NETS
Net Operations

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1 Purpose

To provide a basis for carrying out the mission of the Monroe County, New York Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES), guidelines must be in place to meet the communications Requirements of Served Agencies. This document defines procedures Monroe County ARES volunteers will use, following the guidelines of the ARRL National Traffic System (NTS).

2 Scope

3 Net Operations

3.1 Net Control

During emergency operations, all nets in support of emergency communications will function as directed nets. Instructions by the Net Control Station (NCS) are to be followed. Do NOT debate the decisions of the NCS on the air unless the decision presents a clear and present danger and would result in injury, the loss of property, or the loss of life. In such a case, politely inform NCS that you cannot safely carry out the request(s) and why.

3.2   General Principles of Net Operation

3.2.1   Entering a Net
When establishing a new location, check into the appropriate net to advise the NCS of your site's activation. If your location has been assigned a tactical call sign, use the tactical call, remembering to close all transmission sequences with your own operator call sign to comply with FCC Rules and Regulations. When using your call sign, use the ITU phonetic alphabet the first time to ensure the NCS clearly understands your call.

3.2.2   Logs
All locations should maintain a log of events and traffic handled. Logs should contain copies of all formal traffic handled to comply with FCC Rules and Regulations. Logs should also contain notes about tactical traffic passed to and received from locations. The NCS should also maintain information regarding tactical traffic passed during the course of an event.

Record all incidents, on and off the air, that impact operations at your locations. Record the time the event occurs and the nature of the event. This information will assist in post-event discussions to implement changes to improve future operations.

3.2.3   Tactical Nets
Tactical nets, also referred to as Logistical Nets, normally involve short transmissions that are required to coordinate activities for an event. These nets are employed for the purpose of assigning personnel to locations, notifying appropriate personnel of dangerous conditions that require immediate attention and similar activities. The NCS will normally advise what type of net you are entering.

3.2.4   Traffic Nets

Traffic nets are normally used to relay information between Served Agency locations as well as interagency Communications. Typically, these nets are used for shelter operations, supplies requests, and other similar traffic.

3.3   Traffic Handling

What type of message traffic to use, tactical or formal? Consider the following when making your decision.

Tactical traffic is normally rapid exchanges of critical information required to support an operations. Such traffic normally involves matters of safety to life and property. In other words, if taking the time to format a formal message would pose a risk to life or property, a tactical message is appropriate.

For any other messages **not** involving matters of safety to life and property, formal traffic should be used. This is crucial for information originated by Served Agencies to provide an authority for releasing messages submitted for transmission. Not only are formal messages more accurate, they also relieve ARES members from the job of interpreting information. Traffic handlers, still, must exercise some care in making sure that the information received for transmission is accurately transferred to the recipient.

3.3.1   Tactical Traffic

A log of tactical traffic details should be maintained by the NCS as well as all stations involved in the transfer of information, unless that stations is incapable of recording the information. Such logs may be necessary to recreate critical situations in a manner similar to that of using formal message records to recreate certain events.

3.3.2   Formal Traffic

NTS traffic handling procedures will be followed when formal traffic is passed.

Insure that you have an adequate supply of message forms available to you throughout the course of the event.

Verify that the message precedence is appropriate and that the net is supporting the precedence of the traffic you with to pass. Normally, during an emergency, only Emergency, Priority, and Welfare traffic is passed.

Special nets may be established specifically for the handling of welfare traffic.

Use local time when documenting the time files so as to not cause any confusion amongst served agencies.

3.4   ID Requirements

ARES volunteers will ID themselves on the air as follows, in accordance with parts §97.119(a) and §97.119(d) as follows:

3.4.1   Routine and Logistical NETS

Participants will ID using their FCC assigned call sign at the end of each communication, or every 10 minutes.

3.4.2   Tactical or Operations NETS

Participants will start each communication with their assigned tactical call (i.e.: Greece Shelter to Red

Cross), and end each communication with their FCC assigned call sign, or, in certain cases, the call sign being utilized for the Net Control Station (i.e.: W2EOC being utilized by Net Control during a RACES activation).

3.5   References

ARRL Methods and Practices Guide Chapter 4

FCC §97

Station Log Sheet

NET 1-1   Net Control Stations

4   Safety

5   Abbreviations and Terms

AEC   Assistant Emergency Coordinator
ANCS   Alternate Net Control Station
ARES   Amateur Radio Emergency Services
ARRL   American Radio Relay League
CTCSS   Continuous Tone-Coded Squelch System
DCS   Digital-Coded Squelch
EC   Emergency Coordinator
FCC   Federal Communications Commission
ITU   International Telecommunication Union
NCS   Net Control Station
NTS   National Traffic System

6   Related Documents and Information

ARRL Methods and Practices Guide Chapter 4

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Station Log Sheet

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Revision History

REV	DATE	DESCRIPTION	AUTHOR - CALL
0	9 Sept 2007	Initial publication.	Emergency Plan Team