**1-17-19 Training – “Go Kits”**

Way back in July (7/2/18) of last year I mentioned “READY KITS” and “GO KITS” The intent of both of these “Kits” was to have some stuff sitting there so that you could quickly grab it and head out the door knowing that you have what you’ll need to help out in case of an emergency or disaster where our ARES organization is called upon to help some Served Agency.

There may be two “Ready Kits”, primarily personal stuff, stuff you’d need for – say for a quickie 12-24 hour deployment (call it a “QD”), or an Extended Deployment (ED) – say for a 72 hour period.

For QD’s you’ll probably need only stuff you’d bring for a visit to “the Country”… maybe some food and water, appropriate clothing, your ARES ID Card, your personal Log Book, first aid kit, foul weather gear if the forecast is un-good, boots (and “boot-socks”), flash light, etc. Really simple stuff.

For an ED, the list of personal stuff gets much longer… here’s some examples;

3-Day change of clothing Toilet Articles Shelter (Tent?)

Portable Stove: Mess Kit etc. Waterproof Matches Flashlight with extra batteries

Alarm Clock 3-Day supply of Water Liquid refreshments

First Aid Kit (bigger) Throat Lozenges Prescriptions

Aspirin of other pain reliever Safety Glasses Message Forms

Log Book (again, for emphasis!) Cell phone and charger Some $$$

OK, that takes care of the personal stuff… how about equipment? The equipment part of the equation constitutes the “GO KIT”, and – as expected – there are different stages of Go Kits depending on anticipated operating modes. Obviously the most basic Go Kit would consist of…

2-meter hand held Extra batteries for the HT Charger for the HT

2-meter mag-mount antenna Coax to reach from your HT to the mag mount antenna’s location

Ear phone Electrical & Duck Tape

Then, for a more elaborate station, including HF capabilities…

Additional rigs (HF) Power supplies Generator

Microphones Headphones Patch cords & AC extensions

Antennas (HF) and mounts Rope SWR Bridge

Extra coax RF connectors & adaptors Power, audio & other connectors

Batteries More complete tool box Soldering iron & solder

VOM/Multimeter Operating table desk light

Key (iambic, etc.) chairs Think “Field Day”

Now, for those who are really into quickly grabbing their stuff had heading out to provide emergency communications capabilities for Served Agencies, we have what I call the “Super Go Kit” !!!!!

To get a bunch of examples, get on your computer and surf for “Ham Radio Go Kits” and you’ll see what a bunch of other hams are doing. Personally, I’m putting together my own Super Go Kit, and here’s some planning details…

* Probably gonna get 2 of the size 5U portable rack cases, one for radio equipment, the second for power supplies and power control
* The radio box will have the following
  + Kenwood TS-440SAT HF Transceiver
  + Matching Kenwood Speaker – use for ‘440 & ‘9800
  + MFJ Antenna Tuner
  + MFJ Keyer
  + TYT TH-9800 Quad-Band Transceiver, 10-6-2-440 FM
  + VHF/UHF SWR Bridge
  + Drawer for
    - Microphones
    - Earphones
    - Iambic Key
    - Misc. cables, connectors, hardware, desk light, etc.\
    - Extra HT
* The Power Box will have the following
  + Power supply for the ‘440 & ‘7800
  + Battery
  + Battery Charger
  + Power metering (volts & amps)
  + Drawer for
    - Extension cable
    - Spare batteries
    - Coax
    - Wire HF antenna (probably an OCFD)
    - Rope
    - Telescoping Mag Mount antenna

The idea being throw the 2 boxes in the back of my Suburban and I have all the radio equipment necessary to get on-the-air on both HF & VHF/UHF at a remote location.

Now, your “Go Kit” doesn’t need to be this extravagant, but you should assemble your version of a “Go Kit” that you can confidently say if you grab it and go, you’ve got all you’ll need!

We’ll talk more about Ready Kits and Go Kits, and help each other put some together… I’ll dedicate my Go Kit to the Wayne County ARES, so even if I’m not available, my kit will be.