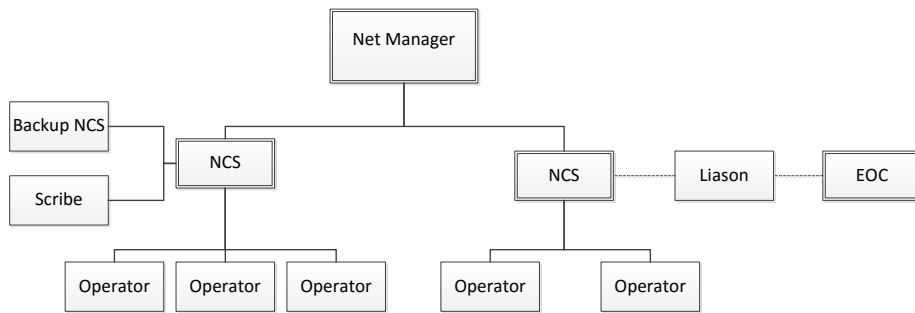


Net Control Station Quick Reference Guide



The Net Manager is responsible for recruiting and training NCS operators, defining the net schedules and arranging for relief operators.

Net Control Station (NCS):

- is responsible for one, and only one, net at a time.
- located in a position to hear and be heard by most everyone
- enforces net discipline; decides what happens on the net and when
- handles the needs of the net as quickly and efficiently as possible
- activates, assigns, and keeps track of resources
- assigns tactical calls
- keeps a good log
- has a clear speaking voice and controls his/her tone
- has good command of the English language
- can handle physical and mental stress for long periods
- can listen and respond in a noisy/chaotic environment
- has good hearing
- writes legibly
- uses tactical calls
- uses plain English - no "10" codes or "Q" signals
- uses standard phonetics
- thinks before keying
- is as concise as possible
- knows how to operate the radio
- frequently identifies name and reason for the net
- transmits only facts, not conjecture
- takes frequent breaks
- when transmitting, keys up, takes a breath, then talks
- always responds with the call stations tactical or FCC call sign

When operators check in to the net, expect them to stay on the net until they check out or NCS closes the net.

Affirmative = "Yes"

Negative = "No"

Roger = "Acknowledged. I have received your transmission."

Tactical Call Signs: Brief, describing location and function
Proper FCC identification is still necessary

Relaying: Operators break the net, "RELAY, [call sign]"

Practice Techniques

Practice makes perfect. Use the following exercises to hone your skills.

1) Copy call signs

While listening on the air to a net, copy the call signs of the operators checking in to the net. Listen to HF nets for a greater challenge.

2) Write it down

While listening to a net, write down what is going on—messages that are passed, assignments made, announcements, etc.

3) Listen

Sounds corny, but try to listen to poor HF transmissions. Attempt to focus through the noise. You can even practice on 2 meters by tuning your receiver 5 kHz off frequency.

4) Run a net

Arrange with a local 2 meter NCS to run a net, or stand up your own. Tune to a local repeater, state that you're practicing your NCS skills, and ask for operators to check in. Record yourself.

5) NTS Nets

Get involved in your local National Traffic System net and send messages to your non-ham friends.

Potential Support Staff

Backup NCS	Computer Operators
Traffic Logger	Liaisons
Information Analyst	Packet Operators
Net Supervisor	Other Digital Mode Operators
Runners	HF Radio Operators
Critical Frequency Monitors	VHF Radio Operators
Phone Operators	