

SO YOU ARE GOING TO BE THE NECOS  
No. 1 in a Series of Training Tidbits

One of the best ways to prepare yourself for the day when you become a Net Control Station is to keep a list of the check-ins and traffic reports of the stations that come aboard ANY net you are on. It will not be long before you will notice which members are the GOOD Net Controls. Try and emulate them, not the POOR ones, who never paid enough attention to become GOOD ones! ALL members should be capable of conducting a net if and when the need arises.

How do you start? First, clear a spot on the operating table, desk or whatever you are using so there is room enough for the needed operating aids, paper, etc. These are things such as an up-to-date roster, map of the State, ZIP code, references and a list of stations and offices that must be guarded for in your State under the five or six most common Collective Call signs. What are the Collective Call Signs you ask? Check the NTP8-D, Annex K, Para 620 and you will find them listed. A good time to review all of Annex K.

Make sure there is enough room to hold the sheet of paper you are going to use to keep track of the stations that check aboard, along with their traffic reports, and other pertinent information. There is just no excuse for a few of the things I hear while monitoring some of the different State and Region nets, caused by the Net Control Station failing to do the things just mentioned.

Some weeks ago, at the request of higher authority, I suggested Net Control stations complete all the original call ups (including the additional call ups by selected stations) prior to authorizing abbreviated call signs. The constant repeating of: "abbreviated call signs are authorized" would not be necessary if the NECOS would wait until check - ins are completed. The net would run much smoother, and certainly sound more proficient. Constant reiteration of this phrase is not necessary and in truth, the NECOS does NOT have to authorize abbreviated call signs. However, it is certainly easier when it is done and done correctly.

Open the net at the correct time and on the proper frequency (and keep it there). Do NOT tune for off-frequency stations ....give them either a "short" or "long" count and get them on the frequency you have established.

If you are the assigned NECOS for a certain net, and find that you cannot make it, it is up to you to find a replacement. If this is known far enough in advance, contact the person in your State/Region that takes care of such things in order that a replacement may be found.

List the stations as they check in, followed by their traffic reports and ending with any other needed information, such as: requests to secure early. Be sure to list them in such a manner that you can understand what you wrote down five minutes later. I've heard the NECOS directing one station to call another long after the requested securing time of one or the other stations. REMEMBER when you ROGER a station aboard the net, you are also ROGERING HIS OR HER traffic report. If that TRAFFIC REPORT INCLUDED AN EARLY SECURING TIME, you have given that station permission to secure at the stated time! That is the reason the station probably will not be there after that time.

All of this requires one very important thing when acting as a Net Control.....  
COMMON SENSE and paying attention to what you are doing.

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