

Operating Procedures: Directed/Tactical Net

Event Name: _____

Tactical Call Sign: _____

A Directed Net is communications network STRICTLY controlled by the net control station following established procedures to accurately and rapidly move information for served agency. Stations are NOT permitted to communicate directly without express permission from Net Control.

TERMS

- **NECOS** - The NEt COntrol Station (sometime referred to as the NCS) is the absolute authority in control of all activity on a directed net.
- **Pro-words** are verbal signals used in a directed net to promote accurate, rapid communications.
- **ITU Phonetics** - Phonetic alphabet used in ALL emergency communications.

DIRECTED/TACTICAL NET PROCEDURES

Pro-words are used to promote accuracy and speed on directed and tactical nets. Proper consistent use of pro-words is the identification of a true emergency communications expert. – NO jargon or slang – BE PROFESSIONAL - Be Consistent.

- **OVER** - Used to let a specific station know to respond during an exchange of information.
- **OUT** - Used to indicate you have concluded this portion of your communications and no response is needed.
- **ROGER** - Indicates that a transmission has been received correctly and in full; DOES NOT replace the word “yes”.
- **STAND BY** or **WAIT** - Used to acknowledge a station, putting them “on hold” to attend to a more urgent matter.
- **AFFIRMATIVE** - Positive reply to a question. Means “Yes”.
- **NEGATIVE** - Negative reply to a question. Means “No”.
- **CLEAR** - This station is leaving the frequency / net.

ITU Phonetics will be used during Directed/Tactical Nets.

Stations will be called by tactical call signs, not FCC amateur radio call signs. Stations will use tactical call signs to identify transmissions and will call other stations by their tactical call sign. Stations must identify properly with their FCC call sign every ten minutes and at the end of each transmission; see the example below.

NCS: "SAG FIVE, this is Net Control, OVER."

SAG 5: "Net Control this is SAG FIVE, OVER."

NCS: "Has REST STOP TWO been cleared? OVER."

SAG 5: "AFFIRMATIVE, OVER."

NCS "Proceed to REST STOP THREE, OVER."

SAG 5: "WILCO. SAG FIVE, K4MKH, OUT."

NCS: "Net Control, KK4ECR, OUT."

Stations must be aware of their tactical call sign and answer promptly when called. This allows a net to be conducted without regard to what operator is at the radio of any particular unit or location. However, Part 97 requires each amateur radio station to ID with its FCC call sign at the end of each communication and every ten minutes during transmission; see the example above.

Stations may not call another station, or communicate directly with each other, without express authorization from Net Control.

Keep transmissions short. Short transmissions allow other stations to interrupt should they hold higher priority traffic.

Think through information and formulate thoughts before transmitting. However, should a pause during a transmission be necessary, say to confirm a street name, use the pro-word WAIT and release the push-to-talk button to allow any urgent traffic to break in. To resume the transmission, rekey the mic and proceed with the information.

A station requiring to pass higher priority traffic may break a net by transmitting their tactical call sign. STATIONS MUST NOT PASS INFORMATION UNTIL THEIR CALL SIGN HAS BEEN RECOGNIZED BY NET CONTROL. In addition, stations should not pass traffic or information until both stations have established communication.

Avoid unnecessary transmissions and keep transmissions brief.

Be sure to key the push-to-talk button BEFORE speaking. The best practice is to observe the radio's power meter fully engage before speaking. This insures that the transmitting radio, repeater and receiving radio have all engaged, thus eliminating truncated transmissions.

Pause two to three seconds between transmissions. This provides stations with higher priority traffic an opportunity to break the net.

It is assumed that stations will monitor the net continuously for the duration of the event and answer immediately when called. Net control must authorize any absence or closing down from the net. Stations must inform Net Control upon returning.

Primary Frequency _____ MHz Offset +/- _____ PL Tone _____

Alternate Frequency _____ MHz Offset +/- _____ PL Tone _____

Simplex Frequency _____ PL Tone _____

ARES Liaison _____

Event Director/Coordinator _____

