

Region 9 Army MARS Training Topics for “phone bridge” use

***** ATTEND - PARTICIPATE - ASK QUESTIONS - WE ALL NEED TO GET INVOLVED***
!!!SEND IN PARTICIPATION REPORTS ON TIME !!!**

TRAINING TOPIC – Net Control Station Tasks and Responsibilities for Voice nets.

LESSON INTENT – Define & Clarify what an NCS is expected to do.

REFERENCES – (Attached)

**Basic Training Course (R4M 3-200) – Pages 8-45 through 8-56)
ACP-125(F) -- paragraphs 605 through 611**

EXPECTED TIME TO DELIVER – 45

CONTENT OUTLINE & KEY POINTS –

1. Sustained emergency communications operations will require a large pool of operators qualified and ready to assist in maintaining continuous networks. In order to be **“QUALIFIED AND READY TO ASSIST”**.

The only way to be comfortable in the NCS role is to do it.

2. This Training Topic addresses NCS Tasks on a VOICE Net.
3. While there are many detailed tasks that an NCS might be called upon to do, there are a few that are common to all nets. Those are listed below and the details of HOW they are they are carried out.

NET OPERATIONS

The NCS directs all net operations. This includes the opening of the net at the proper time; ensuring proper net operation and discipline in accordance with ARMY MARS policies and practices; directing message traffic relay; ensuring that appropriate training is conducted in accordance with state/region training programs; conducting other appropriate net activities; and closing the net at the proper time; reporting net activity. A typical net outline will flow as follows:

- **NCS transmits net call** – “((Net call sign) (Net call sign)) this is (NCS call sign) Stations for the net, over”
- **Initial members check -in** – “THIS IS AAR9XX, AAR9YY,AAR9ZZ over” - OR MEMBERS WITH TRAFFIC – THIS IS AAR9XX (Traffic report)”
- **NCS Managing “Relays” for check-ins** - “(Net call sign) THIS IS (NCS call sign) ,are there any relays?”
- **NCS Accept and acknowledge “late” check-ins** - “THIS IS (NCS call sign) are there any additional check-ins, over” , THIS IS AAR9ZZ OVER, AAR9ZZ THIS IS (NCS Call Sign),ROGER, YOU FOLLOW (Last call In the roster),OUT – **Note: if there are multiple late stations after rogering them in, communicate to the first late check-in, you follow, the call of the last call sign in the check-in roster.** - THIS IS AAR9ZZ,AAR9YY,AAR9XX OVER, AAR9ZZ,AAR9YY,AAR9XX THIS IS (NCS Call Sign),ROGER, AAR9ZZ YOU FOLLOW AAR9RR, OUT
- **NCS recognizes or assigns ANCS** -(ANCS Call Sign) THIS IS (NCS Call Sign), YOU ARE ALTERNATE NET CONTROL STATION, make a net call, over- AAR9XX replies,“THIS IS (Call Sign of ANCS) WILL COMPLY, OUT - ALTERNATELY: THIS IS AAR4XX WILCO,OUT”
- **NCS acknowledges check-ins** – ((Net call sign) THIS IS (NCS call sign) – The following stations are in the net, (NCS call sign), AAR9XX, AAR9YY, AAR9ZZ, ALTERNET NCS station is (ANCS call sign) ALTERNET FREQUENCY IS M068, TIME IS 1234Z, OUT
- **NCS Maintaining & transmitting the “Roster”** - At this point you can direct the ANCS to transmit the net roster by M110.
- **NCS directs/clears all listed traffic** – Call station/s with traffic, if an addressee/s was not reported at check-in ask for the addressee/s – “(Call sign of Station with traffic) this is (NCS Call Sign) list addressee/s”.

- Once you have a traffic listing with addressee/s start with the highest priority first then the first station with next priority traffic and assign traffic accordingly. - **“(Station with traffic call sign) This is (NCS Call sign) Call (Designated Station taking traffic) and send your traffic,out.**
- **NCS** conducts official MARS business, at this point a bulletin can be sent , NCS or designated instructor conducts training
- **NCS declares net free as appropriate** - **((Net call sign), THIS IS (NCS call sign). “THIS IS A FREE NET. OUT”** - Stations may call one another with out contacting net control.
 - Note: In acknowledging additional check-in's or calling the net , **(Net Call Sign)** This is**(NCS Call Sign)**,out, automatically takes the net out of being Free. - **(net call sign)**this is **(NCS call sign) (Call of station checking in)** Roger, out.
- **NCS closes the net-** *This is (NCS call sign) Close Down, over"*

Submitting a “Net Report”. - ACP-126 **COMMUNICATIONS COMSPOT REPORT**

There are additional tasks that an NCS may be required to do. Some of these are:

- Delegating and assuming “Net Control”
- Requesting and interpreting “Signal Reports”
- Major importance of a “net wide” signal report request
- Directing a change in frequency

EXAMPLE OR PRACTICAL EXERCISE – All stations in the training net for this training topic will be called upon stations at random to carry out one or more of the tasks listed under Net Operations above.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION –

1. Who is responsible for taking over net control duties if the expected NCS does not come on the air?
2. How long should one wait for the expected net control station before assuming NCS duties?
3. What should you do if suddenly (and unexpectedly) the NCS apparently goes off the air (doesn't respond to calls or fails to issue expected calls)?
4. Who should maintain a copy of the net roster?
5. What do you do if you hear a station attempting to check in who is not acknowledged by NCS (or ANCS)?
6. If NCS transmits: **“(Net call sign) this is (ncs cal sign), Radio Check, Over”**. Who should answer?

QUESTIONS THAT CAME UP DURING DISCUSSION – Record questions that indicate less than complete understanding.

THE WAY AHEAD – Continue working on Net Control Station Tasks and Responsibilities for Voice Nets.

Signal Reporting

A station wanting to inform another station of his signal strength and readability will do so by means of a short concise report of actual reception such as, "**WEAK BUT READABLE**", "**LOUD BUT DISTORTED**", "**WEAK WITH INTERFERENCE**", etc. Reports such as "**FIVE BY FIVE**", "**FOUR BY FOUR**", or "**LIMA CHARLIE**" will not be used to indicate strength and quality of reception (See ACP-125(f) section 611)

Report of Signal Strength

LOUD Your signal is very strong.

GOOD Your signal strength is good.

WEAK Your signal strength is weak.

VERY WEAK Your signal strength is very weak.

FADING Continuous reception is not possible due to fading.

Report of Readability

CLEAR The quality of your transmission is excellent.

READABLE The quality of your transmission is satisfactory.

UNREADABLE I cannot read you.

DISTORTED Your signal is has distortion.

WITH INTERFERENCE Your signal has interference.

INTERMITTENT Your signal is intermittent.