

Amateur Radio - Formal Net Etiquette

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Syllabus

- What is a “directed net?”
- What is a “tactical net?”
- What is the role of Net Control?
- What are tactical call signs and how are they used?
- How do I use my FCC call sign if I am using a tactical call sign?
- What is the proper etiquette to use?

What is a “Directed Net?”



- A directed net is organized and controlled by a net control station.
- Anyone wishing to call or send a message to another net party must first receive permission from the net control operator.
- Messages are handled in the order received unless a higher priority is required.

What is a “Tactical Net?”

- A tactical net is used to coordinate real-time activities related to a specific emergency or special event.
- Fast paced.
- Messages are usually brief and unwritten.

What is Net Control's role?

- The Net Control Operator (NCO) functions as a “traffic cop” for messages.
- The NCO decides what happens during the net.
- The NCO is responsible to know what is going on with all participants.



What is a “tactical call sign?”

- Used during special event and emergency nets.
- Identifies a job, position or location instead of a person.
- Allows you to call someone performing a specific job without knowing their FCC call sign.
- Eliminates confusion during position changes or positions manned by multiple operators.

Using a tactical call sign vs. an FCC call sign

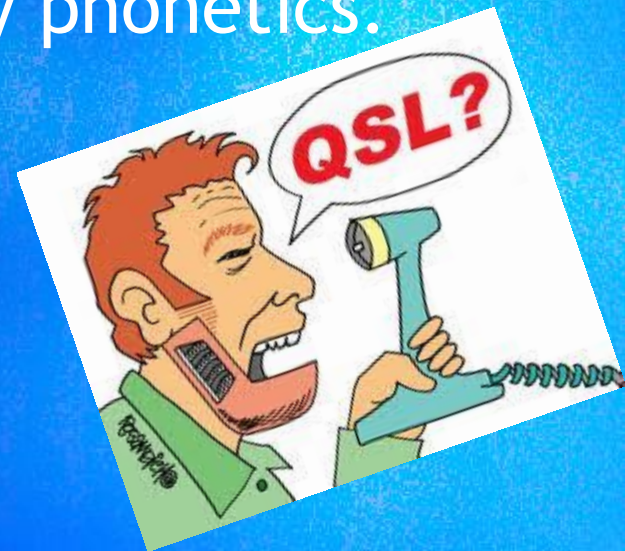
- Use your assigned tactical call sign to initiate contact with the NCO.
- Use your FCC call sign as per FCC rules - every 10 minutes during your conversation and/or when you sign off (clear with the NCO).

Calling and Clearing

- “<tactical call sign> to Net [Control].”
- “Net [Control] from <tactical call sign>.”
- “<tactical call sign>”
- “<tactical call sign> <FCC call sign> [clear].”

Relaying your traffic

- Try to think through what you're going to say before you say it.
- Be brief - don't ramble - get your point across.
- DON'T SHOUT!
- Use plain language - no Q-codes or 10-codes.
- Use military phonetics - not cutesy phonetics.



Net Conduct and Etiquette

- Listening is 50% of the conversation.
- Don't get in a hurry - pause briefly before and after keying your microphone.
- Try as much as possible to tune out other distractions, the NCO may be trying to get in touch with you.
- Get permission from NCO before proceeding with your traffic or calling another station.



Net Conduct and Etiquette

- Inform the NCO if you are leaving your post and when you return.
- Don't criticize or argue with fellow operators on-air.
- Always use your FCC call sign to sign off after your traffic is passed and receipt acknowledged.



Emergency Traffic



- Never interrupt a current traffic exchange unless you have a life & death situation or emergency traffic.
- 2 ways to call net control:
 - Say “break, break, break <tactical call sign>.”
 - Say “<tactical call sign>, emergency traffic.”

Questions??

