

TILLAMOOK COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

"To Serve and Protect"



Sheriff Andy Long

Scott Bakker, Captain
Civil Air Patrol, Special Operations/R&D
15206 N 134th Lane
Surprise, AZ 85378

Dear Scott,

I would like to thank you for the services you provided to the county during our recent Full Scale Tsunami Evacuation exercise here in Tillamook County between Cape Meares and Cape Lookout conducted on March 24th, 2012. The addition of the Civil Air Patrol aircraft using the new Power Sonix speaker system that was recently acquired by the county was very valuable and received very positive reviews from the citizens.

The feedback included comments about how clear and totally understandable the message was which was impressive considering the wind was blowing 25 to 35 miles an hour from the east which was working against the system. We even received comments from residents in the target area that heard the message from inside their residence, which would have been between 1 and 1.5 miles from the aircraft, and, it was obvious that you were heard equally well whether flying south over the water, or northbound over the land. An enhancement that would expedite getting the message out using less flight time would be if the speaker system could be installed on each side of the aircraft.

I have discussed other applications of both the airborne speaker system along with the portable speaker system with our Emergency Manager and other staff members and see a practical application in many other incidents besides Tsunami Warnings. These include Search and Rescue events, Wild land Fires, instructions to citizen trapped in flooded areas, and the ability to place the message in multiple languages only enhances the value of these systems. Realistically, we could have Search and Rescue members in the field or Law Enforcement Special Response Teams providing specific instructions, in multiple languages, on scene, make communicating to these target groups possible during difficult situations. Another great feature is the MP3 playback ability allows a target specific message is recorded then sent to a phone in the field allowing a broadcast in a specific language, or specific voice, etc.

Again, let me thank you for participating in the drill. I also understand it was you that originally presented our Emergency Manager with several demonstrations that led to us seeking the grant that ultimately put these systems in our "toolbox", and for this I thank you again.

Hope to see you again in one of our future exercises.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andy Long", with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Andy Long, Sheriff
Tillamook County

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