

Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network Application Packet



Central Territory
April 2021

Interest in SATERN

Thank you for your interest in becoming a volunteer for the Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network (SATERN). Volunteer amateur radio operators have a unique skill and a long history of serving the public in times when normal communications systems are weakened or non-existent all over the world. SATERN is an international effort to provide operational communications for The Salvation Army's Emergency Disaster Service ministry (EDS). SATERN nets can deliver health and welfare messages for disaster victims. SATERN members have varying degrees of participation depending on their physical and technical ability. Please read the following criteria to ensure that you are able to fulfill the volunteer SATERN position requirements without risk to yourself.

What is a SATERN Member?

SATERN members are federally licensed amateur radio operators "hams", or individuals authorized and proficient in business radio operations. They have studied the federal rules and regulations regarding the operation of a radio station and have completed a technical exam to earn their federal amateur radio operator's license. They have a history of volunteering their personal radio equipment and skills when needed; many are trained in emergency management and have special skills useful in disaster operations. SATERN members are Salvation Army disaster volunteers and never self-deploy.

SATERN's 30 Plus Year History

It is amazing to think that ham radio operators have had such a remarkable impact on the world thanks to SATERN. The lives saved, families reunited, and vital information relayed by this international fellowship of amateurs are beyond measure. Time and again, these volunteers are often the only link to the outside world during a disaster.

Before there was SATERN, there was SAROF – the Salvationist Amateur Radio Operators Fellowship. Lt. Colonel Carl J. Lindstrom, W9JSF, was the Founder and Coordinator of SAROF.

[Editor Note: Lt.Col. Lindstrom was an avid ham radio operator. He also spoke fluent German. He often extended an invitation to other German hams in the U.S. and Germany where, at the time, the publication known as "Die Zietschrift Der Heilsharmee", (roughly translated as: The Salvation Army Magazine) appealed to amateurs in German – (very roughly translated):



Amateur radio wanted! Lt. Col. Carl J. Lindstrom (W9JSF) would like to contact you to call on medical soldiers. The interested amateur radio are: 110 Woodland Heights Manor, Rhinelander, WI 54501 USA – from the German War Cry October 1985]

The original name of the net was “Salvationist Amateur Radio Operator’s Fellowship”. Years later that was changed to “Salvation Army Radio Operator’s Fellowship”, which seemed an easier acronym for the uninitiated in The Salvation Army fraternity. Colonel Lindstrom was the Community Relations and Development Director for the Central Territory and part of his responsibility was disaster services. He was an avid amateur radio aficionado.

The program began with the common purpose of “strengthening those bonds of faith and common interest which link us together as salvationists and amateur radio operators”. While the term “Salvationist” in strict interpretation in The Salvation Army refers to those who are members or soldiers in the organization, in SAROF, it meant all those in The Salvation Army fraternity, including soldiers, adherents, volunteers, advisory board members, disaster workers, supporters, etc. In short, all those who were interested in The Salvation Army could be part of the world-wide SAROF net.

As early as December 1959, ham radio operators were joining together to aid others in service with SAROF. This article appeared in "The War Cry":

It was two days before Christmas, several years ago, when Major Carl Lindstrom, Territorial Public Relations Secretary for the Central Territory, U.S.A., received an urgent telephone message. The caller was the father of a missionary stationed in Peru.

His daughter had been on the mission field for six years, and she had not seen her parents during that period. She had written to say that on Christmas Eve she would be in the home of an amateur radio operator in Lima, and she was hopeful that her parents could contact her through a “ham” operator in Chicago.

The parents had heard that Major Lindstrom was a licensed operator. Could he help? Although he knew neither the call letters of the South American “ham” nor the frequency upon which he would be operating, the Major invited the missionary’s parents to come to his home the following evening.

On Christmas Eve, Major Lindstrom sat in his “ham shack” (the room which houses his amateur radio equipment) and placed a blind call for Lima, Peru. “I put in a CQ, Lima, Peru, on ten meters”, said Major Lindstrom, “then stood by to tune the band.” Within a matter of moments we heard a Lima, Peru, station calling W9JSF in Chicago. The operator said, “I have Miss Malmstrom here. Do you have her parents there?”

Parents and daughter spoke to each other for more than half an hour. All three parties were enthusiastic in declaring it was the finest Christmas present they had ever had.

This is but one of the warm-hearted services which Salvation “hams” are able to render as a result of their hobby.

Aided in Disaster

In addition, Salvation "hams" have been active participants in amateur radio networks in time of disaster. In spring of 1958, when a devastating tornado hit the Colfax area of Northern Wisconsin, Major Lindstrom was instrumental in helping to organize communications for Salvation Army personnel operating in that area. In this effort more than 150 Wisconsin radio amateurs took part, handling health and welfare messages and relaying reports and instructions from the divisional office in Milwaukee.

Note: The Colfax, Wisconsin tornado outbreak was a deadly disaster that struck portions of northwestern Wisconsin on June 4, 1958. The tornado started in central Minnesota, killing at least 28 people in Wisconsin, and was one of the worst tornado outbreaks to ever have struck the state.

Major Patrick McPherson (WW9E) wrote of SAROF in a special edition of an early version of "The SATERN Ring":

"The early SATERN nets began as an adjunct to SAROF. Harold Gibson, VE3NKU, and Ernie Reid, VE3BIX (now deceased) hung around after the SAROF net along with Art Evans, KA9KLZ, (now N9KQ, was the first National Net Director of SATERN), and me (WW9E), for the first SATERN net."

SAROF was active until late 2016 when it was discontinued and the SATERN International SSB net extended its schedule to include a less formal Saturday session.



SATERN Mission Statement

The Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network (SATERN) operates as an integral part of The Salvation Army's Emergency Disaster Services program providing effective emergency communications via Amateur Radio and providing a wide scope of assistance to disaster victims during a disaster relief operation. In doing so, SATERN will operate in a fiscally responsible manner with an atmosphere of high trust reflecting the common goals of The Salvation Army.

Essential Functions

When deploying to emergencies and disasters, SATERN volunteers may experience difficult physical, emotional and spiritual challenges. Please review the following functions to help you decide whether this volunteer role is a good fit for you.

Physical Considerations:

- Be in good physical health
- Be able to walk on uneven terrain
- Be willing to work outside in extreme weather conditions
- Depending on assignment, be qualified to drive a Salvation Army vehicle (must have a valid driver's license and be a Salvation Army approved driver)



Disaster Deployment Conditions:

- Be willing to sleep on an air mattress or cot in a room with others in close proximity
- Be willing to share bathroom facilities with many others or use a porta-potty
- Understand showers may be in a shower trailer with time limitations
- Depending on your assignment, be willing to endure a deployment day lasting 12 hours
- Understand electricity may be limited or not available
- Be willing to do daily tasks, including cleaning bathrooms, kitchens, and/or showers, mopping floors, sweeping, and carrying bags of trash
- Be able to lift at least 50 pounds
- Understand cell phone service may be limited or not available

Essential Emotional, Spiritual and Mental Considerations:

- Be self-sufficient and able to figure things out
- Demonstrate patience
- Have a calm spirit in the face of chaos
- Be flexible and adaptable
- Be a person of emotional and spiritual maturity
- Have a positive attitude and be a team player
- Always demonstrate a servant's heart
- Be a good listener for extended periods of time
- Be free of any medication that would impair your thinking or activity



GETTING STARTED

STEP 1: Create a profile and complete required training to become a disaster volunteer.

- Go to the EDS website at <https://disaster.salvationarmyusa.org/volunteer/new/> to complete a volunteer profile.
- Complete *Introduction to The Salvation Army Disaster Services* in a class locally or online (through your disaster profile page).
- Complete *Safe From Harm* in a class locally or online at <https://armatus2.praesidiuminc.com/Armatus/security/anonymous/selfRegistration>
Be sure to use registration code SACTTHQ, select THQ as the Organization/Affiliated Location, and list the Position as Volunteer at Partner Organization.
- Once you have completed these requirements, notify the SATERN coordination team by sending an email to USCDisaster.Services@usc.salvationarmy.org

STEP 2: Complete the application and required training to become a credentialed SATERN Member.

- Complete the online SATERN Application at: <https://uscsalvationarmy.wufoo.com/forms/satern-application>
- Complete the required SATERN courses.

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