



## Charlotte Fire Department Communications Division

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07/11/2017

### RADO/TERT Update

- In May 2017, the second annual Disaster Communications School was completed at the Charlotte Police and Fire training academy. During that school the second class of RADO/TERT operators was completed with great success. The class this year was lengthened to 4 days of classroom learning with 1 day of practical application facilitated in a communications exercise. The exercise allowed people of different communications level training to be paired in groups (COML, COMT, RADO/TERT and AUXCOMM) to exercise in a “real world” simulated environment. The participants of this class were provided completion certificates from the State of North Carolina, as well as Position Task Books (PTB), which they can use to check off their skills and readiness to be a deployable asset through the State of North Carolina for RADO/TERT opportunities.
- In June 2017, the newly appointed Field Comm Manager of the Charlotte Fire Department sent an email to all attendees of the class who received task books, inviting them to shadow a Fire Field Comm member at an upcoming Panther’s Game. This will provide the RADO/TERT candidates an opportunity to practice their dispatch skills in a controlled, yet real life environment. When deploying RADO/TERT members, the situation will be fluid, and they could be working in a communications center or a mobile communications center, depending on the situation at the center requesting assistance. This opportunity will be a good learning situation to prepare candidates for the possibility of deployment.
- In July 2017, a meeting was conducted with Polk County, who will be hosting approximately 500,000 visitors to their county in 2018 as the Tryon Equestrian Center hosts the World Equestrian Games. This was a preliminary meeting to discuss communications ideas from 2 perspectives, radios in the field and the needs of their communications center. This situation is still in the early planning stages with local officials. No requests have been made, but if there are, the RADO/TERT team will be prepared well in advance.



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- An emerging concern is the funding of deployed TERT dispatchers. Many centers are not in a position to “front” the funding of personnel for deployment, thus making it difficult to send people on deployments. In emergency circumstances (hurricanes, etc) it is possible that the state will reimburse the funding for a TERT dispatcher, if the request for such a resource comes through the State and is approved by the State Communications Section Chief. Are there other funding opportunities available for RADO/TERT personnel if deployed?

I will not be able to attend the meeting, but feel free to call or email me with any questions that arise when this report is presented. I will be glad to answer any questions that I can.

Respectfully,  
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