

For transmission the week of 9/26/2011

## MARS TRAINING BULLETIN 2011-03

### NET CONTINUITY CHECK

THE TERM "NET CONTINUITY CHECK" IS THE PROPER NAME FOR THE PROCESS WE HAVE BEEN CALLING "ROLL CALL RADIO CHECK". THE NET CONTINUITY CHECK IS DESCRIBED IN THE MARS OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS (MOI) CHAPTER 11.

THE PURPOSE OF NET CONTINUITY CHECK IS TWO FOLD:

1. TO DETERMINE THE COMMUNICATIONS CONDITIONS BETWEEN THE NCS AND OTHER STATIONS ON THE NET
2. TO DETERMINE IF A PARTICULAR STATION IS STILL AVAILABLE ON THE NET

NET CONTINUITY CHECKS ARE CONDUCTED BY THE NCS AT RANDOM TIMES DURING A NET USUALLY ONCE PER HOUR.

NET CONTINUITY CHECKS ARE CONDUCTED BY THE NCS ANNOUNCING THE CHECK AND THEN CALLING EACH STATION LOGGED IN TO THE NET.

STATIONS RESPOND TO NET CONTINUITY CHECKS USING AN ABBREVIATED CALL AND PROVIDING A SIGNAL REPORT FOLLOWED BY THE PROWORD "OVER". AN EXAMPLE RESPONSE WOULD BE: "THIS IS ALPHA FOXTROT ALPHA FIFE JULIET ROMEO LOUD AND CLEAR OVER"

GIVE YOUR CALL SIGN IN PHONETICS TO ENSURE THAT THE NCS RECOGNIZES THAT IT IS YOUR STATION RESPONDING TO THE NET CONTINUITY CHECK.

THE SIGNAL REPORT CONSISTS OF TWO PARTS: 1) REPORT OF SIGNAL STRENGTH, AND 2) REPORT OF READABILITY:

ACP 125 RECOGNIZED REPORTS OF SIGNAL STRENGTH AND THEIR MEANINGS ARE:

LOUD - Your signal is very strong.

GOOD - Your signal strength is good.

WEAK - Your signal strength is weak.

VERY WEAK - Your signal strength is very weak.

FADING - At times your signal strength fades to such an extent that continuous reception cannot be relied upon.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** "FAIR" IS NOT A RECOGNIZED SIGNAL STRENGTH REPORT.

ACP 125 RECOGNIZED REPORTS OF READABILITY AND THEIR MEANINGS ARE:

CLEAR - The quality of your transmission is excellent.

READABLE - The quality of your transmission is satisfactory.

UNREADABLE - The quality of your transmission is so bad that I cannot read you.

DISTORTED - Having trouble reading you because your signal is distorted.

WITH INTERFERENCE - Having trouble reading you due to interference.

INTERMITTENT - Having trouble reading you because your signal is intermittent.

YOU MAY INCLUDE CONJUNCTIONS SUCH AS "AND", "BUT" ETC. TO MAKE THE SIGNAL REPORT MORE UNDERSTANDABLE; FOR EXAMPLE: "LOUD AND CLEAR", "WEAK BUT READABLE", ETC.

**DO NOT INCLUDE ADDITIONAL PHRASES SUCH AS "I HAVE YOU", "YOU ARE" ETC. THESE PHRASES ARE SUPERFLUOUS AS THEIR MEANING IS ALREADY INCLUDED IN THE SIGNAL REPORT.**

THE NCS WILL RESPOND TO EACH STATION WITH A SIGNAL REPORT FOLLOWED BY THE PROWORD "OUT". THE NCS WILL THEN PROCEED BY CALLING THE NEXT STATION LOGGED INTO THE NET.

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THE NCS MAY, AT HIS/HER DISCRETION, AGAIN CALL STATIONS WHO DID NOT RESPOND. AND/OR, HE/SHE MAY DIRECT ANOTHER STATION IN THE NET TO ATTEMPT TO CONTACT STATIONS THAT DID NOT RESPOND TO THE NET CONTINUITY CHECK.

STATIONS THAT DO NOT RESPOND TO THE NET CONTINUITY CHECK WILL BE MARKED AS CLOSED AS OF THE TIME OF THE BEGINNING OF THE NET CONTINUITY CHECK AND WILL CEASE RECEIVING PARTICIPATION CREDIT. NON-RESPONDING STATIONS WILL NEED TO CHECK IN TO THE NET AGAIN TO CONTINUE THEIR PARTICIPATION WITH ADDITIONAL PARTICIPATION CREDIT EARNED FROM THE TIME THEY AGAIN CHECK IN.

THIS ENDS THIS MARS TRAINING BULLETIN.

ARE THERE ANY QUERIES, COMMENTS OR REQUESTS FOR FILLS? OVER