

THE MERT NET GENERAL INFORMATION

The purposes of the Thursday night MERT net is:

- Training for the NET Control Operator. This will ensure a smooth net during emergencies.
- This NET will be used to train all members to handle routine, priority or emergency traffic from the Marion County Evacuation sites, CERT Teams, Ham Watch, Weather and Humanitarian needs.
- Provide all MERT members the opportunity to test their equipment and their operating abilities to preform professionally and calmly during emergencies.

Since MERT will be relying on the D-Star radios and D-Rats it is very important that all members understand just how the system works. So here is what will happen during the net.

Net Control will announce the beginning of the net at 10 minutes and 5 minutes prior the start of the net.

The Net Control begins by the NCO reading the Preamble.

The Preamble describes what will happen and how it should happen. It is important the operators responding to the Net Control, do so in the manner instructed:

The Preamble will indicate the type of net and type of training that will be conducted during that net.

To help the net to go smoothly please follow the suggestions below.

- 1. Key your radio or dongle for 1 second only when the frequency is clear.***
- 2. PLEASE SPACE your call so as not to cause TAILGATING.***
- 3. When called respond with your name, call sign phonetically and location slowly and clearly.***

The Net is not a race. The Net Control operator will take their time in calling for check-ins.

SPACE YOUR CALL! There is a beep at the end of any D-Star transmission. WAIT one full second after the beep before transmitting for a check-in.

BE PREPARED! Keep a pen or pencil, note pad, ICS 213, radio data cable ready and team viewer up to date.

Now, the D-Rats portion:

The D-RATS NET on the MERT RATFLECTOR will begin immediately after this net concludes.

This is the first part of the D-Rats net. At this time, you should have your D-Rats program connected to the EOC over the internet and the connection to your D-Star radio off, DATA Cable disconnected. The Net Control operator will announce on D-Rats when to start checking in and will recognize each check in and will announce when this portion of the D-Rats training is over and to return to the KK4DFC Repeater.

You will then be directed to change the D-Rats setting from the EOC to radio, connect the data cable, set the correct COM port and change your radio to the KG4NXO VHF repeater to complete the D-Rats training. **PLEASE** do not transmit your message until directed to do so by NET CONTROL. The NCO will ask members for their call sign if they wish to send a message then the NCO will go down the list and direct each member when to begin transmitting one at a time until the list is complete.

The Training Net is almost over:

The Net Control operator will then announce on KG4NXO VHF: The securing of the net.

Securing the net:

Net Control will announce the who will be the NCO for the next weeks net.

Net Control will ask if there are any stations that have not been recognized to please come now.

If you have any comments, suggestions, or if you are interested in being a Net Control Station for this net, please send an email message to Harold at halpam2@gmail.com or call him at **352-299-1570**.

This is ^(call)_____ closing the MERT D-STAR net and returning the repeater to normal use at: ^(time)_____.

Thank you for your participation. 73 and good evening.

PLEASE remember!

This is a training net. Please do not engage in radio traffic that is not part of the net, and that includes extra comments during the D-Rats program.