



RAYNET Report to Spectrum Forum

October 2011



Olympics 2012

Requests are now beginning to filter through for potential RAYNET activities based upon the main and Paralympic torch relays. The finalised routes for these have yet to be released, but plans have been taking shape led by emergency planning teams, alongside the statutory User Services, throughout the UK in anticipation of the routes being confirmed.

One request, in the past few days, has been received from the British Red Cross, asking for assistance in their control room, located in Enfield, for the period 18th May – 27th July (for the torch relays), 27th July to 12th August (Olympics period) and possibly again between 29th August – 9th September (Paralympics).

The work would largely be administrative, operating telephones and computers and lastly operating their radio network. There would be a senior BRC officer present at all times for command decisions. Interviews would be held for volunteers and training would be given on their systems.

Requests for RAYNET assistance will go firstly to groups in North London, Essex and Cambridgeshire, as these are most likely to be able to travel easily to Enfield.

Communication with UK military stations

At the moment, only 5MHz NoV holders are permitted to communicate with military or military cadet stations. RAYNET, at the request of MoD, has carried out a series of interoperability exercises with 2 Signal Brigade over the last 5 years.

In order to exercise interoperability on the 70MHz and 50MHz bands, a UK licensee has had to apply to Ofcom for an NoV to allow communication with military stations. NoVs have been provided by Ofcom in a timely fashion on the basis of operation on nominated frequencies, at specified locations and specified dates and times.

An outcome of the recent interoperability trials held in May 2011 has resulted in 2 Signal Brigade producing an SOP (Standard Operating Procedure) for 2 Signal Brigade units interoperating with RAYNET stations. This SOP includes provision for use of VHF in the 50 and 70 MHz bands as well as 5MHz HF SSB.

Can consideration be given to approaching Ofcom for a revision to the amateur licence to allow communication with UK military or government stations at the request of a government department? (The current earthquake situation in Turkey cites amateurs using 40m USB to communicate with government stations)

This provision would facilitate interoperability with MoD stations for exercise or during a major incident without the need to obtain pre-authorised NoVs or seek special permission during an unforeseen incident.

6m band plan

The changes to the 6m band plan that were agreed recently at Sun City mean that the currently nominated frequencies of 50.210MHz and 51.950 – 51.990MHz for RAYNET will need to change. Murray has previously been advised that current MoD equipment is based on 25KHz channel steps at VHF and that it would be desirable for any changes to the UK band plan to recognise this when nominating the 'used by RAYNET' frequencies.

The new IARU plan suggests that 51.510 to 51.810 is 'available' for general use and has no specific uses nominated.

The Network wishes to propose that 51.650, 51.750, 51.770 and 51.790MHz become the 'used by RAYNET frequencies' in the revised UK 6m band plan. This proposal is consistent with the MoD use of 25KHz channel spacing equipment and provides the same number of channels for RAYNET use as the current band plan.

Examination of the current UK 6m band plan suggests that RAYNET could move to the proposed frequencies immediately as there appears to be no conflict with present nominated use. The added benefit of a quick move would be to move out of the frequency sectors nominated for repeater input and outputs.