

their own and into the neighbouring areas. Suitable relay sites will be known to all members; these will most probably be used for manned talk through stations.

It must be fully understood that in no way can Raynet operate without the request of one of the user services or County Incident Officer.

If you should happen to *walk in* to an incident you could temporarily become controller. Your first step would be to raise preferably, a Raynet operator, requesting him to contact the relevant user service or the Police to authorise Raynet operation. Your chances of being involved in a remote incident are slight, but you should be prepared for such a situation. The Home Office has just granted permission to hams to pass third party messages in the event of a remote road traffic accident.

Storm and tempest are the major incidents in which Raynet has been involved. Groups covering the coast or who have rivers constantly liable to flooding in their areas are always alert to weather conditions; especially during Spring tides and high winds. The dates of tides and their height can be obtained from local tide tables.

When the possibility of flood conditions arise, Raynet groups on the coasts and especially at the estuaries are put on 'Yellow Alert' a couple of hours before high tide, allowing mobile and portable stations to be set up in strategic positions and radio paths to control checked. When one of the user services request Raynet aid, the system goes to 'Red Alert' a couple of hours before high tide, allowing mobile and portable stations to be set up in strategic positions and radio paths to control checked. When one of the user services request Raynet aid, the system goes to 'Red Alert' and all stations are involved.

Permanent Raynet Stations

In a number of areas where Raynet has been repeatedly valuable to the public services, much consideration has been given to help the local groups by the County councils. One such group is the County of Cornwall Raynet Group, (in fact there are seven



Local District Health Authority Ambulance Service and personnel exercise with Cornish Raynet in Truro.

groups in the area). Cornwall, with its miles of uninhabited moorland, criss crossed with narrow roads through valleys and over hills, makes communication difficult, even when using the repeaters, as many will know from their holidays.

After several years trojan work by the 150 Raynet members covering the County during heavy snow, appreciation of the service given by the groups was shown by the County Council in their joint venture with Raynet in helping to provide permanent emergency communication stations at vital points in the County.

At Raynet Headquarters in County Hall Truro an emergency communications control room has been set up with transmitters and receivers operating on 70-144 and 432MHz, also on HF bands for out of County operating. Tape recorders operate on both transmit and receive and have been found to be

invaluable at debriefings. The station is backed up by a standby generator and 12 volt heavy duty batteries. Another station has been set up in the Incident Centre of Truro City Hospital, where a 2 metre 25 watt tranceiver feeds a colinear on the roof.

Going mobile

Apart from the regular bad weather call outs, the Cornish Raynet teams were active during the Torry Canyon incident and more recently with the Penlee Lifeboat disaster, so it's not surprising that they have twice been awarded the RSGB Raynet Trophy!

Most groups have their glories to tell and not always as a direct result of a disaster (in this country anyway!) A number of Raynet Groups are joining forces with the Land Rover Rescue Teams that are