

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

BETWEEN

The Glynn County Board of Commissioners

AND

GLYNN AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

The Glynn Amateur Radio Association (GARA) is a noncommercial association of FCC licensed radio amateurs willing to voluntarily serve in the promotion of interest in amateur radio communications, for the relaying of messages by radio for the advancement of radio communications, for the maintenance of fraternalism, and for a high standard of “on the air” operating conduct. A primary responsibility of amateur radio operators, as established by Part 97 of the Federal Communications Commission’s regulations, is the performance of public service communications for the general public, particularly in times of emergency when normal communications are not available. Using amateur radio operators on frequencies allocated to the Amateur Radio Service, GARA has been in the forefront of this service directly to the general public and through government and relief agencies.

The Glynn Amateur Radio Association (GARA) is a local representative of the amateur radio operators in Glynn County, Georgia with an interest in providing communications services to support agencies serving the public during emergency situations.

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this document is to state the terms of understanding between GARA and the Glynn County Board of Commissioners. This document will serve as a broad framework within which volunteer FCC licensed amateur radio operators will coordinate amateur radio emergency communications network resources and services with the Glynn County Emergency Management & Homeland Security Agency (GCEMA).

II. DEFINITION OF A DISASTER

A disaster is an occurrence such as a hurricane, tornado, storm, flood, high water, wind-driven water, tidal wave, earthquake, blizzard, fire, explosion, volcanic eruption, building collapse, commercial transportation accident, or other situations that cause human suffering or human needs that the victims cannot alleviate without assistance.

III. RECOGNITION

GCEMA recognizes that GARA’s volunteer FCC licensed amateur radio operators are representing GCEMA for providing aid in maintaining the continuity of communications during disasters when normal communications facilities are disrupted or overloaded through the use of its volunteers and their communications resources.

GARA recognizes GCEMA as the primary coordinator for responding to disaster situations within Glynn County and that Glynn County is responsible for assigning resources required to support all functions required to manage and resolve the event.

IV. Term and Termination

This agreement will remain active for one year from the execution date and will automatically renew for an additional three years unless either party terminates the

agreement early. Termination requires providing notice to the other party via certified mail or hand delivery to the address listed below.

If to Glynn County EMA:

Andrew Leanza
1725 Reynolds St.
Brunswick, GA 31520

If to Glynn Amateur Radio Association

William A. Lennox
157 Huntington Circle
Brunswick, GA 31525

V. Limitations and Liability

Nothing in this Agreement is intended, and shall not be construed, to create a relationship of agency or employment between Glynn County or GCEMA and GARA or any of its members. Nothing in this Agreement is intended as a waiver of sovereign immunity by Glynn County. Glynn County assumes no liability for any communication, act, or failure to act on the part of GARA or its members in support of this Agreement. This Agreement creates no legal obligations between the Parties or with any third party or to the public.

Nothing in this Agreement is intended to conflict with current law, FCC regulations, or Glynn County ordinances and policies. If a term of this Memorandum of Agreement is inconsistent with such authority, then that term shall be invalid.

VI. SUPPORT PROVIDED BY GLYNN AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION (GARA):

1. Train its members in the conduct of emergency amateur radio communications.
2. Maintain a roster of trained volunteers that may be called upon in times of disaster.
3. Provide trained radio operators to operate Glynn County-owned-and-maintained equipment to augment communications needs during a disaster situation as described in Section II at the request of GCEMA.
4. Work with GCEMA personnel to identify missions within the disaster planning of Glynn County within the capabilities of GARA.
5. Develop GARA operations plan(s) to support missions agreed upon and tasked in the GC EMA's emergency operations plans.
6. Provide liaison amateur radio operators to coordinate with GCEMA personnel and to function in the Public Safety Building, GC Emergency Operations Center (GC EOC) when tasked in disaster situations, as well as in routine readiness or exercise drills.

VII. SUPPORT PROVIDED BY GLYNN COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (GC EMA):

1. Provide GARA with opportunities to receive emergency exercise training appropriate for volunteer radio operators in activities of GCEMA..
2. Work with GARA to define specific missions within the capabilities of GARA to perform in disaster situations.

3. Coordinate access for GARA volunteer amateur radio operators with Glynn County-directed security and emergency services personnel for access into areas where communications support by GARA is requested.
4. Provide GARA with GCEMA Emergency Radio Communications identification badges issued by GCEMA to GARA radio operators in order to access and function in the Public Safety Building, GCEMA EOC.

FOR GLYNN COUNTY, GA:

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Wayne Neal, Chair
Glynn County Board of
Commissioners

FOR GLYNN AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION:

Signed by:



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William A. Lennox, President
Glynn Amateur Radio Association