

Practice, Attitude, Training, Teamwork and Commitment

We all know people that are WELL trained but have not passed any of the tests. How can someone that has not been tested be properly trained? These folks are the hardest to train because they refuse to accept that reading material does NOT create experience **AND** they are too busy or have too busy a schedule to participate in exercises. These very same people are amongst the first to scream “Good Ole Boyz” when they don’t get what they want. Then we have the type that insist on receiving the choice assignments yet are unwilling to do any training and always tell their peers how good they are when they can’t find their own behinds with both hands unless they sit on them. We’ve all seen and heard these types, always loud and seldom, if ever, willing to listen because they think they are an asset. Yet they scream “Good Ole Boyz” to anyone that will listen to their ME ME ME attitude. Who are the “Good Ole Boyz” well they are the EC’s or other leadership that doesn’t want the ME ME ME attitudes in their organization.

The time you spend on training is a visible measure of

attitude and how much of a commitment you are willing to make. This measure and attitude is what most served agencies are now paying a **lot** of attention to. If you want to be able to go into an EOC, a Fire Base, or anything beyond the very basic evacuation shelter, the agencies **NOW REQUIRE** training so they know, or at least have some assurance, you know what you are doing. **No training, no access.** To those with the ME attitude that say “If they don’t want me the way I am, I’ll stay home.” GOOD, please stay home. Walk-on operators with the ME syndrome and poor attitudes have proven to be detrimental to virtually every incident in the last twenty years.

On-going training is the easiest and least painful way to hone the skills you have and allow you to build new ones. How much training are you going to require? That depends on how much previous training you have had and how often you have reinforced that training. This is one place where more is always better. Some people believe that checking into weekly training nets is sufficient, I do not. Think about how many weekly nets require you to do more than give your call, name and indicate if you have comments or an announcement. Very few! How does that

provide **actual** training? It does not, even though it is a beginning. It is only when you are required to convey the maximum information, using the fewest words, consistently, that your communication skills are expanded and this requires practice.

Hams, in general, tend to talk rather than communicate. It is only when you force yourself to summarize your thoughts and present that summary in a clear and efficient manner that you actually progress as a communicator.

Before you begin learning the technical material involved in earning a certification in Emergency Communication it is imperative that you understand your knowledge in Emergency Communications is not actually as important as your attitude.

Yes, technical ability will enable you to do a far better job of communicating. But your attitude will determine the success of the overall Amateur Radio effort. The person who brings a know it all or I'll really show you just how good I am attitude will only hamper the relations with served agencies.

The people you will be **servicing**, remember that word, are professionals that have seen far too many people that are more interested in telling them how great they are rather

than getting the job done. You will actually impress them far more by being as quiet as you can and doing your job in the best way possible. Results, without interference of served agency people, will cement relations with your served agency.

Please consider:

Attitude: n. manner, disposition, feeling, position, etc. with regard to a person or thing; tendency or orientation of the mind.

Service: n. an act of helpful activity; help; aid.

Positive: adj. explicitly stated, stipulated, or expressed, or more simply, an explicit mental attitude and commitment to help others.

Please remember the following:

Experience is the worst teacher; it gives the test before presenting the lesson.

Hams are patriotic, independent and we are volunteers.

The attitude among a few hams is that Volunteers don't have to take orders and we can't be made to take test.

That's absolutely correct. We don't *have* to. But if you are not willing to rid of the ME attitude, stop using the "Good Ole Boyz" excuse and are not ready to follow

instructions, you may want to do something outside of A. R.E.S./R.A.C.E.S. There are five words that lead to success in everything we do, **TRAINING, PRACTICE, ATTITUDE, TEAMWORK and COMMITMENT.**