[FFTP roundel — insert before delivery]

COMMUNICATIONS SERIES · COM-04

COM-04 EMCON (Emissions Control)

The Three EMCON Conditions

When to transmit, when to go dark, and how to keep a minimal RF signature the rest of the time.

BOTTOM LINE UP FRONT

EMCON is the decision of whether and how to transmit at all — not what a transmission says once it happens. It is not COMSEC (which protects content) and it is not general net discipline (which keeps a net running smoothly); it is specifically about controlling a station's detectable, locatable signature.

WHY THIS MATTERS

A transmitter can be found whether or not its content can be read.

Encrypting a message protects what it says; it does nothing about the frequency, power, timing, and duration that let a listener detect and locate the station that sent it. Most of what makes a net exposed — predictable schedules, one station always transmitting, antennas clustered in plain sight — has nothing to do with content and everything to do with discipline.

> *"A quiet net doesn't mean less traffic — it means the same traffic with a smaller signature."*

THE THREE EMCON CONDITIONS

Normal Traffic	Everyday net operation. No special restrictions; good RF-signature habits still apply.
Restricted Traffic	Shorter, batched transmissions at minimum sufficient power, on less predictable timing — the net's day-to-day "quiet posture."
Listening Silence	No transmissions except pre-agreed emergencies, until the declaring station (or higher authority) lifts it. The heaviest condition; used the least.

COURSE LESSONS

1	**EMCON Fundamentals**	Why a transmission is a detectable event regardless of content, and where EMCON sits relative to COMSEC.
2	**RF Signature Awareness**	What makes a transmission findable, and the TRANSEC toolkit for reducing it — power, siting, timing, and burst transmission.
3	**EMCON Conditions and Postures**	Setting local EMCON levels, the SILENCE / SILENCE LIFTED call structure, and BEADWINDOW net discipline.
4	**Minimal-Signature Operating Procedures**	Scheduled windows, guard rotation, brevity, and what EMCON does not require.
5	**Integration and Capstone**	Folding an EMCON posture into an existing ICS-205 communications plan, plus a scenario capstone.

DOCTRINAL SOURCES

CGTTP 6-01.1A, Radiotelephone Handbook	U.S. Coast Guard	BEADWINDOW/EEFI, SILENCE call structure
MCRP 3-40.3B / 6-22C, Radio Operator's Handbook	U.S. Marine Corps	TRANSEC measures, SELDOM UP, siting, burst transmission
usbrevitycodes.pdf, Multiservice Brevity Codes	Joint (multiservice)	Confirms BEAD WINDOW procedure word