COMMUNICATIONS · COM-02

COM-02 Net Procedures & Prowords

Net discipline, prowords across three families, and the accountability paperwork every designated operator should know.

BLUF: A net only works because everyone on it follows the same rules — who may talk, when, and how. This course covers net discipline, three distinct proword families (net control, NTS/formal traffic, tactical/EMCON), SKYWARN and tactical net conventions, and the ICS-309/ICS-214 paperwork that makes a net accountable afterward.

Why this matters

A designated operator who doesn't know net discipline is a liability on someone else's net — stepping on transmissions, misreading a proword, or leaving no record of what happened. This course builds the operator every net wants: quiet until recognized, precise once transmitting, and accountable afterward.

▸ **Discipline and paperwork are what separates a net that works from one that doesn't.**

THE NET LIFE CYCLE

#	Stage	What Happens
1	Opening Call-Up	NCS states purpose and net type, and calls for any emergency or priority traffic first
2	Check-In Period	Stations announce presence and are recognized by NCS (or a roll call is conducted)
3	Business / Traffic	The net's actual purpose is carried out — messages passed, reports given
4	Net Close	NCS formally ends the net, often with a summary of what happened

COURSE LESSONS

#	Lesson
1	Why Nets Have Rules: Foundations of Net Discipline — roles, the four-stage life cycle, brevity as discipline
2	Prowords & Standard Phraseology — net control, NTS/formal traffic, and tactical/EMCON prowords; Q-signals
3	Net Types: Open/Informal vs. Closed/Formal/Directed — net scripts, roll call, requesting to speak
4	Specialized Nets: SKYWARN and Tactical/Incident Nets — tactical call signs, Part 97 ID, APRS vs. manual tracking
5	Running the Net: NCS Skills, Logging, and Accountability — ICS-309, ICS-214, and the capstone

DOCTRINAL SOURCES

Source	What It Covers
47 CFR §97.119	Station identification — the tactical-call-sign ID requirement
ARRL Ch. 5 / FSD-3 / FSD-218	NTS net-control conventions and numbered radiograms
ARES Field Resources Manual	Open/closed/directed net structure; tactical/resource/command nets
ATP 6-02.53, Appx I	Standard military voice-radio prowords, incl. SILENCE / SILENCE LIFTED
FEMA ICS-309 / ICS-214	Communications log and activity log forms and field usage