STATEMENT OF UNDERSTANDING 
between 
REACT INTERNATIONAL, INC. 
and the 
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE 

AGREEMENT FOR THE COORDINATION OF SEVERE WEATHER SPOTTER 
AND COMMUNICATIONS ACTIVITIES 
BETWEEN THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE 
AND REACT INTERNATIONAL, INC.

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is entered into between the United States of America, Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Weather Service, herein after referred to as the NWS, and REACT International, Inc., herein after referred to as REACT.

The purpose of this MOU is to state the terms of a mutual agreement between the NWS and REACT. This MOU is to serve as a framework within which local REACT teams may coordinate their services, use of facilities, and equipment with the NWS in support of nationwide, state, and local early warning and emergency communications functions. Through joint coordination and exercise of the resources of REACT, the NWS and Federal, state, and local governments intend to enhance the nationwide posture of early weather warning and readiness for any conceivable weather related emergency.

I. RECOGNITION

The NWS recognizes that REACT is the principal organization representing the interests of more than 9,000 volunteers using such public access radio communications as Citizens Band Radio Service, General Mobile Radio Service, and Marine Radio Service. Because of its field organization of trained and experienced communications experts, REACT can be of valuable assistance in the spotting and reporting of severe weather.

REACT recognizes the NWS’ statutory responsibility to provide civil meteorological services for the people of the United States. These services consist of:

1. Providing accurate and timely forecasts and warnings of weather and flood conditions affecting the nation; and,

2. Observing and reporting the weather of the U.S. and its possessions.

The NWS operates a vast network of offices of many types within the U.S. to fulfill its function and many related, specialized weather services. The NWS cooperates in the exchange of data in real time with other nations, including obtaining weather reports from ships at sea.
II. ORGANIZATION OF THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE

The NWS consists of a National Headquarters in Silver Spring, MD, and six regional offices in the United States: Eastern, Southern, Central, Western, Pacific, and Alaska.

Fifty-two Weather Service Forecast Offices and 209 Weather Service Offices provide warnings and forecasts to the Nation.

Skywarn is the spotter training program developed and sponsored by the NWS. Radio operators have volunteered to assist as communicators and Skywarn spotters since the program’s inception. In areas where tornadoes and other severe weather are a frequent concern, the NWS recruits volunteers, trains them in storm identification and spotting procedures, and subsequently accepts the spotter’s reports during episodes of severe weather. By utilizing the Skywarn volunteers, the NWS has “eyes and ears” throughout the affected area in conjunction with NWS sophisticated remote sensing equipment.

III. ORGANIZATION OF REACT INTERNATIONAL, INC.

*REACT* International, Inc. was established in 1962 as a nonprofit IRS 501 (c)(3) organization, chartered to promote emergency communications and motorist assistance. *REACT* is headquartered in Wichita, KS. *REACT* members use Citizens Band Radio, Marine Radio, General Mobile Radio, Amateur Radio, and Business Radio among other radio services to provide emergency and disaster communications to the public and to government emergency management agencies. *REACT* teams accept the responsibility of maintaining a monitoring system for emergency communications.

There are 26 State Councils that act to improve communication and coordination between local *REACT* teams within their state. Each *REACT* team is a wholly independent entity with its own form of administrative control, developed to suit local needs and conditions. Because many of the monitored frequencies are designed for local communications, there is no limit to the number of *REACT* teams in any geographical area. *REACT*, on behalf of local teams throughout the nation, works effectively with other national emergency groups to advise on the proper use of local radio communications.

IV. PRINCIPLES OF COOPERATION

*REACT* agrees to encourage its State Councils to arrange for the provision of specialized communications and observational support on an as-needed basis for NWS offices in weather emergencies including severe local storms, hurricanes, hazardous winter weather, heavy rain and flash flooding, and other hazardous weather conditions.

*REACT* further agrees to encourage its membership to contact and cooperate with NWS Forecast Offices for the purpose of establishing organized Skywarn networks with radio communicators and spotters.
The NWS agrees to work with REACT State Councils and Teams to establish Skywarn networks and/or other specialized weather emergency alert and relief operations. The principal point of contact between REACT and local NWS offices is the Meteorological Services Division (MSD) of the appropriate NWS Regional Office. Addresses for NWS Regional Offices are provided below. The national contact points for REACT are Government Relations Committee, c/o Norman L. Kaplan, 2605 Loma Street, Silver Spring, MD 20902-4841 and/or REACT International, Inc., Post Office Box 998, Wichita, KS 67201. A listing of REACT International, Inc. State Councils shall be provided to the NWS on an annual basis.

NWS Eastern Region, NOAA
Airport Corporate Center
630 Johnson Avenue
Bohemia, NY 11716

NWS Southern Region, NOAA
819 Taylor Street, Rm. 10A-26
Fort Worth, TX 76102

NWS Central Region, NOAA
601 E. 12th Street, Rm. 1836
Kansas City, MO 64106-2897

NWS Western Region, NOAA
Box 11188, Federal Bldg.
125 S. State St., Rm. 1215
Salt Lake City, UT 84147

NWS Pacific Region, NOAA
Prince Kuhio Fed. Bldg., Rm. 4110
300 Ala Moana Blvd.
Honolulu, HI 96850-4993

NWS Alaska Region, NOAA
222 West 7th Ave., No. 23 Rm. 517
Anchorage, AK 99513-7575

V. AMENDMENT PROCEDURES

This Memorandum of Understanding may be amended at any time in the following manner:

Amendments requested by the President and Chairman of the Board of REACT shall be forwarded to the NWS Regional Director for review. Upon approval by the NWS Regional Director, the amendment shall be forwarded to NWS Headquarters for approval by the Assistant Administrator for Weather Services.
An amendment by the NWS shall be coordinated through the NWS Regional Director and approved by the Assistant Administrator for Weather Services, then forwarded to the President and Chairman of the Board, REACT.

Once all parties have reached agreement on the proposed amendment, the MOU shall be changed and pages of the MOU on which amendments appear shall be completely replaced, and the amended provision marked with an asterisk in the left margin and REVIEW followed by the date at the bottom of the page. This identification need only remain until the page is again amended.

The amendment shall become effective on the last date shown on the amendment when signed by both parties to the original MOU.

If both parties cannot agree to the amendment, an effort shall be made to reach an acceptable compromise. If a compromise cannot be reached the amendment will not be made. The NWS reserves the right to accept or reject changes to this MOU as deemed appropriate. If an amendment is rejected, by either party, the original MOU provisions remain in effect unless terminated by the provisions of Article VI.

VI. EFFECTIVE DATE

This MOU shall become effective on the last date shown below when executed by both parties hereto. This MOU is valid and binding until termination by either party upon 60 days written notice.

SIGNED

Elbert W. Friday, Jr. 07/13/93  Ronald McCracken 07/22/93
Assistant Administrator for REACT
Weather Services, NOAA International, Inc.
Silver Spring, MD President and Chairman of the Board
Wichita, KS
STATEMENT OF UNDERSTANDING
between
REACT INTERNATIONAL, INC.
and the
AMERICAN NATIONAL RED CROSS

INTRODUCTION
REACT International, Inc. was begun in 1962 after the advent of Citizens Band Radio Service in 1959. REACT teams provide supplementary, short-range communication on various radio frequencies on an organized, voluntary basis in emergencies or disasters. Local REACT teams working cooperatively with the American Red Cross and amateur radio operators have demonstrated their effectiveness and dedication repeatedly during the past decades.

Recognizing the mutual advantages of cooperative understanding, the American Red Cross and REACT International, Inc., present this expression of their mutual desire for cooperation at all levels in the public interest.

PURPOSE
The purpose of this document is to state the terms for an understanding between REACT International, Inc. and the American National Red Cross. This document will serve as a broad framework for the understanding. Volunteer personnel of the local REACT teams may coordinate their facilities and equipment with the American Red Cross chapters. Agreements for communications support for emergency and disaster relief, inclusive of any disaster except that caused by enemy action, will be made at the local level.

DEFINITION OF DISASTER
A disaster is an occurrence, such as hurricane, tornado, storm, flood, high water, wind-driven water, tidal wave, earthquake, drought, blizzard, pestilence, famine, fire, explosion, building collapse, transportation wreck, or other situation that causes human suffering or creates human needs that the victims cannot alleviate without assistance.

AUTHORITY OF THE AMERICAN RED CROSS
By congressional charter dated January 5, 1905, the American National Red Cross was designated the nationwide agency through which the American people voluntarily extend assistance to individuals and families in need as a result of disaster. In part, the charter provides that the Red Cross shall-

- continue and carry on a system of national and international relief in time of peace and apply the same in mitigating the suffering caused by pestilence, famine, fire, floods, and other great national calamities.
- and devise and carry on measures for preventing the same.
RECOGNITION

The American Red Cross recognizes that REACT International, Inc., because of the excellent geographical coverage provided by its affiliated REACT teams, can render valuable aid in maintaining the continuity of local communications during disasters and emergencies when normal communication facilities are disrupted or overloaded.

REACT International, Inc. recognizes the American Red Cross as the agency chartered by Congress through which the American people voluntarily extend assistance to individuals and families in need as a result of disasters.

ORGANIZATION OF THE AMERICAN RED CROSS

The national headquarters of the American Red Cross is located in Washington, D.C. National headquarters is responsible for implementing policies and regulations that govern Red Cross activities, for giving administrative and technical supervision and guidance to chapters and other national sector units within geographical jurisdictions, and for maintaining financial control of the organization.

The chapter is the local unit of the American Red Cross and is responsible for all local Red Cross activities within its jurisdiction, subject to the policies and regulations of the corporation. There are approximately 2,600 chapters across the United States.

Each chapter is responsible for developing a special disaster preparedness and relief organization composed of the best-qualified paid and volunteer staff available. The chapter disaster committee studies the disaster hazards of the locality and surveys local resources for personnel, equipment, supplies, transportation, emergency communications and facilities available for disaster relief. The chapter disaster committee also formulates cooperative plans and procedures with local government agencies and private organizations for carrying on relief operations should a disaster occur. Through its nationwide organization, the Red Cross coordinates its total resources for use in large disasters.

ORGANIZATION OF REACT

Established in 1962, REACT International, Inc. is an international association of local teams whose members volunteer their assistance and provide citizens with two-way radio communications in local emergencies. Each REACT team accepts the responsibility for maintaining a station or system monitoring the Federal Communications Commission designated emergency channel frequencies, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. At a minimum, the REACT teams monitor Citizens Band Radio Channel 9. This makes each team a working, active unit ready to respond to community needs for emergency communications.

Each REACT team is a wholly independent entity. Each team has its own form of administration and control designed for local needs and conditions by its membership. Because Citizens Band radio communication systems are designed for local communications, there is no limit on the number of REACT teams chartered within any given geographical area. In metropolitan areas, in particular, several teams may be needed to give adequate coverage.

Although REACT is oriented towards local emergency communications needs, the international organization provides the necessary liaison between local teams and other national and international organization. REACT International, Inc. accumulates information on new emergency techniques from hundreds of communities and develops materials and programs to help local teams.
REACT International, Inc., on behalf of local teams throughout the nation, works effectively with other national emergency organizations, including the American National Red Cross, the American Radio Relay League, the Federal Communications Commission, and FEMA, to coordinate proper use of local two-way radio communications.

**METHODS OF COOPERATION**

In order that the communication facilities of local two-way radio service may be coordinated and used to the fullest advantage during disasters and emergencies, the American Red Cross and REACT International, Inc., have agreed to the following:

- Through either its international office in Wichita, Kansas or its Government Relations Committee in Washington, D.C., REACT International, Inc. will maintain liaison with Disaster Services at American Red Cross national headquarters.

- REACT International and Red Cross Disaster Services will work together to form the closest possible cooperation in emergency communications planning and the coordination of local radio service communication facilities for disaster relief operations.

- The Red Cross welcomes the cooperation and assistance of REACT International, Inc., and its affiliated REACT teams to extend emergency communications planning into the jurisdictions of the chapters. The chapters may request one or more members of the local REACT team to volunteer for pre-disaster planning and during disaster emergencies.

- The placement of REACT equipment on Red Cross chapter property may be done where mutually acceptable terms to both organizations are reached regarding space, security access, and liability. The requisite transmitters, aerials or other equipment or easements requiring public approval licensure, or permission will be addressed in local negotiations between the REACT team and the Red Cross chapter prior to placement.
  - All equipment placed on Red Cross property remains the property of the REACT team. The REACT equipment shall only be used under the direction and authorization of the REACT team.
  - If clarification is required on any point, the respective national organization will resolve the issues.

- Whenever there is a disaster or an emergency requiring the use of local radio communication facilities, the American Red Cross may request the assistance of the REACT teams nearest the scene. This assistance may include:
  - The alerting and mobilization of volunteer emergency communications personnel by a prearranged plan.
  - The establishment and maintenance of fixed, mobile, and portable emergency communication facilities for local radio communications coverage and point-to-point contact between Red Cross officials and locations as required.
  - Provision for adequate local communications for the duration of the emergency or until substantial regular communications are restored.
  - The Red Cross chapters and REACT teams will be encouraged to work together in pre-disaster planning, exercises and drills.

- The American Red Cross will furnish copies of this understanding to its chapters, REACT International, Inc. will furnish copies to local REACT teams.
AMENDMENT PROCEDURES

This Statement of Understanding may be amended at any time in the following manner:

- Amendments requested by the President or Chairman of the Board of Directors, REACT International, Inc. shall be forwarded to the Vice President, Disaster Services, American Red Cross for review. Upon approval, the amendment shall be forwarded to the American Red Cross Headquarters for approval and signature.

- An amendment by the American Red Cross shall be coordinated through the Voluntary Agencies, Disaster Services and then forwarded to the REACT International, Inc. Headquarters, Wichita, Kansas for review. Upon approval, the amendment shall be forwarded to the Chairman of the Board for approval and signature.

- Once all parties have reached an agreement on the proposed amendment, the Statement of Understanding shall be changed and pages of the Statement of Understanding on which the amendment appear shall be replaced.

- The amendment shall become effective on the last date shown on the amendment when signed by both parties.

- If both parties cannot agree to the amendment, an effort shall be made to reach an acceptable compromise. If a compromise cannot be reached, the amendment will not be made. If an amendment is rejected, by either party, the original Statement of Understanding provisions remain in effect.

EFFECTIVE DATE

This Statement of Understanding shall become effective on the last date shown below when executed by both parties. This Statement of Understanding is valid and binding until termination by either party upon 60 days written notice.

SIGNATURES

Greg Seemuth 11/30/93
Chairman of the Board
REACT International, Inc.

Elizabeth Dole 11/17/93
President
The American National Red Cross
STATEMENT OF UNDERSTANDING
between REACT INTERNATIONAL, INC.
and the SALVATION ARMY
relating to DISASTER SERVICES

PURPOSE
The purpose of this statement is to state the terms for an understanding between REACT International, Inc. and The Salvation Army that will serve as a broad framework within which volunteer personnel of the local teams affiliated with REACT may coordinate their facilities and equipment with The Salvation Army for communications in disaster relief to victims of natural or manmade disaster.

RESPONSIBILITIES
Since 1962, REACT International, Inc. has provided a program for organizing local Citizens Band (CB) Radio Emergency groups which when affiliated are known as REACT Teams. Besides supplying local CB and other communications in time of disaster, REACT Teams conduct a routine daily monitoring schedule to receive calls on the official emergency CB Radio Channel 9. It is the goal of every REACT Team to maintain a full 24 hour watch on the emergency channel. In addition, they are encouraged to cooperate with all local emergency agencies and to become part of the disaster communications plan for their community.

The Salvation Army since its first charter on May 12, 1899 (amended April 26, 1957) has provided emergency services to individuals and groups in time of disaster. This service has received public recognition. The Congress of the United States of America enacted the Disaster Relief Act of 1970, which was amended by the Disaster Relief Act of 1974, Public Law 93-288 officially recognized the capabilities of The Salvation Army. Since that time, The Salvation Army has entered into specific agreements with other agencies concerned with public and private emergency and disaster relief services.

RECOGNITION
The Salvation Army recognizes that REACT International, Inc. because of the excellent geographic coverage of the local affiliated REACT Teams, can render valuable aid in maintaining continuity of local communications during disasters and emergencies when normal communications facilities are disrupted or overloaded.

REACT International, Inc. recognizes The Salvation Army as an agency whose corporate charter merits sanction by the Federal Government, through which the American people voluntarily extend assistance to individuals and families in need as a result of disaster.

ORGANIZATION OF THE SALVATION ARMY
The National Commander of The Salvation Army in the United States is located at the National Headquarters, 615 Slaters Lane, Alexandria, Va. The United States is administratively divided into four territorial areas. There are 39 Divisional Commanders. The Divisional Headquarters are responsible for organizing, directing and coordinating welfare and emergency functions in their assigned areas. Reporting to divisional centers are the local volunteer committees operating in smaller communities.
Organizations of React International, Inc.

Established in 1962, React is an international association of Citizens Band (CB) and other communications teams who volunteer their assistance and provide CB radio communications in local emergencies. React International, Inc. is an independent nonprofit public service organization. React Teams accept responsibility to maintain a monitoring station or system guarding the official CB radio emergency channel 9.

There are 26 state councils that act to improve communication and coordination between local React Teams within their state. Each React Team is a wholly independent entity with its own form of administrative control, worked out to suit local needs and conditions. Because CB radio is designed for local communications, there is no limit to the number of React Teams chartered within any given geographical area. React International, Inc. accumulates information on new emergency techniques from hundreds of communities and develops materials and programs to assist local teams. React International, Inc. on behalf of local teams throughout the nation, works effectively with other national emergency groups such as the American National Red Cross, American Radio Relay League, Federal Communications Commission, FEMA, and other groups to advise on the proper use of local radio communications.

Principles of Cooperation

In order that the communication facilities of local radio frequencies may be coordinated and utilized to the fullest advantage during disasters and emergencies, The Salvation Army and React International, Inc. have agreed to the following:

- Through its Wichita office and/or government relations committee, React will maintain liaison with the designated Salvation Army headquarters, so that there may be the closest possible cooperation in emergency communications planning and the coordination of local radio communication facilities for disaster relief operations.
- The Salvation Army welcomes the cooperation and assistance of React International and the many affiliated local React Teams to extend emergency communications planning into the jurisdictions of the area office, divisional centers and Service Units.
- Whenever there is a disaster or an emergency requiring the use of local radio communication facilities, The Salvation Army or its units may request the assistance of the React Teams nearest the scene of disaster or emergency. The assistance may include:
  - The alerting and mobilization of volunteer and emergency personnel in accordance to prearranged plan.
  - The establishment and maintenance of fixed, mobile and portable station emergency communication facilities for local radio coverage and point-to-point contact between The Salvation Army officials and the locations as required.
  - Adequate local area radio communication facilities for the duration of the emergency period or until substantial normal communications are restored.
- Detailed operating plans for the full utilization of local radio communication facilities should be developed at the area office, divisional centers, and Service Units in cooperation with local React Teams.
- The Salvation Army will furnish, through its area office, copies of this understanding to its administrative officers and field units and React International, Inc. will similarly furnish copies to all local React Teams.
- This statement of understanding will not apply in countries or jurisdictions where local laws conflict.
• REACT International, Inc. and The Salvation Army will make an effort to coordinate REACT communications with The Salvation Army’s S.A.T.E.R.N. radio system.

**AMENDMENT PROCEDURES**

• Amendments requested by the President and Chairman of the Board of Directors of REACT International, Inc. shall be forwarded to the Director of National Public Affairs, The Salvation Army, National Headquarters for review. Upon approval by the Director, the amendment shall be forwarded to The Salvation Army Headquarters for approval by The Salvation Army National Commander.

• An amendment by The Salvation Army shall be sent to the REACT International, Inc. Headquarters in Wichita, KS, for review. Upon approval, the amendment shall be sent to the REACT Chairman of the Board of Directors and President for approval.

• Once all parties have reached agreement on the proposed amendment, the Statement of Understanding shall be changed and pages of the Statement on which the amendment appears shall be completely replaced.

• The amendment shall become effective on the last date shown on the amendment when signed by both parties to the Statement of Understanding.

• If both parties cannot agree to the amendment, an effort shall be made to reach an acceptable compromise. If a compromise cannot be reached, the amendment shall not be made. If an amendment is rejected, by either party, the original Statement of Understanding provisions remain in effect.

**EFFECTIVE DATE**

This Statement of Understanding shall become effective on the last date shown below when executed by both parties. This Statement of Understanding is valid and binding until termination by either party upon 60 days written notice.

**SIGNATURE**

Commissioner Kenneth L Hodder
National Commander
The Salvation Army
Alexandria, VA

Gregory Seemuth
Chairman of the Board
REACT International, Inc.
Wichita, KS

Signed: November, 1993
MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
between the
American Radio Relay League, Inc.
and
REACT International, Inc.

PURPOSE

1. This purpose of this document is to state the terms of a mutual agreement (Memorandum of Understanding) between the American Radio Relay League, Incorporated (ARRL), and REACT International, Inc., (Radio Emergency Associated Communications Teams), that will serve as a framework within which both organizations may coordinate the development of protocols and procedures for communication in emergency and disaster situations. Each organization comprises volunteers and professional staff in support of their respective educational and technical programs and efforts. It is intended that this agreement will promote joint coordination and exercise of the resources of both ARRL and REACT to recognize the potential and capability of individual members of both organizations to facilitate the flow of information to and from the public during disaster and emergency situations.

RECOGNITION

2. ARRL recognizes REACT as a public service organization of private radio operators, which provides radio communications to local communities during emergencies. REACT coordinates efforts with other emergency organizations including the police, FEMA, NOAA, RACES, ARES, NVOAD, the Salvation Army, and the American Red Cross. REACT's other activities include participation in safety radio assistance for community events, hosting “Safety Wake Breaks” on holiday weekends along highways and developing the use of radio services as additional sources of communications in emergencies. REACT accomplishes these goals through REACT Teams located through the United States and the world. Members of these Teams also have oversight authority over different Committees. The committees are responsible for establishing and maintaining the orderly flow of business within their specialties. REACT's primary mission is to improve their communities through the provision of voluntary, two-way communications that serve the interests of public safety.

3. REACT recognizes ARRL as a noncommercial membership association of radio amateurs, organized for the promotion of interest in amateur radio communication and experimentation. It is the principal representative of the Amateur Service and Amateur Satellite Services in the United States, and is the Secretariat for the International Amateur Radio Union, the worldwide association of national amateur radio societies. ARRL was organized for the establishment of networks to provide communications in the event of disasters or other emergencies, for the advancement of the radio art and of the public welfare, the fostering of education in the field of electronic communications; the promotion and conduct of research and development to further the development of electronic communication; the dissemination of technical, education, and scientific information relating to electronic communication; the printing and publishing of documents, books, electronic media, and publications necessary or incidental to any of the above purposes; for the representation of the radio amateur in regulatory matters; and to promote fraternalism and high standards of conduct among radio amateurs. It serves its members by protecting and enhancing spectrum access and providing a national resource to the public.
PRINCIPLES OF COOPERATION

4. In order that the parties may cooperate and utilize their resources from time to time to optimum mutual benefit to both parties, the following principles and methods are agreed upon:

4.1 The parties will correspond with each other and exchange certain materials and engage in certain activities in order to encourage and broaden interest, understanding, and appreciation of radio telecommunications technology and its value to the public in emergency situations.

4.2 The parties will work to establish protocols and procedures that foster safe and efficient radio services communication to help the public during emergencies and disaster relief. The parties, through these protocols and procedures, will try to eliminate duplicative or technically inferior service to the community in emergencies.

4.3 The parties will work with each other in times of emergency or disaster to meet the communications needs of the public.

4.4 The parties will generally encourage ongoing liaison with each other and urge members of both organizations to develop increasingly effective communications and cooperation.

5. This memorandum shall take effect upon its signing by authorized representatives of each organization. It may be amended by mutual agreement of the parties and will remain in effect until terminated by either party, upon ninety (90) days advance written notice to the other. REACT and ARRL will periodically review this agreement and coordinate such revisions as may be necessary. Nothing herein will create any joint venture, partnership, or other business association, nor shall either party enter into any obligation or commitment on behalf of the other.

Jim D. Haynie, President
The American Radio Relay League, Incorporated
225 Main Street
Newington, Connecticut 06111-1494

Charles A. Thompson, President
REACT International, Inc.
5210 Auth Road
Suitland, Maryland 20746-4330