

Navy-Marine Corps MARS - Region Ten - Training
Use Date Range: 11/03/08 - 11/07/08

Subject: Chain of Command

Reference: Pacific Area Operations Guide
Chapter 1, Paragraph 3

- A. All communications must follow the "Chain-of-Command" unless otherwise directed by proper authority. Communications, which do not follow the chain-of-command, will contain a statement of authorization to bypass the chain of command.

- B. The chain of command is: member - State Director - Region Director - Area Director. The Area or Region Director, on occasion, may ask members for direct communications; this is done by an announcement in a broadcast. Assistants to the Area Director and Region Directors, while in the performance of their volunteer duties, communicate directly with the Area Director / Region Director.

- C. Communications with Chief, Navy-Marine Corps MARS is via the member's State Director, Region Director and Area Director. Assistants to Chief, Navy-Marine Corps MARS, while in the performance of their volunteer duties, communicate directly with Chief, Navy-Marine Corps MARS.

Navy-Marine Corps MARS - Region Ten Training
Use Date Range: 11/10/08 - 11/14/08

Subject: Specific Duties of the NCS

Reference: Pacific Area Operations Guide
Chapter 5, Paragraph 4, Sub D

Specific duties of the NCS include, but are not limited to, the following:

- 1) Submission of reports. Each NCS shall make a station participation and frequency usage report. Participation reports are described in detail in Chapter 6.
- 2) Direct and control the operation and flow of all traffic on the net, using procedures outlined in Chapter 7.
- 3) Refer administrative matters to the appropriate staff assistants.
- 4) Exercise strict net discipline at all times.
- 5) Limit all transmissions to the essential minimum while traffic is pending. Ensure that traffic is handled in order of precedence--highest precedence first, lowest precedence last.
- 6) Notify the appropriate Director (state/region/area) via the chain of command of any recommendations for changes and improvements.
- 7) Inform the appropriate Director (state/region/area) of any situation that occurs On-The-Air that caused embarrassment to or is not in the best interests of the Navy-Marine Corps MARS program.
- 8) Assist members having difficulties in obtaining repetitions or relays during the net.

Navy-Marine Corps MARS - Region Ten Training
Use Date Range: 11/17/08 - 11/21/08

Subject: Network Operational Controls

Reference: NTP8(D), Chapter 5, Paragraph 502

a. Net Control Station (NCS) - The net control station (NCS) is a station designated by appropriate authority to direct and control the operation and flow of all traffic on the net. Where practicable, NCS assignments should be rotated among members to take advantage of the significant training value of this key position.

b. Authority of the NCS extends only to the net operations. Within their scope of authority, decisions of the NCS are final. The NCS does not have jurisdiction over the administration of the individual stations within the net, except for reporting network participation. NCS is charged with the following responsibilities:

- (1) Expedite traffic on the net
- (2) Maintain circuit discipline
- (3) Monitor net operations to determine and initiate corrective action on procedural discrepancies
- (4) Submit a report of net participation to the designated authority on completion of the net.

c. Alternate Net Control Station (ANCS): An Alternate Net Control Station (ANCS) shall be designated to assume the duties of NCS when directed or when NCS has failed to answer after three successive calls.

When assuming NCS duties, the ANCS will announce NCS assumption (ZKA) by a transmission to the net. In the event NCS or ANCS are not present, another member of the net should assume the duties of NCS until such time as the NCS or ANCS report into the net.

Navy-Marine Corps MARS - Region Ten - Training
Use Date Range: 11/24/08 - 11/28/08

Subject: Net Chain of Events

Reference: Pacific Area Operations Guide
Chapter 7, Paragraph 1.C

- 1) The NCS opens the net and ends with the proword OVER.
- 2) If a traffic rep has his/her traffic listing in a digital mode, he/she will notify NCS.
- 3) The NCS recognizes all stations that were heard.
- 4) The NCS again calls the net and receives check-ins, recognizing them as before.
- 5) The NCS may now authorize abbreviated call signs and this is encouraged for net efficiency.
- 6) The NCS now assigns the traffic for which there is little question on who should be taking it by directing it to be passed.
- 7) The NCS asks for check-ins regularly between traffic.
- 8) The NCS lists remaining traffic to solicit takers, matches traffic to takers and directs that it be passed.
- 9) The NCS continues until all traffic is passed that can be. Remaining traffic may be taken by a station for later relay to addressee, sent back to the mailbox, or de-listed by station holding it for delivery by other net or means.
- 10) The remaining net time is devoted to training and then a free net.

Navy-Marine Corps MARS - Region Ten - Training
Use Date Range: 12/01/08 - 12/05/08

Subject: Network Participation

Reference: NTP8(D), Chapter 3, Paragraph 325.a

- a. If a member participates from a station other than his/her own, such as a military auspices MARS station, this participation must also be reported in order that proper credit is obtained. When operating from such a station, the member should indicate his/her call sign as operator on check-in with the NCS from the military auspices station.

Examples:

1. NNN0WSI is operating NNN0POB station (POB not present)

NNN0AAA THIS IS NNN0POB, OPERATOR NNN0WSI,
NO TRAFFIC, OVER

2. NNN0WSI is operating NNN0POB station (POB present)

NNN0AAA THIS IS NNN0POB, OPERATOR NNN0WSI,
NO TRAFFIC, ALSO CHECK-IN NNN0POB, NO TRAFFIC, OVER

3. NNN0WSI is visiting NNN0POB station

NNN0AAA THIS IS NNN0POB, NO TRAFFIC, ALSO CHECK-IN
NNN0WSI, NO TRAFFIC, OVER

Navy-Marine Corps MARS - Region Ten Training
Use Date Range: 12/08/08 - 12/12/08

Subject: Mobile Versus Portable, General Guidelines

These are general guidelines only on determining if you are a mobile or portable station when checking into a net. There are many possible scenarios, so there is no hard rule.

Portable is used when a station is at a temporary but fixed location away from his/her station location of record and not operating at another member's station.

Mobile is when a station is mobile or in a mobile unit, whether moving or parked.

The significant difference is whether NCS can assume the station is staying put, is traveling, or likely will be traveling. As long as a station who is not at "home base" and not operating at another station, has set up a fixed temporary station location they should use "portable".

In all other situations, whether in a vehicle, on a bicycle, or walking, should use mobile to indicate they are or likely will be on/on the move.

As an example, an RV camped for the night is still mobile. An RV parked for the next month at a campground is portable.

Navy-Marine Corps MARS - Region Ten - Training
Use Date Range: 11/14/05 - 11/18/05

Subject: Use of the 3 Common and Alternate Frequencies

Reference: Pacific Area Operations Guide
Annex C, Paragraph 17.M

- 1) All frequencies shall be referred to using the Navy Marine-Corps MARS frequency matrix codes with the exception of the three common national ECOM frequencies used as primary frequencies for the PA1E net. The PA1E net has authorized use of NCK, NFN and NMH as alternate frequencies but only for MARS stations. SHARES and other non-MARS stations are not authorized to use these frequencies.

- 2) Use of Navy Marine-Corps MARS call signs is legal only on frequencies under the control of federal agencies. These agencies include: all three MARS services, DOD, any SHARES (3 common only), USCG and USCG Auxiliary, National and State Guard.

Excluded stations are: CAP, Canadian MARS and all amateur stations.

When using amateur frequencies to relay messages, use your FCC amateur call sign. Even though Navy-Marine Corps MARS has no "general prudential rule" which holds that, in the event of an actual emergency involving the loss of life and limb or major property, all necessary communications related to that emergency are legal. The FCC's general prudential rule does apply to Navy-Marine Corps MARS in those times.

Navy-Marine Corps MARS - Region Ten Training
Use Date Range: 12/22/08 - 12/26/08

Subject: Radio Checks

Reference: NTP8 (D)
Chapter 7, Paragraph 711

711. PROWORDS RELATED TO RADIO CHECKS

The prowords listed below are for use when initiating and answering queries concerning signal strength and readability ("radio checks"):

A. General: RADIO CHECK What is my signal strength and readability, i.e., how do you hear me?

ROGER I have received your last transmission satisfactorily. The omission of comment on signal strength and readability is understood to mean that reception is loud and clear. If reception is other than loud and clear it must be described with the prowords from subparagraphs 711.b and 711.c.

B. 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 Your signal strength fades to such an extent that continuous reception cannot be relied upon.

C. Report of readability:

CLEAR Excellent quality.
READABLE Quality is satisfactory.
UNREADABLE The quality of your transmission is so bad that I cannot read you.
DISTORTED Having trouble hearing you because your signal is distorted.
WITH INTERFERENCE Trouble hearing due to interference.

Navy-Marine Corps MARS - Region Ten - Training
Use Date Range: 12/29/08 - 01/02/09

Subject: Net Operating Notes - Part One
Reference: Pacific Area Operations Guide
Chapter 7, Paragraph 3.A-G

A. When directing comments or information for all stations on the net, the NCS must call:

*"0X1B, THIS IS NNNØAAA, (state comments or questions),
OVER"*

B. If unable to determine a station's call sign due to interference or because the signal is weak, the proper action is for the NCS to call:

"UNKNOWN STATION, THIS IS NNNØAAA, OVER"

1) If assistance is required, NCS will issue the call:

*"0X1B, THIS IS NNNØAAA, IS THERE A STATION THAT CAN
RELAY? OVER"*

2) Responding stations should reply with ONLY:

"NNNØAAA, THIS IS NNNØBBB, OVER"

C. When a station leaves a net in progress, the station will check out with NCS unless that is impractical due to unforeseen circumstances.

D. Stations requesting to "CLOSE DOWN" from the net at a specific time will do so utilizing ZULU time, and NOT "HALF PAST THE HOUR," "FORTY MINUTES AFTER THE HOUR," etc. All times must be given using the ZULU standard.

Example: *"THIS IS NNNØBBB, REQUEST TO CLOSE DOWN AT
ZERO ONE THREE ZERO ZULU, OVER"*

However, stations may also request to "CLOSE DOWN" immediately with the phrase:

Example: *"THIS IS NNNØBBB, REQUEST TO CLOSE DOWN, OVER"*

Navy-Marine Corps MARS - Region Ten - Training
Use Date Range: 01/05/09 - 01/09/09

Subject: Net Operating Notes - Part Two

Reference: Pacific Area Operations Guide
Chapter 7, Paragraph 3.A-G

E. When a station responds with "OVER," that station is considered ready to copy and has communications at least "readable" with the sending station.

Example: *ALPHA BRAVO CHARLIE, THIS IS ECHO TANGO DELTA,
OVER*

If the link is not reliably "readable", the station should add appropriate comment or prowords before the "OVER". Some examples are: "SPEAK SLOWLY, OVER", "WORDS TWICE, OVER", or "WEAK BUT READABLE, OVER." In extreme cases, the receiving station should advise the NCS that a relay will be needed when assigned the message.

F. When a station is ready to list a PRIORITY or IMMEDIATE message, he/she may break-in at any opportune moment, by transmitting the precedence three times such as:

*IMMEDIATE IMMEDIATE IMMEDIATE, (NCS) THIS IS NNNØBBB,
OVER*

The NCS will immediately answer the station, cease all business of lower precedence, and handle the high precedence message.

However, high precedence drill messages may be handled after regular traffic is handled.

G. The general rule is that if there are multiple high precedence messages on the net, NCS will handle all IMMEDIATE messages first in the order that they are listed, then all PRIORITY messages in the order that they are listed until they are handled.

Navy-Marine Corps MARS - Region Ten - Training
Use Date Range: 01/12/09 - 01/16/09

Subject: Net Operating Notes - Part Three

Reference: Pacific Area Operations Guide
Chapter 7, Paragraph 3.H-N

- I. No station, other than the Area/Region/State Director, Deputy Area Director or the Assistant to the Area/Region/State Director for Net Operations/Reports, may question the judgment of a NCS while the net is in progress.
- J. ECOM nets shall, in so far as possible, be conducted exactly as traffic nets as described in this chapter.
- K. Anytime the NCS turns the net over to his/her ANCS, the ANCS becomes the NCS and his/her first action is to appoint an ANCS. The new ANCS can be the regularly assigned NCS.
- L. During the initial call up and response, both call signs will be used by both stations. After this, each member only needs to respond with his/her own call sign when continuing with that exchange. For example, an initial call exchange would be (abbreviated call signs have not been authorized in this example),

NNNØEEE, THIS IS NNNØFFF, OVER

NNNØEEE responds with:

NNNØFFF THIS IS NNNØEEE, OVER

After this initial exchange, each member then only needs to use his/her call sign when continuing with the exchange. NNNØFFF would continue with, *THIS IS NNNØFFF*

- M. Operators will use personal call signs on all nets unless acting in their official capacity, in which case they will use their administrative call signs. Administrative call signs are commonly used on administrative nets and for some appropriate positions, on ECOM nets.