

# MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

**Between**  
**Hill Country *REACT***  
**and**  
**South Texas Navy-Marine Corps MARS**

## **PURPOSE**

1. This purpose of this document is to state the terms of a mutual agreement (Memorandum of Understanding) between Hill Country *REACT*, Inc. (Radio Emergency Associated Communication Teams) and South Texas Navy-Marine Corps MARS (Military Affiliate Radio System), that will serve as a framework within which both organizations may coordinate the development of protocols and procedures for communication in emergency and disaster situations. Each organization comprises volunteers and professional staff in support of their respective educational and technical programs and efforts. It is intended that this agreement will promote joint coordination and exercise of the resources of both Hill Country *REACT* and STX NAVMC MARS to recognize the potential and capability of individual members of both organizations to facilitate the flow of information to and from the public during disaster and emergency situations.

## **RECOGNITION**

2. Hill Country *REACT* recognizes STX NAVMC MARS as a service of radio operators affiliated with Military Affiliate Radio Systems, organized in the interest of military radio communications for the benefit of exchanging information with, but not limited to, Military systems, FEMA, DHS and other governmental agencies. MARS was organized for the establishment of networks to provide communications in the event of disasters or other emergencies.

3. STX NAVMC MARS recognizes Hill Country *REACT* as a public service organization of private radio operators, which provides radio communications to local communities during emergencies. Hill Country *REACT* coordinates efforts with other emergency organizations including the police, FEMA, NOAA, RACES, ARES, NVOAD, the Salvation Army, and the American Red Cross. Hill Country *REACT*'s other activities include participation in safety radio assistance for community events and developing the use of radio services as additional sources of communications in emergencies. Hill Country *REACT*'s primary mission is to improve their communities through the provision of voluntary, two-way communications that serve the interests of public safety.

## **PRINCIPLES OF COOPERATION**

4. In order that the parties may cooperate and utilize their resources from time to time to optimum mutual benefit to both parties, the following principles and methods are agreed upon:

4.1 The parties will correspond with each other and exchange certain materials and engage in certain activities in order to encourage and broaden interest, understanding, and appreciation of radio telecommunications technology and its value to the public in emergency situation.

4.2 The parties will work to establish protocols and procedures that foster safe and efficient radio services communication to help the public during emergencies and disaster relief. The parties, through these protocols and procedures, will try to eliminate duplicative or technically inferior service to the community in emergencies.

4.3 The parties will work with each other in times of emergency or disaster to meet the communications needs of the public.

4.4 The parties will generally encourage ongoing liaison with each other and urge members of both organizations to develop increasingly effective communications and cooperation.

5. This memorandum shall take effect upon its signing by authorized representatives of each organization. It may be amended by mutual agreement of the parties and will remain in effect until terminated by either party, upon ninety (90) days advance written notice to the other. Hill Country *REACT* and STX NAVMC MARS will periodically review this agreement and coordinate such revisions as may be necessary. Nothing herein will create any joint venture, partnership, or other business association, nor shall either party enter into any obligation or commitment on behalf of the other.

Agreed and signed in good faith by the following representatives:

**HILL COUNTRY REACT**

Charles D. Lee

Date 8-18-2008

**STX NAVY-MARINE CORPS MARS**

M. W. Hammock

Date 8-11-08