



COMPANION GUIDE TO ONLINE TRAINING

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PLN-05 · COMCON Communications Readiness Condition STUDENT COMPANION GUIDE

The Comms Status Field Reference

The five-level status for the health of communications infrastructure.
Reference tables, checklists, and worksheets for the PLN-05 online lessons.

Edition 1.0 · 2026

Semper Paratus, Semper Gumby

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PLN-05 — COMCON: Communications Readiness Condition

Companion Guide to Online Training

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THIS GUIDE REQUIRES AN ACTIVE PATREON SUBSCRIPTION

It is provided as a reference companion to the PLN-05 COMCON online lessons and is not a standalone substitute for that training.

ONLINE TRAINING ACCESS

Subscribe at patreon.com/fortunefavorstheprepared (Operator tier or above), then access the online lessons at fortunefavorstheprepared.com/pln-05-landing/.

INSTRUCTOR-LED GROUP TRAINING

For MAG-level group instruction using this guide and the online lessons together, contact fortunefavorstheprepared@protonmail.com.

How to Use This Companion Guide

This guide is a field reference, not a replacement for the online lessons. Complete the PLN-05 COMCON lessons first — the reasoning behind each level, domain, and trigger is taught there. Return to this guide afterward to drill the reference tables and fill in the worksheets.

ORDER MATTERS

Read the guide in order. Part I gives you the reference tables. Part II gives you the checklists and worksheets that turn those tables into a plan you've written down. Part III is the appendix — related courses, sourcing, and doctrinal references.

THIS GUIDE IS NOT STANDALONE

The instruction is delivered through the online lessons. This guide contains condensed reference tables and blank worksheets only — no knowledge check answers, no scenario solutions.

Guide Map — What to Reference When

Part	Use It When You Need To...
I — Reference Tables	Look up the five COMCON levels, the eight watched domains, or the crosswalk to DEFCON/COGCON/CYBERCON.
II — Worksheets	Confirm what to actually do at your current COMCON level, or check your own PACE plan against it.
II — Worksheets	Fill in your household or MAG PACE plan and your personal COMCON action triggers.
III — Appendix	Trace the reasoning back to source doctrine and related FFTP courses.

PART I — REFERENCE TABLES

Chapter 1 — Reference for Lesson 1: What COMCON Is

COMCON — the Communications Readiness Condition — is the FFTP five-level status for the health of communications infrastructure. It answers one question, every cycle: can you still get a message through? It runs on a 5-to-1 scale, matching the convention used by DEFCON and the wider family of readiness conditions: 5 is the steady, normal state and 1 is total collapse. As the level descends, the operating posture escalates along three actions — monitor, harden, relocate.

Where COMCON Sits

COMCON works alongside two other readiness frameworks: PLN-04 PREP-CON (the readiness posture before conditions deteriorate) and PLN-06 CONCON (your continuity posture once they have). All three work the same way: FFTP publishes the general outline — and, for PREP-CON and COMCON, a national reference reading — but the specific criteria for your own household or MAG is always yours to develop.

Framework	Who Develops Your Specific Criteria	What It Tells You
PLN-04 PREP-CON	Your household or MAG (FFTP publishes the general framework and a national reference)	The readiness posture before conditions deteriorate.
PLN-05 COMCON	Your household or MAG (FFTP publishes the general framework and a national reference)	Whether communications are working, by your own definition.
PLN-06 CONCON	Your household or MAG entirely — FFTP publishes only the general framework; there's no national reading	Your continuity posture once conditions have deteriorated.

COMCON IS AN OUTLINE, NOT YOUR SPECIFIC CRITERIA

COMCON's five levels and its national reference reading are FFTP's. What actually counts as a level change for your household or MAG — your specific criteria — is something you develop yourself, the same way you would for PREP-CON. Either way, COMCON is not the same thing as your own CONCON decision, and it is not the same thing as your COM-01 Communications P.A.C.E. Plan. COMCON tells you what the network looks like, by whatever definition you've set; your PACE plan is what you actually do about it.

Chapter 2 — Reference for Lesson 2: The Five COMCON Levels

Each level pairs a status label with the operating posture it drives. These are the canonical definitions — the reasoning behind each one is taught in the online lessons.

Level	Status	Posture	Picture	Your Move
COMCON 5	Normal Operations	Monitor	Cellular, internet, broadcast, and radio all functioning.	Keep gear maintained, codeplugs current, check-in plan known.
COMCON 4	Increased Vigilance	Monitor closely	Indicators of cyber probing, regional jamming, or solar activity.	Verify — test radios, confirm backups, brief the check-in plan.
COMCON 3	Confirmed Degradation	Harden	Confirmed outages or attacks affecting one or more networks.	Move down your PACE plan to alternate and contingency methods.
COMCON 2	Reduced Capacity	Harden / prepare to relocate	Major networks down or isolated; only limited channels remain.	Run your comms plan in full — pre-arranged nets, check-in windows.
COMCON 1	Total Collapse	Relocate	No phone, no internet, no broadcast across the affected area.	Fall back entirely to pre-arranged nets, message drops, rally points.

Chapter 3 — Reference for Lesson 3: What COMCON Watches — Eight Domains

COMCON is built from the health of several distinct layers, any one of which can degrade independently and move the level on its own. The governing rule: the level reflects the single highest-severity domain in degradation, not an average.

Domain	What It Tracks
Satellite Communications	Constellation health and theater degradation — LEO and geostationary services, resilience under jamming.
GPS / GNSS	Position, navigation, and timing integrity — interference, jamming, spoofing, and knock-on effects.
Submarine Cables	Undersea cable integrity and build-out — cuts, faults, repair access, corridor risk.
Terrestrial & Cellular	Carrier and public-safety networks — major outages, FirstNet status, direct-to-device developments.
Internet Backbone & Routing	BGP routing events, major cloud-provider outages, deliberate shutdowns at scale.
Electronic Warfare	Active jamming and denial environments driving satellite, GNSS, and theater degradation.
HF & Space Weather	Radio propagation — solar activity, geomagnetic storms, band-by-band HF impact.
Public Safety & Alerting	9-1-1 and PSAP infrastructure, and the IPAWS / EAS / WEA alerting backbone.

COMMS WATCH — THE WEEKLY DEEP READ

Every domain above is tracked in depth in COMMS Watch, the FFTP weekly communications-infrastructure product, at fortunefavorstheprepared.com/comms-watch.

Daily updates are in the Daily Threat Report and other reports at <https://fortunefavorstheprepared.com/dtr/>

Chapter 4 — Extended Reference (Lessons 1–3): Crosswalk (Not a Lookup)

THESE CONDITIONS ARE NOT PUBLIC

DEFCON, COGCON, and CYBERCON are not publicly announced. Their current levels are generally classified. The table below is a conceptual alignment showing where a COMCON level would broadly sit relative to those systems if their levels were known — not a way to read a real DEFCON off a COMCON number.

Additional information on these, and other, government conditions can be found at <https://fortunefavorstheprepared.com/> under the threat assessment menu.

COMCON	DEFCON	COGCON	CYBERCON	Reference Posture
5	5	4	5	Routine monitoring; secure networks on standard protocols.
4	4	3	4	Enhanced monitoring and redundancy checks; partial continuity-site readiness.
3	3	2	3	Compromised networks isolated; alternate channels deployed; failover activated.
2	2	1	2	Full redundancy; priority restoration of critical command links.
1	1	1	1	Independent and last-resort channels only; all continuity sites active.

PART II — WORKSHEETS

Chapter 5 — Reference for Lesson 4: Level-by-Level Action Checklist

Use this checklist to confirm your actual behavior matches the posture your current COMCON level calls for. Check the box only once the action is genuinely done — not planned.

At COMCON 5 — Normal Operations

- ☐ Radios and backups powered on and functional
- ☐ Codeplugs / channel lists current
- ☐ Household or MAG check-in plan known by all members

At COMCON 4 — Increased Vigilance

- ☐ Test-transmitted on primary and alternate channels within the last week
- ☐ Confirmed backup power for radios and chargers
- ☐ Briefed the check-in plan to all household/MAG members

At COMCON 3 — Confirmed Degradation

- ☐ Moved to alternate channel per PACE plan
- ☐ Battery or hand-crank radio in use for news/alerts
- ☐ Reduced non-essential transmissions

At COMCON 2 — Reduced Capacity

- ☐ Operating on independent channels only (GMRS/amateur/HF)
- ☐ Scheduled check-in windows active and being kept
- ☐ Treating public/cellular networks as unavailable

At COMCON 1 — Total Collapse

- ☐ Operating entirely on pre-planned independent channels
- ☐ Rally points and message-drop procedures active
- ☐ Transmission discipline in effect — brief, scheduled, need-to-know

Chapter 6 — Reference for Lesson 4: PACE Plan Self-Check

COMCON tells you when to move down your PACE plan. This checklist confirms the plan itself is ready before you need it — see COM-01 Communications P.A.C.E. Planning for the full course.

- ☐ Primary channel identified and tested
- ☐ Alternate channel identified and tested
- ☐ Contingency channel identified and tested
- ☐ Emergency (last-resort) channel identified and tested
- ☐ Every household/MAG member knows all four, in order
- ☐ Rally points and check-in windows agreed and written down

Chapter 7 — Reference for Lesson 5: My PACE Plan Worksheet

Fill in your own household or MAG communications plan. Review it whenever COMCON or your own CONCON posture changes.

Primary channel / method:	
Alternate channel / method:	
Contingency channel / method:	
Emergency (last-resort) channel / method:	

Scheduled check-in windows:	
Rally point(s):	

Who carries a copy of this plan:	
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Chapter 8 — Reference for Lesson 5: COMCON Trigger Worksheet

Write down, in advance, exactly what you will do the moment COMCON drops to each level. Deciding it now means you are not deciding it under pressure later.

COMCON Level	My Specific Action(s)

PART III — APPENDIX

Chapter 9 — Related FFTP Courses

Course	Relationship to PLN-05 COMCON
PLN-04 PREP-CON	The companion readiness condition — where you stand in the disruption timeline. COMCON is one of the inputs to your PREP-CON posture.
COM-01 Communications P.A.C.E. Planning	The plan COMCON tells you when to execute — Primary, Alternate, Contingency, Emergency.
PLN-06 CONCON — Continuity Conditions	Your continuity posture once conditions have deteriorated. Like PREP-CON and COMCON, FFTP publishes only the general framework — your household or MAG develops its own specific criteria for all three.
Mutual Assistance Group (MAG)	The group context in which COMCON triggers are shared and check-in plans are run.

Chapter 10 — Origin Note

COMCON began as worldbuilding in The Continuity Chronicles and proved useful enough to be built for real. It is now assessed and published in the FFTP Daily Threat Report on the same cycle as every other readiness product.

Chapter 11 — Doctrinal & Reference Sources

Source	Relevance
FM 2-0, Intelligence	General intelligence assessment and reporting cycle discipline underlying the DTR.
FFTP Daily Threat Report	The publication vehicle for COMCON, PREP-CON, and the geographic events summary.
FFTP Preparedness Book of Knowledge — Readiness Conditions	The hierarchy and relationships among PREP-CON, COMCON, CONCON, DEFCON, COGCON, and CYBERCON.

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