GERC-AI: Glendora Emergency Response Communications-Auxiliary International

GERC-AI
Axuiliary International

KI6GIG
(Echolink #384040)
Operating in Thailand as
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The Rural Training Center-Thailand
serves as a GERC Auxiliary International
Emergency Communications station.

In the spirit of mutual respect and mutual benefit, the Rural Training Center-Thailand Emergency Communications program (RTC-TH EmComm) functions as an Auxiliary International (AI) emergency communications station for Glendora Emergency Response Communications (GERC).

This is an ongoing effort and may evolve over time. Initially we anticipate these major "pages":

GERC-AI Activities based on the commitment of mutual support.

The hope is that the distance between our EmComm stations makes it unlikely for both stations to be simultaneously involved in the same emergency. Thus, the station outside the emergency zone stands by and monitors pre-determined bands/frequencies for GERC stations in the emergency zone. This is much like the idea of a family emergency plan designating an out-of-state relative as a phone contact for all family members in the disaster zone to call. People outside the disaster area may have access to communications unaffected by the disaster. **Note:** At this point in time (2010), GERC and the RTC-TH are working to identify HF bands/frequencies to use for EmComm communications. We currently have tried EchoLink for normal communications but we both feel that internet access may not be readily available in emergency conditions. However, GERC Hams making EchoLink contacts by VHF radio to Echolink nodes within range but outside the local disaster zone could reach the RTC-TH EmComm Echolink node. [**Status:** We are conducting review of the Thai HF Band plan and IARU Region 3 Disaster Communications procedures to determine suitable HF bands/frequencies to communicate with GERC.]

GERC Selected Reference Archive: Selected critical GERC documents can be archived at the RTC-TH Technical site as a disaster back up plan. In the event that the GERC site has a problem, GERC Hams and the public can still get access to those materials via the RTC-TH Technical site. [**Status:** work in progress. Phase 1 is to identify and archive selected critical GERC documents and materials. Phase 2 is to post relevant to the archive on this site.]

Technical Information Exchange (TIE): GERC Hams can freely access RTC-TH EmComm and Em Prep (Emergency Preparations) materials via GERC-AI program.

The RTC-TH EmComm is based in a rural environment with limited resources forcing us to think and operate more basically than GERC. In contrast, GERC is based in a major US metropolitan area which tends to be resource rich. However, when a major seismic event strikes, EmComm operating conditions may be quickly reduced to a bare bones level. Sharing ideas gives radio operators in both countries the ability to learn and adapt successful operating techniques for mutual benefit. In one sense, we can say that the RTC-TH / GERC-AI T.I.E. program is a Thai/TIE that binds the two groups together. [**Status:** work in progress. Phase 1 is to develop relevant materials (most likely reports concerning the RTC-TH EmComm station facilities construction). Phase 2 is to post relevant RTC-TH EmComm materials to share with GERC Hams.]

RTC-TH EmComm Vehicles: The center pieces of the RTC-TH EmComm effort are Sparky "the Batt-mobile" and Sam, "the Volts-wagon". Sparky is an all electric vehicle (made in Thailand, by CFEE, Clean Fuel Energy Enterprizes , Ltd. Co.). Sparky was conceived as an alternative energy vehicle for the RTC-TH Demo Farm and part of the IFS (Independent Fuel Systems) program. Sparky would serve as the tow vehicle for Sam and also serves as a scout/rover. Sam is a container/trailer and can be towed to wherever a portable EmComm radio station is needed. [Status: work in progress]