

**ZRICS**

Category “Z” Radio Incident Command System



# ZR Incident Communications Center (ICC) Specialist

*Introduction to the ZR2R Position  
- A V-C-N.org Academy Course -*

## Why This Course?

- ❑ Provide standardized course materials for this position
- ❑ Provide documented standards regarding position description and responsibilities
- ❑ Prepare prospective applicants by offering “have-know-do” information in written form

## Why This Course?

- There are two primary radio operator positions in emergency communications:
  - ❖ ZR2R: ZR ICC Specialist
  - ❖ ZR2F: ZR Field Specialist
  
- Z = V-C-N defines any volunteer as a category “z” resource
  
- ZR = Category “Z” Radio

## Why This Course?

- Having a standardized training course and materials **begins the process** of increasing “anticipated predictability” and establishing a series of “common denominators” and “have-know-do” standards of knowledge, training and experience.

## What You Will Learn?

- ❑ Definition of an ICC
- ❑ Difference between a ZR ICC specialist and an emergency communicator
- ❑ An understanding of why preparing for this position is important
- ❑ How to document all operations and activities
- ❑ The definition and purpose of a “safety” timer (supporting field operations)

## V-C-N and ZRICS “Mantra”

- **Be safe.** Conduct safe operations.
- **Get prepared.** Preparedness is both an individual & organizational initiative and responsibility.
- **Stay ready.** Situational awareness and ongoing education & proficiency.

## ZR Incident Priorities

- **#1: Safety** – Never jeopardize the safety of yourself, other incident participants or the general public.
- **#2: Monitor** – Always monitor your assigned or designated frequencies
- **#3: Confirm** – Always obtain confirmed acknowledgement from your NCS before changing/modifying your assignment

## Changing the “Face” of EmComm

- The ZR2R is part of the ZRICS
- ZRICS is one of the multiple “versions” of the ICS
  - ❖ ICS.FS, ICS.CG, HICS (HEICS)
  - ❖ Why not ICS.ZR? (ZRICS?)
- ZR2R duties, responsibilities & protocols are standardized, documented and published.

## ICS Functional Sections

- Five functional “sections” within ICS organizational structure:
  - ❖ Command (CMD) Section
  - ❖ Operations (OPS) Section
  - ❖ Planning (PLN) & Intelligence Section
  - ❖ Logistics (LOG) Section
  - ❖ Finance (FIN) & Administration Section

## ZRICS Functional Sections

- Five functional “sections” within ICS.ZR (ZRICS) organizational structure:
  - ❖ **ZR1**: Command (CMD) Section
  - ❖ **ZR2**: Operations (OPS) Section
  - ❖ **ZR3**: Planning (PLN) & Intelligence Section
  - ❖ **ZR4**: Logistics (LOG) Section
  - ❖ **ZR5**: Finance (FIN) & Administration Section

## ZR ICC Specialist

- ❑ ZRICS P-Code: ZR2R
- ❑ ZRICS Section: Operations (ZR2)
- ❑ V-C-N Academy Course: 223
- ❑ Direct Report: ZR25
- ❑ **Priority #1**: Create and maintain a safe operating environment at all times
- ❑ **Priority #2**: Monitor assigned frequency
- ❑ **Priority #3**: Confirm all changes with NCS

## ZR2R Position

- ❑ Conducts “voice” radio operations within an incident communications center (ICC) facility in support of (ZRICS) field deployment, operation, activity or exercise.
- ❑ Enhances the success of all field operations
- ❑ Mission: Provide all primary or supplemental ICC communications support required to ensure the success of volunteer communicators conducting field and incident support operations

## ICC Position Assignments

- ❑ ZR2R is one of the “basic” fundamental operating positions (other is “ZR2F”)
- ❑ Preparation and training is an Individual and Organizational Responsibility
- ❑ Position description and responsibilities are documented in position description guide (PDG)

# ICC Position Assignments

## ▣ PAUSE!

- ❖ Review and discuss ZR2R Position Description Guide (PDG)

# ICC Position Assignments

## ▣ **PAUSE!**

- ❖ Review and discuss ZR2R Position Check List (PCL)

# ICC Position Assignments

## ▣ **PAUSE!**

- ❖ Review and discuss individual and organizational responsibilities.
- ❖ Review ZR2R Position Task Book (PTB)

## Primary Responsibilities

- ❑ Staff ICC communicator positions
- ❑ Complete all net control station (NCS) functions and responsibilities
- ❑ Create a reliable, viable communications network using standardized command and control techniques
- ❑ Conduct standardized NCS operations to meet (or exceed) current operational period objectives

## ZR Incident Objectives

1. Provide for the safety of all incident participants and the general public.
  - Be aware of existing and report all new hazards immediately.
  - Maintain awareness and use of LCES at all times.
2. Create and maintain a viable network of emergency communications.
  - Always monitor your designated or assigned frequencies.
  - Acknowledge and relay all messages accurately with minimal delays.
3. Always confirm acknowledgement from the Net Control Station (NCS) before initiating ANY assignment change.

## What is an ICC?

- Any facility or capability designated to provide net control station (NCS) functions to field units assigned to the incident.

## What is an ICC?

- Building (Fixed) Location
  - ❖ Emergency Operations Center (EOC)
  - ❖ Department Operations Center (DOC)
  - ❖ Emergency Command Center (ECC)
- Mobile/Portable Facility
  - ❖ Mobile Communications Center (MCC)
  - ❖ Incident Support Unit (ISU)
  - ❖ Incident Remote Support Specialist (ZR2M)

**Mobile Command Center  
from Dixie County, FL was  
used for area-wide incident  
management in Charlotte  
County, including Punta  
Gorda and other Search &  
Rescue operations.**





Sgt. Karl T. Beilmann  
Monroe County Sheriff's Office  
Key West International Airport



Sarasota County ARES-RACES  
Communications Trailer  
Punta Gorda, FL Staging Area

## Primary Responsibilities

- Priority #1: Maintain safe operations
  - ❖ Never jeopardize the safety of yourself, those around you, or the general public.
  - ❖ Maintain a safe operating environment around you at all times –  
**THIS** time, **EVERY** time!

## Primary Responsibilities

- Priority #2: Monitor Your Assigned or Designated Frequency
  - ❖ Focus solely on safe, radio operations
  - ❖ Focus on mission assignments and communications center responsibilities
  - ❖ Provide CART communications
    - Comprehensive, Accurate, Reliable, Timely

## Primary Responsibilities

- Priority #3: Obtain “confirmed” acknowledgement from NCS
  - ❖ During ICC assignments, remind field units of Priority #3 as “air space” allows during radio transmissions

## Your Performance

- ❑ **How You Perform Is How You Will Be Remembered!**
- ❑ Evaluations of volunteers are usually based on evaluator "impressions" of the volunteers
  - ❖ When impressions are positive...
  - ❖ When impressions are negative...