

NEW LICENSE FOR ALL TEAMS!

As of today we have a new license from the FCC that all teams may use. During an e-mail discussion on the subject of REACT operations some time ago, one member brought up the subject of some teams that are licensed on frequencies other than GMRS. I know several that have done this, including my own. When done separately, each team pays at least \$85 and sometimes an additional \$150 or more for frequency coordination. Besides this, teams have the cost of license renewal. We decided to do something better - handle it all through REACT International, Inc. REACT historians advised that the subject of obtaining such a license was brought up years ago but it was not finalized.

With approval of the RI officers, and knowledge of the Communications Committee, an application was made last September. A donor was found to cover the cost, and now, finally, we have the license. The callsign is WPRT970 (nine-seven-zero, not nine seventy).

The frequencies we are now licensed on are 151.625, 464/469.500 and 464/469.550 Mhz. It was an obvious advantage to our organization for us to acquire a single license for all teams in the name of RI on the frequencies shown. Other organizations of a national character have done this. The benefits include:

- a) Save teams the expense of acquiring and renewing their individual licenses.
- b) Establish a set of common frequencies throughout the country to be used in addition to GMRS. This is becoming more important as we work out of our area with DCAT, mutual aid, etc. (Not all teams operate on 462.675 GMRS).
- c) Allow easier coordination with the many other agencies and organizations that already have a license on these frequencies.
- d) Permit higher power and/or repeaters (except for 151.625). Even the recently delicensed MURS frequencies of 151.82, .88, .94, and 154.57, and .60 have power and other limitations; FRS even more so. Neither fulfill this need.

Users should show the same professional manner as we are expected to demonstrate in all radio services we have. Messages must of course relate to the operations and business of REACT – no personal communications. Remember proper station identification required by FCC in Section 90.425A:

- (a) 1. Following the transmission of communications or a series of communications and
2. Every 15 minutes during a long transmission.

For any team that plans to use these frequencies, a copy of the license must be on hand in their records. This may be obtained by downloading from the FCC website where you will see such information as authorized power, etc. I have also requested that it be put on the RI website ASAP.

Bob Leef
PR Co-Chair

