OMEFT - ERATH COUNTY

The PLAN involves the coordination of members into two functions and defines the methods of control, communication, reporting and timing.

The PLAN is a flexible set of guidelines to help us organize the variables inherent in our visit to Erath. The key feature of this PLAN is that it allows flexible, discretionary observation periods and some versatility in dispatching/ground control.

The idea is quite simple. There will always be one group in charge of the communication network. Other groups can join and leave the network as the need arises. Those groups active in the network must maintain regular contact with the group in charge of network communication.

CREW: A CREW will be a group of members assigned to an Observation Post. Since the number of members per CREW may vary, the number of CREWs may also vary. The larger the CREW, the fewer observation posts we will be able to occupy. Recommended size = 2, minimum size = 2.

GROUND CONTROLLER (GC): The GC can also be a CREW member, and will coordinate the activities of ALL CREWs. An initial GC will be assigned each day, and rotated among different CREWs as necessary. An **ACTIVE** GC is one who is manning the phone.

OBSERVATION POSTS (OP): The OPs will be marked on a map given to each member. CREWS will be assigned to an OP. OPs may be rotated as long as the CG is notified. One crew per OP unless otherwise noted.

NET: The NET consists of an active GC-CREW plus any active OP-CREWs. Once the day's initial GC-CREW is active the NET is active. The flexibility of this plan is that it allows OP-CREWs to check in and out of the NET at their own discretion. Therefore, observation times are flexible and are at the discretion of the individual CREWs.

CHECK-IN-TIME: Check-in-times are assigned to OP's rather than crews. This is the time designated for a designated member of a OP-CREW to check-in by phone with the GC. CITs are noted by xx:xx, and are repeated hourly.

CHECK-IN-CHART: Here's a simple example of how this might look. A-F are the OPs. They are manned by example CREWs and the current GC and CITs are noted. *Wade* and *houtexan* are the CREW at Observation Post C, and *wade* is the Ground Controller. Their OP check-in-times are xx:15.

A	B
xx:05	xx:10
athena2012	(empty)
oboe	(empty)

C	D
xx:15	xx:20
wade ***GC***	*constellation212*
houtexan	*cosmic observer*

E	F
xx:25	xx:30
(empty)	*TheAvenger*
(empty)	*razpad*

REPORTING: When reporting an object, give direction, elevation, size, distance, and movement (if any). For example, *oboe* might report to GC: *oboe* at OP A. There is an object to the NW, at 45 degrees, 1/4 thumb width, moving slowly E. The GC would then report the same information to all other CREWs.

CREW ACTION UPON RECEIVING GC REPORT OF OBJECT: check your map and try to locate the object from your OP. If your CREW is unable to locate the object, at your discretion, make your way to the reporting OP, being mindful of any object movement data.

Each member will have a:

1. phone list containing the numbers of all attending members
2. map showing the location of all OPs and connecting roads
3. Check-in Chart showing active OP-CREWS and Check-In-Times
4. OMEFT Identification (to show property owners and law enforcement)

CREW calls to GC:

1. Brief check-ins every hour
2. When arriving at a location
3. When departing a location
4. When terminating observation
5. If help is needed
6. If switching to a back-up phone
7. If a sighting occurs (see REPORTING)

CREW Protocol:

8. CREW observation times are discretionary, check-in and check-out.

GC calls:

1. Should be quick and to the point (keep the GC's phone free)
2. CREW who is 10 min past check-in time
3. All CREWs to report a sighting (see REPORTING)
4. Nearest CREW, to a CREW needing help
5. All CREWs, to report CREW-OP arrivals, departures and termination (CREWs then adjust their check-in charts)
6. All CREWs to report a switch to a back-up phone number.

GC Protocols:

7. GC should have backup phone capability (two working phones per GC or CREW)
8. If GC loses phone capability, that GC should handoff to the next GC-CREW.
9. At GC change, new GC reports to ALL CREWs (that hour only)
10. If a GC-CREW terminates for the night, GC is passed to a remaining active CREW.
11. **GC WILL NOTIFY terminated CREWs**, last, in case of a sighting.
12. GC is not required to be at his OP, but must be active.
13. One call to an OP is considered a call to the entire OP-CREW
14. Backup GC: *missd* (Saturday and Sunday)

GC SCHEDULE: The initial GC for the day is fixed. That GC-CREW must be active. That CREW does not have to be at their OP at the scheduled time, but they MUST be available to handle NET phone traffic. The subsequent GC schedules are suggestions and will depend on the CREWS available on the NET. GC is a function that all crews should be willing to accept for some period of time.

Friday : GC1a: 6 PM –
Saturday: GC2a: 9 AM – 12 PM GC2b: 12 PM – 3 PM , etc
Sunday : GC3a: 9 AM - 12 PM GC3b: 12 PM – 3 PM , etc

Resolve in situ:

1. Size/number of CREWs
2. OP-CREW assignments
3. GC assignments