The State of Kansas is moving forward in homeland security with a goal to coordinate all amateur radio organizations across the state for emergency communications. I believe this is a great step toward promoting amateur radio and will give us a great opportunity to show our abilities at the state level.

It began when the Kansas Department of Emergency Management [KDEM] at the direction of the Kansas State Adjutant General's Department, invited a few statewide amateur radio leaders to a meeting. We were going to have discussions on the need for a coordination of statewide emergency communications. With the intent to keep the original meetings small, the first Council meeting was planned for June 2004.

As KDEM proceeded to educate us [the representatives] about Homeland Security programs, a name for the group was chosen, the focus for the group was developed and By-Laws were created and approved. We had a total of 3 meetings in 2004 and will maintain a meeting schedule of 4 times per year. Our member meetings will also be open to the public and other interested parties. With the By-Laws now in place, our November 2005 meeting will be the election of our first leaders for the Council Executive Committee, consisting of a Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary. Now, at the end of our first year, we have developed our Council by adding other organizations which will help promote and give a full representation of all aspects of amateur radio.

**KARHSC "overview"**:  
The KARHSC is intended to be a network for amateur radio organizations with an interest in homeland security and disaster prevention, response and recovery. Each Council member organization will maintain its own identity and independence while closely collaborating with other Council member organizations, inter-faiths, and local, state, or federal authorities.

The Council will accomplish its mission by following a few primary principles: We will foster cooperation among Council member organizations at all levels and in all phases of disaster; we will coordinate the development of KARHSC policies and procedures, and implement services among Council member organizations; the Council will also provide links to national and international disaster relief organizations and will serve as advocate and liaison between member agencies and the State of Kansas.

One primary principle will be the exchange and dissemination of information among Council member organizations and the public, as well as local, state and federal agencies. We dedicate ourselves to
working together to achieve specific goals and to undertake specific projects at disaster sites.

We will form partnerships and prepare for disaster response through education, training and increasing awareness and preparedness in each organization. We plan to put on seminars, hold meetings with different agencies, attend regional and local conferences and offer training programs. Members will receive leadership development through these programs that will help them to build effective organizations in Kansas. Members will support the efforts of local, state and federal agencies and support appropriate legislation. We also encourage the participation in Community Emergency Response Teams statewide.

**KARHSC "Membership":**

Two categories of Membership was created to allow for non-amateur organizations who have a disaster response program to be a part of this important Council. Developing partnerships with organizations is critical for a united and coordinated disaster response. Categories of membership are:

**Partner** - to qualify they must:
- Be a radio amateur organization with voluntary memberships and constituencies, which are not-for-profit [those qualified under the IRS Code as 501c3].
- The organization must have a disaster response program and policy for commitment of resources to meet the needs of people affected by disaster without discrimination
- Organization must be statewide in scope

**Associate** - to qualify they must be:
- An organization, government agency, or business with disaster planning and operations responsibilities or capabilities that do not meet all of the criteria for Partner membership.
- They must have a disaster response program and policy for commitment of resources to meet the needs of people affected by disaster without discrimination.
- Need not be statewide in scope

Membership in the Council for new organizations will be approved by membership vote.

**Kansas Amateur Radio Homeland Security Council**

**2005 Charter Members and their representative:**

ARRL - Ron Cowan KBØDTI
ARES - Bob Summers KØBXF
CAP - Dennis Pearson KCØTJY
MARS - John Halladay KAØJMO
NTS - Tim Gorman WBØWR
RACES - Joseph Plankinton WDØDMV
SATURE - June Jeffers KBØWEQ
SKYWARN - Larry Staples AOAI
KDEM - Ida Kirmse
KEMA - J.D. Spradling KCØNYS

**KARHSC "Focus":**

Through our Council meeting discussions, the focus of "amateur radio awareness" became our very first priority. Marketing "amateur radio" was to be accomplished in 2005.

A news release was published in the Kansas Department of Emergency Management Newsletter in July 2005 giving these government leaders an overview and purpose of the Council. With this newsletter
being distributed to all emergency management offices and other government agencies across Kansas we feel this was a great step in getting the word to the right people about the presence of amateur radio.

The statewide conference for Kansas Emergency Managers Association [KEMA] in September 2005 will be our formal introduction to all the Kansas emergency managers. A KARHSC Directory was created and published which contains an overview about amateur radio in general with detail on each Council organization included. This Directory will be handed out to all persons attending the conference which included other emergency response representatives from across the state.

The future of KARHSC... during the next year we will continue to inform and educate emergency response agencies of the abilities of amateur radio through live demonstrations, presentations and video. The current Council members are very excited and dedicated to finding new avenues to promote amateur radio support. As our Council grows with added member organizations, the awareness of amateur radio will continue to be accomplished. The opportunity for these groups to work together has already become a great asset for all of us involved.

By involving the Kansas Department of Emergency Management Homeland Security Regional Representatives in our meetings, it has helped to make these important leaders aware of the support that amateur radio can provide during an emergency. In the future these representatives plan to utilize amateur radio in regional government agency exercises.

We continue to receive training by KDEM which recently included access to the Kansas government internet WebEOC site. This will definitely further the ability of each Council member to interact during disaster situations. Future Council meetings will include presentations from other government agencies to help educate the amateur radio groups on the scope of various state operations, and presentations to state agencies to help them understand amateur radio capabilities. We will continue working together to bring awareness on both sides which can only lead to a great partnership.

The KARHSC is featured on the official Kansas Department of Emergency Management website: www.accesskansas.org/KDEM/

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