

Introducing the 'Tier' System

Statement of Purpose: To outline the general structure, including roles and duties, of AmRRON operations during training and real-world disaster communications events.

During an event, whether real or training, the following is an explanation of AmRRON radio procedures which includes all levels of experience.

So lets start! A nationwide or large regional event has occurred and normal communications are not working, but you and others like you have prepared by training with your radios. Although not covered in this document, it is essential that all radio operators have a current SOI and understand the Channel 3 Program. Check out the AmRRON website for more information.

Tier 1 - Non-licensed CH3

The non licensed radio operator is referred to as a **Tier 1** – CH3 operator using MURS, CB, and/or FRS on channel 3.

Duties: You are the very localized operator with a vital role in supplying the street level information to be passed up the chain for the leadership.

You should try to cultivate and maintain an active relationship with other tier 1 and 2 operators, as they will relay important info to you as well. Learning how to use a scanner and a shortwave radio with SSB capabilities will further keep you in the know.

Tier 2 – Licensed Amateur Radio Technician

Local VHF/UHF operator with CH3 capabilities as well. A scanner and shortwave radio are a huge plus here. Communicates with tier 1 and 2 and 3 operators.

Introducing the 'Tier' System

Duties: Realize the importance of your role as “boots on the ground” collecting and exchanging information on a local level is crucial to our mission.

Cultivate and maintain relationships with tier 1 and 3 operators.

Tier 3 – HF Operator

Must be able to send information in brief but concise format between themselves, NCS's and back to the Technician. HF/VHF/UHF required.

Communicates with tier 2 and 4 operators.

Duties: Act as a liaison between the tier 2 and 4 operators

Exchange information between tier 2 operators keeping them in the loop.

Pass important message traffic to a NCS using the band and mode described in the SOI.

Whenever possible use digital modes with the AmRRON Custom forms for message traffic. Also read and understand the white paper explaining “file naming”

If you have NCS experience then step up to the plate when needed. And remember our goal is to pass critical message traffic, please be mindful of others that may need your help with passing traffic. Also please closely follow the directions of a NCS.

***NOTE:** Tiers 4, 5, and 6 are volunteer AmRRON Corps operators who have previously coordinated with AmRRON National to fill the positions of NCS, Backbone, and SIGCEN using the designation N, B and S after their call sign.*

Introducing the 'Tier' System

Tier 4 – NCS

HF operator with experience in being a Net Control Station. Must be able to administer order in the midst of chaos. Digital radio experience is a must in FLDIGI, FLMSG, and FLAMP. Communicates with tier 3, 5 and 6 operators. You have big shoes to fill here!

Duties: Must take charge and direct the flow of traffic using whatever mode is the fastest and most accurate.

Ensures that traffic is passed to other (liaison stations) tier 4, 5 and 6 operators based upon priority and need.

Also needs to keep the tier 3 operators informed of the next window of operation and process EXSUMS as they are issued. It is not your job to reassemble message traffic into K2s forms. You have enough to do already.

Tier 5 – The Backbone

HF Operators with a strong persistent signal presence and one who is highly skilled at Garim, FLDIGI, FLMSG, FLAMP, FSQCALL, and JS8CALL. Must be able to have radio on for a majority of the day. His/her function is to maintain a repository of message traffic. Communicates with tier 3, 4, 5, and 6 operators.

Duties: Create, maintain and increase size of “Backbone Network”

Utilize the 20 meter window for national communications (2000z–2300z)

Have a working knowledge of the “Gray Line”

Keep your Garim file structure up to date and clutter free

Repackage message traffic into FLMSG/FLAMP files if needed.

Stay aware of all message traffic from Tier 3, 4, 5 and 6 operators.

Tier 6 – SIGCEN

Introducing the 'Tier' System

HF operators with significant experience in all HF modes with the added experience of intel gathering, prioritizing, battle tracking and analyzing for leadership decision making. Must have all needed HF/VHF/UHF/CH3 and scanner equipment. Communicates with tier 3, 4 and 6 operators.

Duties: Have a system and the equipment to maintain awareness of all critical information.

Must be able to prioritize the information and repackage it for clear and concise consumption by the leadership to help them make important decisions.

Higher Echelons: Served agencies or elected/community/emergency response leadership, to help them coordinate logistics and planning and make critical decisions, and:

Lower Echelons: Distribution of information to Net Control Station (NCS) operators and at times, the general audience of the network, consisting of compiled Initial Event Summaries, SITREPs, Public Information Announcements, and Executive Summaries to keep all participants in the network informed.

Must be able to keep a persistent presence especially during a crisis or emergency.

Work closely with tier 4 and 6 operators.

So this is how it will go!

Tier 1 operators are sharing messages with each other and one of them passes a message to a Tier 2 operator.

Introducing the 'Tier' System

The Tier 2 operator makes a contact with a Tier 3 and shares that very same message.

The Tier 3 person then repackages the information into a digital format and uses the SOI to share that message with others in a larger geographic region or even nationally by coordination with a NCS (net control Station).

The Tier 4 NCS ensures that the message is sent to its required destination by soliciting help from Liaison (Tier 4,5, and 6) stations.

The Tier 5 Backbone is a persistent presence radio station that is in place to ensure a nationwide network and act as a repository for digital forms.

Once the message gets to a Tier 6 SIGCEN it is then prioritized and compared with other messages to paint a picture of events for leadership to make important decisions and assemble executive summaries of daily events.

Once the leadership has a good picture of the national events they will issue an executive summary of events that will be passed back down through the tiers to ensure that everyone is informed.