

AMERC NEWS

Incorporates Circular 230

July 2007

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AMERC NEWS is the Journal of the Association of Marine Electronics and Radio Colleges.
It is distributed to all Members, Associates and Affiliates of the Association.
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EDITORIAL

“You’ll have plenty to write about in the next Issue of the NEWS!” I smiled and agreed with my breakfast companion just before leaving the AGM. I did, however, quickly swallow some bacon to relieve the nagging in my stomach which always grips me when I think about the next Issue. So far, my fears of ending up with just two pages have never materialised and thankfully we again have a bumper edition.

I was not the only observer attending the Examiners’ Panel to remark on how the Association has the flexibility to respond to circumstances. From time to time AGM and the Examiners’ Panel signal major change for members and students and this seemed to me to be one such. It looks like the 2007 Panel will be remembered as the one where change to the GMDSS examinations rose up the Association’s agenda.

AMERC sponsored experiments at the Warsash Maritime Academy into ‘scenario-based testing,’ first proposed in 2006, yielded positive results and judging by comments from the floor there have been small scale trials elsewhere. Extending the formal experiment to two other centres, one ex-UK, and setting up an evaluation group seems to me to make a lot of sense. If validated, the experiments will lead to major change in the examining of OPT in this decade.

Willie Williamson’s paper suggesting change to the written element of the GOC examinations stimulated a lot of debate, revealing a body of opinion that change is desirable there too. The Panel Minutes accurately reflect the mood. As Phil Davies reminded us, STCW95 requires demonstration of competence rather than the memorising of facts. (Coincidentally, I have just been reading an article by Len Holder in *Seaways* in which he confirms this view, saying written examinations “measure whether seafarers can talk knowledgeably about doing the job. They do not test whether they can do it in practice. That is why we changed to the competency based system”).

The discussion on competence testing brought up reservations about negative marking and the Chairman had to point out why this system had been devised. Arguments from the floor showed how it could work out illogically in practice. The highlighted issues have been referred to the relevant Examiners’ Groups although it was felt wise to proceed to adopting the scenario-based testing on the proposed model before taking any steps to abolish or amalgamate the papers.

The new draft AMERC Website pages have a more appealing look and work is proceeding on the detail. Kevin Walsh and his team have thought up some content but they make the point that they want to have input from members. Much will change but one feature to be retained is having the NEWS on the website in searchable pdf format.

Although we are sorry to be losing Plymouth from our ranks, it is encouraging to see that eight new members were elected at AGM. We bid them a hearty welcome.

Making a search on Google recently for AIS Satellites I found myself being directed to **SAT**urday deliveries at Waitrose. It reminds me to get some bacon in the freezer for October unless of course you send me some items for inclusion.

Brian Cotton

2007 AGM

The Association's 2007 AGM was held at the Legacy Springfield Hotel, Gateshead, on Thursday 24th May with thirty-six delegates attending. The Minutes of the Meeting will be distributed by the Hon. Secretary in due course. Our custom is that this Issue is used to bring out some of the highlights of the discussions and decisions. Firstly to the business end.....

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The following were elected for a one year period as the Association's Officers and Members of the Executive Committee.

Officers of the Association

Mike Webster*	Chairman
Chris Harrison*	Vice Chairman
Keith Mitchell	Hon Secretary
Julie Oates	Hon Treasurer

Executive Committee Members

Phil Davies*
Willie Williamson*
Kevin Walsh*

*Also elected as a Director of AMERC Ltd.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

The annual Membership fees for 2008 were agreed at AGM. These are to be £220 for Full Membership and £110 for Associate Membership.

FINANCE

The Association's Treasurer presented the annual accounts to AGM. There was again a small surplus of income over expenditure. This was accounted for by an increase in membership subscriptions and examination fees.

The Treasurer was thanked for her efforts on behalf of the Association.

MEMBERSHIP

The Meeting agreed unanimously to admit the following into Full Membership:

- THESI (Mola di Bari)
- Western Training Association
- CERNET MRCC, Naples
- Starcenter Naples
- UKSA, Cowes, IoW

and into Associate Membership:

- Shetland School of Nautical Studies
- TST Taranto
- Australian Maritime College

RULE CHANGE

To satisfy legal changes required by the Office of the Scottish Charity Register, your copy of the Association's Rules, Memorandum and Articles of Association needs to be amended with:

“Reference to ‘charitable purpose’ is to be interpreted in accordance both with the law of England and Wales and the law of Scotland.”

2008 AGM

The date agreed for the next AGM is Thursday 22nd May 2008. The venue has yet to be decided and suggestions will be welcomed by the Executive Committee.

MARITIME CONSULTANCY GROUP (MCG)

The MCG met immediately before AGM and considered its usual mix of operational matters. Here is a report of some of those discussed at the meeting; others appear in various reports of the proceedings of the AGM and Examiners' Panel.

HMCG CSOC

Following discussions and negotiations, AMERC Ltd now recognises HM Coastguard's Coast Station Operator's Certificate (CSOC) and its restricted version (RCSOC). Awards to successful candidates will henceforth carry the AMERC Chairman's signature and the Association logo.

DEPUTY & ASSISTANT CHIEF EXAMINERS

An advertisement appeared in the last Issue (March 2007) inviting applications for the post of Deputy and Assistant Chief Examiners. As we go to press these are under consideration. As soon as we have further details they will be published in the NEWS.

TRANSAS SIMULATOR

AMERC has approved the TRANSAS 2000 Simulator together with its Hard Panel. The Version 4000 software has been reviewed but its hard panel has yet to be assessed and approved.

Backed by the Examiners' Panel, the MCG has agreed that a hard panel is needed to produce an element of realism into exercises.

The matter of continued approval is being taken up with TRANSAS by the Hon. Secretary and developments will be communicated in due course.

QUALITY ASSURANCE

Reviewing the Examiners' Handbook, Phil Davies has been reformatting and including all relevant amendments. In particular all references to the Maritime Board need to be replaced. This is likely to be a lengthy process.

In the meantime to clarify new procedures for final appeals in the event of a Centre or Examiner being terminated, a flow-chart has been drawn up.

REC should note and communicate the procedures which have been endorsed by the 2007 Examiners' Panel. The flow-chart is on Page 5 of this Issue.

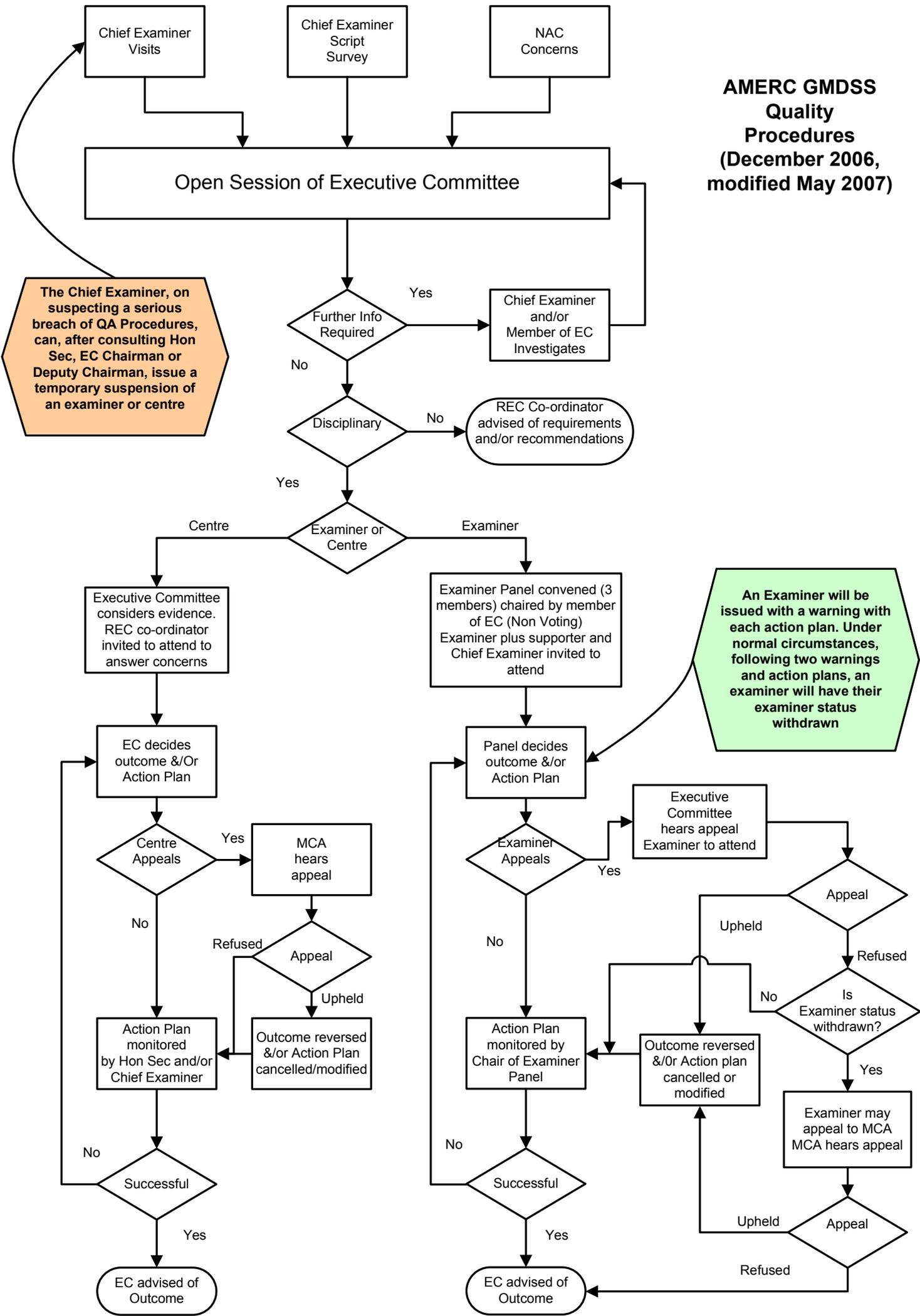
HON SECRETARY ADDRESS CHANGE

Effective immediately, the business address of the Association's Hon. Secretary, Keith Mitchell, has been changed to:

Jewel & Esk Valley College
Eskbank Campus,
Dalkeith,
Midlothian,
EH22 3AE

All other contact details for the Hon Secretary are unchanged. The amendment appears on the AMERC Website. *(Do you need to amend yours?)*

**AMERC GMDSS
Quality
Procedures
(December 2006,
modified May 2007)**



NAC REPORT AT AGM

Sue Jones, of the NAC, provided the AGM with a comprehensive Report. She reproduced relevant statistics for the GMDSS examinations in the calendar year 2006 from which we make the following extracts.

There had been a 20% increase in the number of GMDSS examinations taken in 2006 when compared with the previous year. This had given a welcome increase of 17% in the income from that source. A breakdown of the rise in numbers examined revealed a 21% increase in the GOC, and by 99% in the ROC. In contrast LRC examination entries had fallen by 11%. The annualised statistics are as follows:

EXAMINATION	ENTERED	PASSED
ALL GOC	1685	1396
ALL ROC	386	355
LRC	450	423

Additionally, the NAC has provided support for the ENEM suite. In 2006, this amounted to 36 Principles, 34 Radio and 34 ENEM examinations.

Support was also given to the BMET examination system. (Note that, acting on instructions from the Executive Committee, the Hon. Secretary has written to the BMET terminating AMERC's arrangements with them from 31 August 2007).

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GMDSS EXAMINATION STATISTICS

Although normally published on the MCG page, this seems an appropriate point to publish the GMDSS Examination Statistics for the period January 2007 to March 2007:

EXAMINATION	ENTERED	PASSED
UK GOC	275	207
ALL GOC	608	477
UK ROC	41	38
ALL ROC	60	56
LRC	106	99

At the Examiners' Panel, Sue recorded her appreciation for the support given to her by the Executive Committee and the MCA. In turn, the Examiner's Panel reciprocated those thanks.

CHIEF EXAMINER'S REPORT AT AGM

The Chief Examiner opened the proceedings of the Examiners' Panel at AGM by referring to his Report which had been published in the Conference papers.

Taken in the round, his paper review had shown cause for satisfaction overall. Nevertheless it was apparent that the revised OPT format was not fully understood by all examiners, although the recording of the OPT marking had improved. The marking of the Regulations had been generally satisfactory and that of the SOLAS papers exemplary. He gave the view that the rigid marking scheme was making for a consistency of marking at least across those papers that had been monitored.

The annual script survey revealed continuing problems with logs and marking sheets in the R/T exercise and an appeal was made for REC Coordinators to check all the paperwork relating this part of the examination before despatch. The problems included the checking of no more than the positions and the placing of ticks in all columns despite errors being apparent in the logs. REC Coordinators were reminded that Examiner's Marking Sheet and Log must be returned with the scripts at the time of the survey. Also, as previously agreed, that DSC Alert and Distress positions must be highlighted to indicate that they have been checked by the Examiner.

During the year, the MCG had decided that on visits there will be inspection of lesson plans, course notes and timetables (See Issue 23). These are to be made ready for the inspection and to be available before the examination, usually the day before.

Given the scale of visits including the rise in those taking place outside of the UK, the Executive Committee is seeking to appoint a Deputy Chief and an (overseas) Assistant Examiner, a process that is in hand and will be reported in AMERC NEWS in due course.

The Chief Examiner concluded by paying tribute to Sue Jones at the NAC and to the Chairman and Hon. Secretary for their support in some difficult decisions that had had to be made in the year.

COMMUNICATION

The Chief Examiner stressed the importance of briefing all GMDSS examiners attached to the REC. This especially includes those engaged from outside the REC and at outreach sites. The briefings should include the content of current circulars*, new procedures and revised guidelines, Examiners' Panel minutes.

It should be noted that all communications for the Chief Examiner or Executive Committee must be channelled through the REC Co-ordinator. AMERC Ltd. discourages direct communication from staff in centres.

*REC Coordinators are reminded that each Issue of AMERC NEWS is also an official AMERC Circular.

SCENARIO-BASED OPT The Debate Moves On

We reported in the last Issue that Phil Davies of the Lairdside Maritime Centre had asked the 2006 Examiners' Panel to consider the introduction of 'scenario-based' assessment for the OPT Examination. It was agreed at that Panel that the concepts he had illustrated should be tested and evaluated at the Warsash Maritime Academy (WMA). This was done during the year and a written report appeared in the AGM papers. The report laid the basis for a comprehensive presentation by Kevin Walsh and Terry Slack at the 2007 Examination Panel.

A 'blind' trial had been conducted where there was as little variation as possible from the existing course and examination arrangements. The OPT examination questions were not changed but re-ordered to be consistent with the trial objectives. This meant that the equipment layout had been modified to facilitate the exercise. The timetable and teaching process was as in a traditional course for about 70% of the duration. To facilitate monitoring and to be ready for unforeseen circumstances the staff team was enhanced and the student numbers reduced. Using the same members of staff a control group had earlier been taught and examined using conventional methods.

Both the written report and the presentation pointed out the success of the scenario-based examination and this had been confirmed by the student survey.

The presentation at the Examiners' Panel prompted lengthy debate which was overwhelmingly in support of scenario-based OPT examinations. It was agreed by the delegates that there was a sufficient basis for the trial to be extended, testing the evaluations made by WMA. It was felt that it made sense for this to be done at one other UK and one overseas centre. It was agreed to take up the offer to carry out this second trial at Blackpool and the Fylde College and to approach TS Rahman to secure agreement for them to carry out the overseas trial.

The intention is that the trials should be completed by September of this year so that they can be considered at the Executive Committee meeting to be held in that month. The Executive Committee would then call for comments by the end of the calendar year.

To monitor, guide and assist the process with the new trials and evaluations, a steering group was set up consisting of Eric Lamb, Kevin Walsh, Terry Slack, Chris Harrison and Phil Davies. The group will be happy to receive comments and questions from centres that were not represented at the 2007 Examiners' Panel.

It is hoped that if the trials and evaluations produce positive outcomes the Steering Group will be able to bring positive recommendations to the 2008 Examiners' Panel. In that case, Scenario-based OPT Examinations would be introduced for the 2009/2010 Series.

CRITIQUE OF GOC EXAMINATION STRUCTURE

Willie Williamson's Paper Discussed

Willie Williamson of the Lairdside Maritime Centre had written a paper which was published as a supplement to the last Issue of the NEWS ('Revising the GMDSS GOC Examination.') In this he had pointed out various anomalies in the GOC examination, especially in the SOLAS and Regulations papers. He put to the 2007 Examination Panel that there were overlaps between these papers and in some cases with the OPT. He suggested that the new ROC now has a better format than in the past and that this could be a model for change and improvement. This was a view that was shared by many delegates including those from Italy.

Willie Williamson proposed two possible changes to remove overlaps and anomalies, one of which was to move to a wholly practical based examination. The other was to move to a combined SOLAS and Regulations paper whilst retaining the OPT and the R/T Exercise.

This generated a number of contributions from the floor where it appeared that the option of a wholly practical based examination did not find full favour. However, there was much support for a revised SOLAS & Regulations paper and discussion proceeded on this basis. Eventually the question was put to the Panel: "Do you agree that the present Examination system requires overhaul?" The overwhelming answer was: "Yes."

Although the need for change was agreed, it was acknowledged that further work on this would be needed. It was decided, however, that the primary task was to test and resolve any difficulties that might be revealed by further trials of the Scenario-based OPT Examination. Once this had been worked through (possibly by the end of this calendar year - see Page 8 of this Issue), a review of the SOLAS & Regulations papers would be effected.

In subsequent discussion, there was some criticism from the floor in respect of penalty marking, raising anomalies that could potentially arise*. The Chairman of the Association explained the history and reasoning behind this model. It was agreed that this matter would be considered further as part of the discussions in respect of the next examination series.

*The Examiners' Panel Minutes spell this out in some detail.

INMARSAT 'A' & OPT EXAMINATIONS

REC are reminded that the Inmarsat 'A' Service will cease on 31 December 2007 which will enforce changes to the OPT Examinations from that date. REC must advise their Examiners that only Inmarsat 'B' or Fleet 77 services can be used as part of the OPT examination from 01 January 2008.

MNTB

The Association is represented on the Merchant Navy Training Board (MNTB) by Phil Davies of the Lairdside Maritime Centre. As Phil pointed out in his Report to AGM many of the deliberations at MNTB are not of direct relevance to the Association but it is useful to be aware of the broader considerations.

Of direct relevance has been the work done with short course criteria for the UK GOC and ROC Certificates. Primarily this has been concerned with the replacement of the Inmarsat 'A' requirements by Fleet 77. The criteria should be published shortly.

Although the proposals for revalidation of GMDSS skills have had to be shelved some refreshment will come about through the NAVRAS(M) courses. (NAVRAS stands for 'Navigation, Radar and ARPA Simulation at Management Level'). It is a mandatory qualification that is required as part of the award of the Second Certificate of Competence. The NAVRAS(M) course embraces SAR and it was agreed at the March 2007 meeting of the MNTB Technical Committee that 'this module was the ideal point to re-emphasise the importance of Communications and the use of the GMDSS System and modern navigational aids to assist the SAR operation.' The representatives of IAMI (the International Association of Marine Institutions) agreed that they would advise their Members to stress the importance of communication principles and the recapping of GMDSS methods in NAVRAS(M) exercises.

On the electrical power front, Phil advised that a draft short course in High Voltage techniques is being devised and we hope to report on this in the future.

GMDSS REVALIDATION

The MCA has drawn attention to rules concerning the re-validation of GMDSS Certificates for personnel employed in a sea-going capacity. The change in policy regarding the revalidation of GMDSS certification has resulted from discussions at IMO as to the competency of ship's officers and operation of GMDSS on board ships.

Seafarers applying and not meeting the requirements of one year's sea-time in the last five years will have to successfully re-take the GMDSS examination. An officer's Certificate of Competency will be revalidated as outlined in the Marine Guidance Notice MGN 9. A full ROC or GOC GMDSS certificate will not be required for revalidation, but would be required for employment at sea.

With occupations such as surveyors or marine pilots, the MCA does not believe that their duties extend to the use of the full GMDSS equipment on board vessels they are piloting or surveying. In such cases certificates will be limited to 'VHF operation only'. This would effectively allow a pilot to legally use a personal VHF and those of pilot launches and the ship. For this limitation to be lifted the holder would have to successfully complete the relevant GMDSS examinations.

Although not mandatory, the MCA would always recommend that a course be attended prior to taking the examination. This was discussed at AGM and it was decided that clear advice would appear in the new Examiners' Handbook.

WORLD RADIOCOMMUNICATION CONFERENCE 2007

Kim Fisher's Update on Preparations

AMERC NEWS is grateful, as ever that Kim Fisher thinks of us and sends articles to keep us abreast of what is happening at ITU. Here is his latest.

The preparations for the 2007 World Radiocommunications Conference are in the stages of Administrations preparing their proposals for submission to the Conference. In Europe this is achieved through CEPT who generate common proposals. This procedure is coming to an end to enable the Administrations to arrange to co-sign the proposals over the summer.

The Conference Preparatory Meeting, which produces a report giving the technical bases for the agenda items, completed its work in March and has published a package of proposals much as described in AMERC News last November.

For agenda item 1.14 concerning the GMDSS, the proposals are to suppress Appendix 13 (the pre-GMDSS procedures) whilst transferring the VHF radiotelephony procedures into chapter VII, to substantially revise Article 30 (General provisions), Article 31 (Frequencies for the GMDSS), Article 32 (Distress communications) and Article 33 (Urgency and Safety communications) of chapter VII., to revise Article 5 (Frequency allocations) with a view to providing protection for VHF channel 70, to retain arrangements for some coast station watch on VHF channel 16 in Resolution 331, to revise Appendix 16 (Documents on board ships) to update the requirements to meet operational needs, to revise Appendix 18 (Table of VHF frequencies) to add further flexibility of the use of simplex channels, 12.5 kHz channelling and wideband channelling, and to make regulatory changes as a consequence of the discontinuation of the 121.5 MHz satellite alerting function of EPIRBs from 1 February 2009 and the discontinuation of the Inmarsat-E EPIRB service from December 2006.

For agenda item 1.13 dealing with HF issues, the proposal is to facilitate the introduction of maritime HF e-mail services by revising Appendix 17 (HF frequencies and channelling) to allow re-use of the under-used voice and Morse channels whilst retaining enough NBDP for SOLAS requirements and transmission of MSI.

For agenda item 1.16 dealing with MMSIs for equipment other than shipborne mobile equipment, the proposal is to modify Article 19 (Identification of stations) to introduce new sub-sets of MMSI for aircraft, Aids to Navigation and daughter craft.

There has been interest in the future use of 500 kHz which is not part of the GMDSS but has an enormous historic importance for safety at sea. The band 495-505 kHz is currently allocated to mobile distress and calling. It is likely that the Conference will remove the distress allocation leaving the band for calling. This would then permit its possible use for demonstrations of historic equipment and operation etc. Other proposals being developed add some flexibility in technology in the band which would permit use other than Morse, perhaps NAVTEX.

The dates for the 2007 World Radiocommunication Conference, to be held in Geneva, are 22 October to 16 November 2007.

AMERC WEBSITE

We referred in the last Issue to the approval by the Executive Committee of a new design for the AMERC Website using proposals that had been submitted from students at Southampton Solent University. At AGM, Kevin Walsh gave a demonstration of the selected design and an outline of possible content. It was agreed that this should be developed and work in progress can be viewed on:

<http://homepage.ntlworld.com/littleowls/amerc/>

As we have mentioned in earlier Issues, the current website is outmoded and inaccurate in some of its parts and its functionality no longer matches the needs of its users. The next steps in improvement are now in hand with Kevin and his colleagues. This includes the devising and agreeing the content of new web pages within the approved design.

In this Kevin needs your help and assistance. What would you like to see in the website? Already in hand are:

- search facility and FAQ,
- information about examinations and certification
- revalidation information
- downloadable form for lost certificate replacement
- reference to examination and certification on the GMDSS page
- announcements page

Currently under consideration is a 'Course Finder' page where potential GMDSS students can peruse a list of course providers with locations and contact information. If you are a course provider, please ensure that the NAC holds up to date information about the courses you offer including correct contact information and details of your website.

You are reminded that it is your responsibility to maintain the accuracy of your details on the AMERC Website.

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SAR BOOST IN RSA

Earlier this year the South African Capetown MRCC was launched. With its subcentres it encompasses sea areas extending 3,500 nm into the Indian and Atlantic Oceans and down to Antarctica.

As many as 4,000 ships are in transit past the Cape of Good Hope each year so this MRCC will give a welcome boost to SAR in the region. For details go to:

www.imo.org.

M-NOTICES

There are two relevant M-Notices this time which we reproduce below. You might like to know that the MCA now provides a monthly video podcast newsletter with video files and a voice-over commentary. It is a subscription service accessed via www.vnrs.co.uk/mc/vnrs/index/html

MSN 1810 (M+F) RADIOCOMMUNICATION NON SOLAS VESSELS

This is an amended version of MSN 1810. It refers to mandatory EPIRB non-SOLAS UK registered vessels (such as large yachts under 300 gt). The Note says that compliance with EPIRB and test and maintenance in accordance with MSC1039 and 1040 is strongly recommended.

March 2007

MIN 272 (M+F) ADMIRALTY CHARTS ETRS 89 SYSTEM

British Admiralty charts of the UK are being transferred to a common datum under the European Terrestrial Reference System (ETRS 89).

The transfer is expected to be completed by the end of 2009 and this Note reports progress.

January 2007

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NEWS IN FROM THE USA

US DSC TEST CALLS*

The US Coast Guard Communications Area Master Station Atlantic (CAMSLANT) has introduced an Automatic Test Call Response Function. Test calls will be accepted on 4207.5 MHz to Chesapeake VA (MMSI 003669995) and New Orleans LA (MMSI 003660008). Test calls will not be accepted on any other frequencies. All other DSC functions are unchanged.

AIS FROM SPACE

The US Coastguard is to launch space based AIS later this year using Orbcomm satellites and LES. The intention is to detect and track AIS signals from the world's oceans. This follows successful evaluations of tests by the US Department of Defense in the past two years.

Implications for defence, piracy and SAR, of course.

GMDSS TRAINING PROGRAMMES*

There is a rather good VHF/DSC training programme on the internet site of the Boat Owners Association of the United States (BoatU.S.).

www.boatus.com/mmsi

*Thanks to Chris Harrison for these tips.

EQUIPMENT DISPOSAL

RESIDUAL EQUIPMENT AT HULL COLLEGE

In the last Issue we received a list of equipment for sale from Stewart MacMaster, Senior Technician at Hull College. His contact details are 44(0)1482 329943 or Email: smacmaster@hull-college.ac.uk. Stewart offers us the residue of that list together with some new items.

“The following equipment previously supported our Marine Radio training activities but now these items have become surplus to requirement. Reasonable offers will be considered but all delivery costs must be paid for by the purchaser. These items are offered in good faith.”

Terms: Cheque with order. Official Orders accepted from the major colleges only.

ITEM	Price
ICOM HF MARINE TRANSRECEIVER IC-M700 UK	£400
ICOM IC-P530 SYSTEM POWER SUPPLY	£50.00
12 x CEPT PR-27 Scan40F SATCOM	POA
ICOM IC-M56 VHF MARINE TRANSCEIVER	£60.00
RACAL RF MILLIVOLTMETER- true RMS 9361a (2 off)	£50.00 each
RACAL MODULATION METER TYPE 9009 (2 off)	£50.00 each
FARNELL AF POWER METER TYPE 2085	POA
DANITA 240 FM 27 MHz CB Transreceiver (12 off)	£5.00 each
RACAL VHF FREQUENCY COUNTER (2 off)	POA
MARCONI AM/FM SIGNAL GENERATORS 10 -520 MHZ	POA
AM/FM SIGNAL GENERATORS 10KHZ-120MHZ (4 off)	POA
SCHLUMBERGER 40121 STABILOCK R/T TEST SET	POA
AKD WA1 WAVEMETER	POA
AKD HF WAVEMETER	POA
ICS WEATHER FAX SYSTEM FAX-1	POA
KENWOOD FM DUAL BANDER TM-G707	POA
DANITA 240 FM 27 MHZ CB TRANSRECEIVER	POA
ICOM HF TRANSRECEIVER IC -725	POA
JOTRON GMDSS MARITIME VHF RADIO TELEPHONE	POA
KANTRONICS PACKET COMMUNICATOR	POA
AUTELDAC 2 TELEPHONE TYPE 212-62	POA
DEE COMM AMATEUR DUMMY LOAD 500Ω	POA
BNOS ELECTRONICS 24V DC POWER SUPPLY	POA
RHODE & SCHWARZ VECTOR ANALYZER TYPE ZPV	POA

We are advised that none of this equipment has ever been used for fault-finding practice by students and so should be “as manufactured” internally. Although believed to be working, no warranty or guarantee can be given in any respect. Please telephone or Email Stewart for answers to specific enquiries.

AMERC NEWS SELECTED INDEX (Updated each Issue)

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	GMDSS Guideline Revised	21	Jun 06	7
Mobile Phones	Radar interference (MIN 290)	19	Oct 05	7
	Warnings against misuse (MSN 299)	20	Feb 06	7
MSI	Change to UK transmissions	23	Mar 07	9
Navtex	Standard Abbreviations (MIN 265)	23	Mar 07	6
Perth LES	Close down	23	Mar 07	9
Pirate Broadcasts	Forbidden (MGN 320)	21	Jun 06	5
Piracy	Alerting by DSC	22	Nov 06	5
	Modern Piracy - W. Williamson	17	Feb 05	7
	Anti-piracy Measures (MGN298)	20	Feb 06	7
Revalidation	Sea-time requirement	22	Nov 06	4
	Ditto	19	Oct 05	6
Revalidation	STW 37	21	Jun 06	7
Radar	Performance standards(MIN 246)	21	Jun 06	7
	Corrigendum (MGN 298)	20	Feb 06	7
	Mobiles' Interference (MIN 290)	19	Oct 05	7
SAR	Signals in distress & SAR (MGN 304)	20	Feb 06	8
Safe Practices	MS Regulations 1998 (MIN 235)	22	Nov 06	8
Security	Ship Security - Phil Davies	22	Nov 06	9
Shore Maintenance	Selenia Contract (MGN292)	19	Oct 05	7
SOLAS	Chapter V amendments (MSN 1812)	23	Mar 07	6
	Radiocommunications (MSN 1810)	23	Mar 07	6
Surveys	Selenia Contacts (MGN 286)	20	Feb 06	7
Training Schemes	Using the VQ route (MGN 8)	22	Nov 06	8

Transas	GMDSS Simulator	22	Nov 06	6
Use of Equipment	Maintenance records (MGN 331)	22	Nov 06	8
VDR	Performance Testing (MGN 272)	17	Feb 05	9
W/T Act 2006	Consolidation of Acts post-1949	23	Mar 07	10
Yacht Officers	Deck Officer CoC (MSN 1892)	23	Mar 07	6

NOTES:

- (i) **This is a selective index and only records items to which reference is likely to be needed.**
- (ii) **Quarterly GMDSS Statistics provided by the NAC appear in each Issue.**
- (iii) **A full list of the Technical Update supplements can be found on the AMERC Website.**
- (iv) **Issues 22 to 24 are in pdf format and fully searchable.**

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MISCELLANY

MNTB AWARD

The Association congratulates the MTB on winning the 2007 Lloyds List Training Award. This was for the successful introduction of the Foundation Degree and Professional Development Framework.

TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to the Association and here is a challenge. So that we can get to know you better, would you like to give us a profile of your organisation? Such articles (when we get them!) always interest the membership and the Editor is ready to advise.

TST TARANTO

Gabriella Morgese has asked AMERC NEWS if any member can help Sara, the daughter of the TST Principal. Sara is at University in Italy studying linguistic mediation and is looking for placement in the UK. She is keen to learn colloquial English and of British culture. She has even offered to work solely for board and lodging. Her preference would be for work where she meets the public. Contact Gabriella at (gabriellamorgese.tst@libero.it) if you are interested in helping.

BACK PAGE

HULL COLLEGE

Steve Brett tells us that Hull College has installed 'green energy' at its new Building & Construction building. It has a medium sized windmill at the city centre campus along with solar heating and heat pumps to extract residual heat from the ground. There are no Technical Updates for this Issue; the last we heard Steve had floodwater lapping at his front door. We wish him well in his plight.

CITY COLLEGE PLYMOUTH

We are sorry to hear that the City College Plymouth has resigned from membership of AMERC. The College has had a very distinguished history in the affairs of the Association dating back to the earliest days. This continued until recently with David Turner being Chairman of the now disbanded Electronics & Communications Board. We wish the College and its staff every fortune.

SATELLITE B EQUIPMENT DISPOSAL AT JEWEL & ESK

"Free to a good home," says Keith Mitchell.

Jewel and Esk College has for disposal a Sailor SP4400 Inmarsat B Transceiver complete with handset. The offer does not include the dome and antenna.

For further details, contact Keith Mitchell at the College. See Page 4 for the new address of Jewel & Esk College, other contact details remain the same.

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This Newsletter duals as Circular 230. Check you have a full file. All Issues of AMERC NEWS appear on the AMERC Website and are fully searchable from Issue 22 onwards. Copies of the Circulars may be obtained from the Hon. Secretary. ***Do not forget to distribute copies to your colleagues.***

Articles and suggestions for the next Issue of AMERC NEWS can be sent at any time.

Brian Cotton, Editor.

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AMERC NEWS

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