together (and may not even know each other) to provide emergency communications. Maybe you (also) have heard someone say: "We're all licensed...so we'll know what to do." Dream on....

If amateur radio emcomm ever expects to shed the image of a bunch of undisciplined "good ol' boys" from some radio club, whose idea of training and preparedness is a "once-a-month" breakfast, something will have to change! Period!

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