

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 [309 form](#) 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: [list of members by suffix](#), 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 [Handbook](#)



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?

