



# Operating in a Tactical Net

## Part I

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# Nets and Pieces

- ◆ What is a “Net” ?
  - Several stations on one frequency, following organized procedures and controlled by one station (Net Control), for a specific purpose.
  
- ◆ What is “Net Control” ?
  - One station designated as moderator, chairman, team captain, and traffic cop.
  - Maintains order and implements procedures
  - Logs check-ins and activities
  
- ◆ Directed vs. Open Net
  - Directed Nets operate under strict procedures and are managed by Net Control. Stations talk with Net Control, not directly to each other.
  - Open Nets more relaxed, less formal. Net control maintains general order. Can tighten procedures if required.



# Tactical vs. FCC Call Signs



- ◆ Tactical Call Sign: A special temporary call sign assigned to an individual station or location for use during the net.
  - “Net Control”, “Rest Stop 1”, “SAG Van 3”, “Kitchen 2”, etc.
  - Used for efficiency and continuity as operators change shifts.
  - Easier to use, expedites calls, provides instant ID for net.
- ◆ FCC call signs still required:
  - part 97 requires that "Each amateur station . . . must transmit its
  - assigned call sign . . . at the **end of each communication**, and at least **every ten minutes** during a communication . . . ."
- ◆ Give your tactical call with your FCC call sign for ID periodically when called by Net Control



# Net Procedures

- ◆ Know what the Net procedures are
  - May differ among nets
  - Net Control should hold a pre-event briefing
  - Ask Net Control if you are unsure
  - Don't take offense if corrected
  
- ◆ Know why you are where you are
  - Know what you are supposed to do
  - Do that
  
- ◆ Listen for your Tactical Call Sign
  - May be unfamiliar with being called by other than your FCC call sign
  - Keep list of other tactical call signs being used
  
- ◆ Answer Promptly
  - You're where you are for a purpose
  - Net Control expects you to be at your post when called
  - Pay attention – you are there to serve
  - Stay until relieved or released by Net Control
  - The call you miss may be critical



# Net Procedures (Continued)

- ◆ Get to your post early – 10 to 20 minutes
  - Scope out location before hand if possible
  - Person you relieve has already stood their shift and has had enough fun
- ◆ Keep a log – know what written records are required / desired for this Net
- ◆ Brief Your replacement
  - Ensure continuity of post operations
  - Give your replacement your notes/log – turn in to Net Control at end of event
  - Examples of Information to pass:
    - ◆ Frequencies being used
    - ◆ Tactical call signs
    - ◆ Names of operators at other posts
    - ◆ Phone numbers
    - ◆ Maps
    - ◆ Purpose and procedures of you post
    - ◆ Events during your watch
    - ◆ Active issues, pending events
    - ◆ Location of essentials – restrooms / water / food / help
    - ◆ Anything else you would want to know



# Get The Traffic Through

- ◆ Work through Net Control – always
- ◆ Summarize - be brief but thorough
- ◆ Use plain English – No “QSL”, “10-20”, “Roger-WilCo”, etc
- ◆ Stop transmitting when you stop talking (No VOX or locking PTT)



# Get The Traffic Through (cont.)



- ◆ No unnecessary chatter
- ◆ Don't call endlessly
  - 1 or 2 tries are enough
  - Wait a few minutes to try again
- ◆ Pause for "break-ins"
- ◆ Use short simple phrases



# Get The Traffic Through (cont.)



- ◆ Acknowledge transmissions to you
  - Can / Will do or Can't do
- ◆ State questions in positive – should be answerable by a “Yes” or “No”, if possible
- ◆ Answer as directly as possible
- ◆ Know proper procedures for message handling (A future training session)
- ◆ Do let 3<sup>rd</sup> parties speak on your radio if necessary – this is perfectly legal if you are there as the operator.





# Practice

- ◆ Know the routines
- ◆ Practice being Net Control whenever you can
  - Sunday evening ARES/TEAC Net is a good opportunity
- ◆ Review what you know before actual event



# Operating in a Tactical Net



- ◆ End of Part I
- ◆ Tune in next week for Part II

