



HEADQUARTERS
CIVIL AIR PATROL TEXAS WING
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE AUXILIARY
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27 January 2005

MEMORANDUM FOR ALL TEXAS GROUP AND SQUADRON COMMANDERS

FROM: Texas Wing/CC (Letter #20)

SUBJECT: Distributed SAREX Program

1. It has been one year since we implemented the Distributed SAREX Program in the Texas Wing. During the past year, we have all learned many new lessons and have been reminded of several old ones. We have tried and tested solutions throughout the year and we are applying that experience to improve future exercises. As a result of this program we have been able to conduct significantly more training, more often, throughout the wing. I am very proud and thankful for all of the effort and support you have provided to make this program a success.
2. As the New Year begins, we are poised to take this program to the next level. We have several initiatives to make the Distributed SAREX Program even better. In support of these efforts, I need each of you to be even more involved as leaders and participants during each exercise. Your participation and feedback is invaluable to our future success.
3. A renewed area of emphasis will be ground team operations. It is critical all leadership in the wing stress the need for more ground team training and practical experience. Our mission cannot be accomplished solely in the air. We must be proficient in mission base, air and ground operations. I have seen a decline in ground-based activity this past year. This decline must be reversed. There is a misconception that we have more Ground Team Leaders and Members in the Texas Wing than we do Aircrew-qualified personnel. This is untrue. In fact, we have 37% more Mission Pilots than we do Ground Team Leaders and 32% more Mission Observers than Ground Team Members. This is unfortunate and serves to point out the need for additional emphasis on ground team training in the coming year. As our mission evolves, so too does an increasing demand for skilled ground teams to support it.
4. Our mission base training has also been greatly affected by the Distributed SAREX Program. Since each training mission now has a single mission base for the entire wing, training for mission base staff positions is centralized. This allows you to come to one location and receive mission base training from experienced mission base personnel. You do not need to wait for the mission base to be hosted in your area before receiving training. You now have opportunities throughout the year to gain training and experience at mission bases around the wing. Each location will necessitate different requirements due to different resource availability, but the mission must still be accomplished. This is training for the real world.
5. The increased availability of mission base training will help to resolve our limited number of mission base-qualified staff. Currently, there are only 21 members in the Wing qualified as

Incident Commanders. This represents less than 1% of our total Wing membership and supporting the mission base are a mere 84 Mission Staff Assistants in the Wing. Additional, well-trained mission base personnel are critical to the accomplishment of our Emergency Services mission. Our Wing spans more than 268,000 square miles with a population of more than 21 million people. We must enhance our mission base capabilities in order to successfully support our Wing.

6. It is also important to note that out of more than 3,200 members in the Wing, only 1,243 are even General Emergency Services qualified. Less than 40% of our membership is qualified to participate in our Emergency Services mission at any level. There is simply no reason for such limited past participation. The Distributed SAREX Program was developed and implemented to correct these deficiencies.
7. To aid in advancing the Distributed SAREX Program further, we are developing new training tools such as video courses, instruction manuals and specialized instructor teams. We will be actively seeking out all members in the wing ready and willing to assist in developing and presenting the training. Your input will be actively sought for improvements of the training and the conduct of the exercises.
8. One year of experience is behind us and a bright future lies ahead. I commend all of you for making this past year a success for the Distributed SAREX Program and I am asking for your continued support. I believe the success of this program is critical to the success of our future Emergency Services missions. The goal of the program has been and continues to be: "Increase our Mission Capabilities to *Perform Missions for America*".

ROBERT F. ELDRIDGE, Col, CAP
Commander

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