CARES

What's Involved in Being a Net Control Operator?

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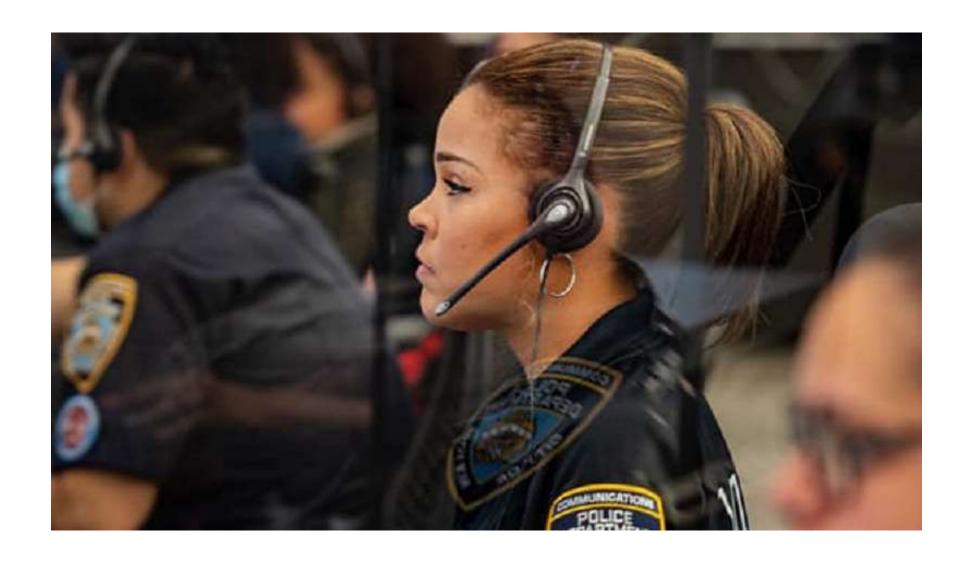
Today's Goals

- Introduction
- Coach & learn
- What happens behind the curtains of being a NCO

Types of Net Control Operators (NCOs)

- Police/fire/EMT dispatchers, Military, Air Traffic Controllers
- CARES vs SVECS nets (don't have to do SVECS one also)
- Person in charge OTA
- Net Control
- Keeps the net orderly, instills confidence

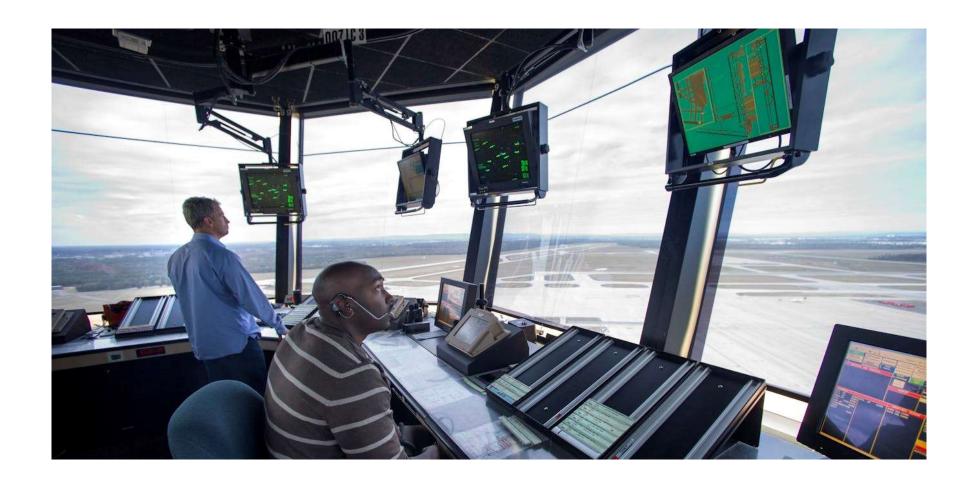
Police/Fire/EMT Dispatchers



Military Airborne Airspace Control (NCOs)



Air Traffic Controllers (NCOs)



Air Traffic Controllers (NCOs)



Why?

- Provide a valuable public service
- Maintain your operating skills
- Enhance self-confidence & build courage/experience (not just with volunteering)
- Rewarding, not hard
- We can always use more NCOs (only 4 regulars on a rotation)
- What about during an extended activation?
- From home, car, and/or Comm Van



NCO Experience Levels

- Experienced to alternate/backups
 - fill in gaps
 - NCO in training
- Don't have to be credentialed (C4 + N3)

Requirements

- Willingness to help direct radio traffic
- Good signal into repeater
- Centralized location or good coverage
- Doesn't have to be a super station
- Formal vs informal nets

Biggest Hurdles For Me

- Nervous as heck at first! Butterflies go away with experience
- Practiced with dry runs
- Listened to recordings
- Followed along during nets copying down, scratch paper
- Bonus points: close your eyes & visualize
- Learn proper ways, not necessarily what others have done
- What are your hurdles?

Practices

- You're not alone; do it together as a group or 1:1
- Via phone, Zoom, or OTA (simplex or repeater)
- PTT time = good
- I would love it if you wanted to try OTA
- Never an obligation to do it
- Follow along with the script in hand
- Copy down the calls (hear twice)

How

- Net script
- Can be a simple piece of paper but the <u>309 form</u> is better
- Check-ins log gets emailed to Jim afterwards to record participation
- Spreadsheet (easy but wean yourself off of it after start)
- Equipment:
- ✓ Base station is easier but externally powered/fully charged
 HT can work with strong enough signal
- ✓ In home, in car
- ✓ Fixed/external antenna is better
- √ NCO signups



Copying Down Calls

- Have script, pen, paper ready
- Pro-tips: <u>list of members by suffix</u>, today's & next meeting's dates
- Early check-ins are easy starts, relaxed and easy
- S-L-O-W it WW-AAA-YYYY down...you're in control of the net's speed
- Don't worry if you have trouble copying the calls
- It's perfectly ok to ask for repeats
- Don't worry about names, that'll come naturally later
- Unkey or say "stand by" if at a loss of words



Take Our Total to SVECS Net

- Each south bay city reports its net total at the County's SVECS net
- During alphabetical roll call of each city
- "Cupertino had figures two four check-ins, [your call]"
- Every 11 weeks, the SVECS NCO will ask the Cupertino person to confirm that we'll run the net the following week.
 Confirm that we will.
- CARES NCO does not also run the optional SVECS one on the same night



Documents

CARES NCO <u>Handbook</u>

My Tips

- Mic fright at first is real
- Breathe deeply 3x before starting and smile to help relax
- Put your call at the top of the list first, to count yourself
- Don't talk too fast
- Strive to remove unnecessary words
- Ask for calls then first names, which forces the net to slow down. Also helps with calls and names association.
- Partials: "Person with suffix ending with xxx, say again."
- Consider joining the NCO Team
- Have fun! It's very rewarding!



Questions?