

NATIONAL TRAFFIC SYSTEM (NTS)

The National Traffic System is designed to meet two principal objectives: rapid movement of traffic from origin to destination, and training amateur operators to handle written traffic and participate in directed nets. NTS operates daily, and consists of four different net levels--Area, Region, Section, and Local—which operate in an orderly time sequence to effect a definite flow pattern for traffic from origin to destination. For the purpose of our training, this evening we will concentrate on the Section Net.

Section Nets

On all Section Nets the organizational and procedural lines begin to tighten. Section nets are administered through the office of the Section Manager, with authority for this function often delegated to an appointed Section Traffic Manager and/or designated Net Managers. The purpose of the section net is to handle intra-section traffic, distribute traffic coming down from higher NTS echelons, and put inter-section traffic in the hands of the amateur designated to

report into the next-higher NTS (region) echelon.

During emergencies and or disasters, coverage of the Section may be accomplished either by individual stations reporting in, by representatives of NTS Regional and local nets or all three.

Therefore, the maximum obtainable participation from section amateurs is encouraged.

Operation during Disasters

When a disaster situation arises, the NTS is capable of expanding its cyclic operation into complete or partial operations as needed.

Emergency Coordinators in disaster areas determine the communications needs and make decisions regarding the disposition of local communications facilities, in coordination with agencies to be served.

The Section Emergency Coordinator, after conferring with the affected District Emergency Coordinators and Emergency Coordinators, makes his recommendations to the Section Traffic Manager and/or NTS net managers at

section and/or region levels. The decision and resulting action to alert the NTS region management may be performed by any combination of these officials, depending upon the urgency of the situation. While the Emergency Coordinator is, in effect, the manager of ARES nets operating at local levels, and therefore makes decisions regarding their activation, managers of NTS nets at local, section, region and area levels are directly responsible for activation of their nets in a disaster situation, at the request of and on the recommendation of ARES or NTS officials at lower levels.