

**Memorandum of Agreement  
Between  
American Radio Relay League, Inc.  
And  
Civil Air Patrol**

**Purpose**

The purpose of this document is to state the terms of a mutual agreement (Memorandum of Agreement) between the Civil Air Patrol (CAP) and the American Radio Relay League, Inc. (ARRL) to provide a broad framework for cooperation between the two organizations during emergencies and disasters, for education of members regarding the capabilities and regulatory environments of CAP and the Amateur Radio Service, to promote interest in public service especially among the nation's youth, as well as other activities in which cooperation may be mutually beneficial.

**Background**

Members of ARRL and CAP share common goals of serving the public through efficient and effective use of radio communications. To this end, members of both organizations engage in regular training to prepare for emergency and disaster communications. Members of both organizations provide important communications capability to the Homeland Security programs of the United States.

CAP uses radio communications primarily to ensure the safe and efficient prosecution of its own operational missions authorized and funded by various Departments and Agencies of the United States Government. Additional assistance is also provided to state and local government entities. CAP personnel are tasked by various authorizing agencies to support these entities and CAP communications is generally considered to be an essential resource that is critical to the successful performance of CAP's missions.

Amateur Radio operators have a long history of providing radio communication support to served agencies in both the governmental and private sectors in response to emergencies and disasters. There are a number of programs, including several sponsored by the ARRL, which facilitate cooperation between Radio Amateurs and served agencies at both the national and local levels.

Such missions often require CAP members and Amateur Radio operators to work closely together to meet the public need. In addition, many people hold both ARRL and CAP membership and are authorized to operate on both Amateur Radio and U.S. Government radio frequencies assigned to CAP. Such circumstances occasionally result in confusion about the proper use and role of the respective radio services.

As a result of this Memorandum of Agreement, CAP and ARRL will make every effort to educate their members about the role of the two organizations, the two services' regulatory environments, and especially the rationale for rules pertaining to use of Amateur Radio frequencies by CAP operators who hold Amateur Radio licenses. This educational process will help promote a better understanding of the capabilities and restrictions of both organizations and will enable CAP and ARRL leaders at the local levels to more effectively utilize and integrate the resources of both organizations in exercises and actual emergencies.

## **Recognitions**

The parties to this memorandum recognize the following points about their mutual missions and relationship:

1. It is recognized that although many CAP volunteers also hold Amateur Radio licenses, CAP operates on frequencies regulated by the National Telecommunications & Information Administration (NTIA) and CAP operators are required to use NTIA-compliant radio equipment on those frequencies.
2. It is recognized that the ARRL is the national association for Amateur Radio in the United States. A principal purpose of ARRL in the furtherance of the public welfare is the establishment of Amateur Radio networks to provide electronic communications in the event of disasters or other emergencies. To achieve this purpose, ARRL offers formal training in emergency communications, publishes literature concerning emergency communications, and sponsors volunteer programs through which Radio Amateurs may offer their services to governmental and private-sector served agencies. Most of ARRL's volunteer emergency communications programs function as part of the ARRL Field Organization, so as to be responsive to events taking place at the state and local level.
3. It is further recognized that persons acting as CAP members are required to operate on frequencies reserved for the federal government pursuant to a license granted by a federal agency. These frequencies are for official use only by CAP members and may not be disclosed to unauthorized personnel, i.e. Amateur Radio operators. CAP members have no special authority to operate on Amateur Radio frequencies by reason of their membership in CAP. Therefore, use of Amateur Radio while acting as a CAP member is inconsistent with Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Regulations, including 47 CFR §97.113(a)(3) and §97.113(a)(5) and the U.S. Government Table of Frequency Allocations contained in the NTIA Manual of Regulations and Procedures for Federal Radio Frequency Management (47 CFR 300). CAP regulations specify that Amateur Radio frequencies shall not be used to conduct the regular business of CAP.
4. It is further recognized that licensed radio stations may make use of any means of radio communication available to provide essential communications to protect the immediate safety of human life and to provide the immediate protection of property when normal communication systems are not available. (See FCC Part 97, Subpart E and NTIA Manual Section 7).

## **Mutual Support**

ARRL and CAP agree to the following mutual support and cooperation activities:

1. Promote awareness of and respect for the difference in regulations governing radio communications by CAP and Amateur Radio.
2. Promote interest in skills applicable to both organizations' operations, such as radio direction-finding, basic electronics, and effective operating discipline.
3. Provide opportunities for their respective members, particularly youth, to learn how to join CAP and how to become Amateur Radio operators.

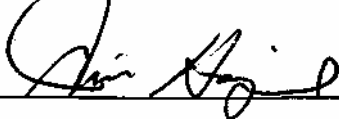
4. Provide a broad framework for cooperation between the two organizations during emergencies and disasters.
5. Share information on appropriate volunteer training opportunities.
6. Carry out joint training exercises to provide simulated emergency and disaster communications support when suitable occasions are identified at local, regional, or national levels. These exercises may include CAP training missions in which Amateur Radio volunteers use their personal equipment on Amateur frequencies while CAP volunteers use equipment approved for CAP operation on Federal frequencies assigned to CAP.
7. This MOA does not convey Air Force Assigned Mission (AFAM) status. In order for joint exercises to be conducted as Air Force missions, prior approval is required from CAP-USAF, the CAP's Air Force liaison and oversight agency.

**Effective Dates:**

This MOA will become effective on the date the last party signs this MOA. Either party may terminate this MOA by giving the other party thirty (30) days notice of intent to terminate. All modifications to this agreement must be in writing and signed by both parties.

**Signatures**

ARRL, by

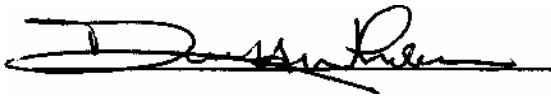


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Jim Haynie, W5JBP  
President, American Radio Relay League, Inc.

Date

Civil Air Patrol, by



Dwight H. Wheless  
Major General, CAP  
Commander

Date

CAP-USAF, by



17 May 05

George C. Vogt  
Colonel, USAF  
Commander

Date