

## **The ARRL National Traffic System (NTS)**

The National Traffic System plan is a means for systematizing amateur traffic handling facilities by making a structure available for an integrated traffic facility designed to achieve the utmost in two principal objectives: rapid movement of traffic from origin to destination, and training amateur operators to handle written traffic and participate in directed nets.

Due to the resiliency and redundancy of the long-haul communications infrastructure in the United States, the NTS is rarely involved in handling large volumes of emergency traffic, however in wide-spread disasters or if a disaster strikes a highly populated area, NTS is likely to experience a significant of Health & Welfare inquiry messages.

Although the full NTS structure is unlikely to be needed for emergency communications traffic, its pool of highly trained, experienced operators are a valuable resource that may form the backbone of any emergency communications system where large volumes of formal traffic are to be handled.

There is a brief discussion of the NTS as it relates to emergency communications elsewhere in this manual. For detailed information about NTS see the ARRL Public Service Communications Manual or visit the ARRL web site at <http://www.arrl.org/nts>