

Area Staff Officer (Communications)

Report for Area Conference 2008 (for period Dec 07 – Nov 08)

1) Number of Courses Run by ASO:	1
2) Cadet courses	1
Number of cadets attending	7
Number of cadet qualifications gained overall	5 x 2(G)
3) Staff courses	Nil
Number of Adults attending	Nil
Number of Staff qualifications gained overall	Nil
4) Number of Courses organised but run by other Instructors	25
5) Cadet courses	24
Number of cadets attending	140+
Number of cadet qualifications gained overall	108 x (3) 17 x 2(T) 7 x 1(T)
6) Staff courses	1
Number of Adults attending	6
Number of Staff qualifications gained overall	6

7) Please give an overall view of how your specialisation/proficiency is progressing within Area and at a National level:

The Communications specialisation seems to progress in fits and starts. We seem to get a number of Instructors interested enough to complete the Basic course but then do not seem to progress with many courses for the cadets.

The Tactical side of the branch seems to be gaining interest this year, due both to the positive nature of the A/ASO who is a Tactical specialist and the cadets passing on to other cadets how they enjoyed the course.

The Proficiencies are trickling along; more interest is being shown in Semaphore than morse, possibly due to the inherent ties to Tactical. The Amateur Radio proficiency seems to be taken up mainly by cadets in Units with staff that are also interested in Amateur Radio.

Marine Cadet Signals is fairly quiet at the moment. The A/ASO is also covering the A/ASO (MC)Sigs post until a MCS adult volunteer is found. The Clansman kit has been received in the Area and used on Marine camps but we have already suffered one item of kit going U/S and it is not replaceable at the moment.

There needs to be volunteers from the MCS adults to become Signals Instructors as the A/HQSO (MC) Sigs has recently stipulated that the kit should not be issued to cadets or adults that have not been trained correctly on its use.

8) Please outline your Future Aims/Objectives for your specialisation/proficiency within our Area:

The A/ASO hopes to run a Basic Instructor course as part of the Jan MTWE

The plan is to run an Intermediate Comms Instructor (T) course next year. This will qualify adults who have completed the Comms Basic Instructor course to instruct and test up to Class 2(T).

We should hopefully see some MC Signals Instructor courses being run over the next year, this is dependant on the A/HQSO (MC) Sigs.

The postponed Comms Seminar will hopefully be held early in the new year and some of the discrepancies within the Specialisation will be cleared up

Possibly follow this year's lead and run both (G) and (T) courses on the Area Summer Camp.

9) Please use this space for any additional relevant comments you may have about the work you have carried out in the year:

New hand held radios have been purchased for the Area Communications Team, partly from a grant organised by Lt Cdr T Sharp RNR with the balance provided by the Area Training Fund. These were tested fully during this year's Area Combined Regatta. The facility of speaker/microphones made use of the radios in the boats much easier for the Comms Cadets

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Date: 23 October 2008