

**METRO REGION**  
**800 MHz Trunked Regional Public Safety Radio System**  
**Standards, Protocols, Procedures**

Document Section:	<b>3 - Interoperability Guidelines</b>	Radio TOC Recommendation
Sub-Section:	<b>METRO 3.10.0</b>	Date: 3/26/08
Procedure Title:	<b>Recommended Interoperability Channels &amp; Talkgroups for U.S. Government Radios</b>	
Date Established:	<b>3/5/08</b>	MESB Approval - Signature:
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**1. Purpose or Objective**

To establish policy for recommended interoperability channels and talk groups for U.S. Government radios.

**2. Technical Background:**

▪ **Capabilities**

These channels and talk groups can be programmed into user VHF, UHF and 800 MHz ARMER radios, incident command posts and emergency operations centers. These nationwide, statewide and region-wide channels and talk groups can meet a wide range of interoperability needs and can function as the primary communications component in local, regional, statewide and national plans.

▪ **Constraints**

The availability of and the use of these channels and talk groups must be easily understood by radio user personnel who are primarily concerned with their mission and not with the operation of radios under stressful conditions. Because U.S. Government agencies may need to work with any local agency in any part of the state, it is highly recommended that when agencies purchase 800 MHz ARMER system radios, they obtain radios that have displays, are capable of DES-OFB encryption, and allow a minimum of 10 zones.

**3. Operational Context:**

These channels and talk groups can be used to facilitate communications among agencies and service branches that typically do not communicate with each other on a regular day to day basis and to support effective command and management of major incidents under the NIMS protocols.

**4. Recommended Protocol/ Standard:**

It is recommended that U.S. Government agencies program selected nationwide, statewide and region-wide interoperability channels into their day to day VHF and UHF radios that can be patched to the ARMER trunked system. It is also recommended that U.S. Government agencies each acquire a small quantity of 800 MHz P25 trunked radios for use on the ARMER trunked system and direct interoperability with state and local users. A list of recommended shared interoperability resources is attached to this Standard. Specific programming information will be provided to the federal agency's technical personnel upon request.

## **5. Recommended Procedure:**

### **Best Practices Encouraged**

All agencies are encouraged to follow practices outlined by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security SAFECOM Program. Key elements of SAFECOM include:

- Regional and statewide interoperability SOPs for incident response should be developed and should be molded to conform to the elements of the National Incident Management System.
- Users should be provided with regular comprehensive training on the interoperability SOPs.
- Interoperability SOPs should be tested through realistic exercises to address potential problems.
- The interoperability systems and SOPs should be used every day for managing routine as well as emergency incidents requiring interoperability. In this optimal solution, users are familiar with the operation of the system and routinely work in concert with one another.
- Trained Communications Unit Leaders should be developed to assist with incident pre-plans and to provide on-scene incident support by managing communications and apply available technical solutions at larger or unexpected interoperability incidents.

## **6. Management**

The MESB's Radio Technical Operations Committee and the Interoperability Subcommittee will periodically review and update the recommended resource listing attached to this document.

<b>VHF CHANNELS</b>	
<b>HIGHLY RECOMMENDED</b>	<b>ELIGIBILITY</b>
FEDCOM-MP	ALL FEDERAL DEPARTMENTS
FEDCOM-SP	ALL FEDERAL DEPARTMENTS
METTAC-P	PUBLIC SAFETY ONLY
METTAC-A	ALL FEDERAL DEPARTMENTS
LE-2	LAW ENFORCEMENT ONLY
IR-2	ALL FEDERAL DEPARTMENTS
VLAW31	LAW ENFORCEMENT ONLY
VTAC11	ALL FEDERAL DEPARTMENTS
<b>OPTIONAL</b>	<b>ELIGIBILITY</b>
VCALL10	ALL FEDERAL DEPARTMENTS
VACLL12	ALL FEDERAL DEPARTMENTS
VCALL13	ALL FEDERAL DEPARTMENTS
VCALL14	ALL FEDERAL DEPARTMENTS
MIMS	ALL FEDERAL DEPARTMENTS
VFIRE23	FIRE SUPPRESSION ONLY
VMED28	MEDICAL ONLY
HTAC-3	PUBLIC SAFETY ONLY

<b>UHF CHANNELS</b>	
<b>HIGHLY RECOMMENDED</b>	<b>ELEGIBILITY</b>
UTAC41	ALL FEDERAL DEPARTMENTS
LE-12	LAW ENFORCEMENT ONLY
IR-12	ALL FEDERAL DEPARTMENTS
<b>OPTIONAL</b>	<b>ELEGIBILITY</b>
UCALL40	ALL FEDERAL DEPARTMENT
UCALL40D	ALL FEDERAL DEPARTMENT
UTAC41D	ALL FEDERAL DEPARTMENT
UTAC42	ALL FEDERAL DEPARTMENT
UTAC42D	ALL FEDERAL DEPARTMENT
UTAC43	ALL FEDERAL DEPARTMENT
UTAC43D	ALL FEDERAL DEPARTMENT

<b>ARMER 800 MHz CONVENTIONAL CHANNELS AND TALKGROUPS</b>	
<b><u>CONVENTIONAL</u></b>	<b><u>ELIGIBILITY</u></b>
8CALL90	ALL USERS
8CALL90D	ALL USERS
8TAC91	ALL USERS
8TAC91D	ALL USERS
8TAC92	ALL USERS
8TAC92D	ALL USERS
8TAC93	ALL USERS
8TAC93D	ALL USERS
8TAC94	ALL USERS
8TAC94D	ALL USERS
PSOA-1	PUBLIC SAFETY ONLY
PSOA-2	PUBLIC SAFETY ONLY
ASOA-1	ALL USERS
ASOA-2	ALL USERS
FSOA-1	FIRE/EMS ONLY
FSOA-2	FIRE/EMS ONLY
<b><u>STATEWIDE TALKGROUPS</u></b>	<b><u>ELIGIBILITY</u></b>
LTAC-1	LAW ENFORCEMENT ONLY
LTAC-2	LAW ENFORCEMENT ONLY
LTAC-3	LAW ENFORCEMENT ONLY
LTAC-4	LAW ENFORCEMENT ONLY
FTAC-1	FIRE ONLY
FTAC-2	FIRE ONLY
FTAC-3	FIRE ONLY
FTAC-4	FIRE ONLY
ETAC-1	EMS ONLY
ETAC-2	EMS ONLY
ETAC-3	EMS ONLY
ETAC-4	EMS ONLY
BCATAC7	LAW ENFORCEMENT ONLY
LETAC-1	ENCRYPTED LAW ENFORCEMENT ONLY
LETAC-2	ENCRYPTED LAW ENFORCEMENT ONLY
LESIU-1	ENCRYPTED LAW EN TASK FORCE ONLY
LESIU-2	ENCRYPTED LAW EN TASK FORCE ONLY
<b><u>METRO/REGIONAL TALKGROUPS</u></b>	<b><u>ELIGIBILITY</u></b>
PTAC-1	PUBLIC SAFETY ONLY
PTAC-2	PUBLIC SAFETY ONLY
PTAC-3	PUBLIC SAFETY ONLY
PTAC-4	PUBLIC SAFETY ONLY

DRAFT

DRAFT

ATAC-1	ALL USERS
ATAC-2	ALL USERS
ATAC-3	ALL USERS
ATAC-4	ALL USERS
METPH1	PUBLIC HEALTH ONLY
METPH2	PUBLIC HEALTH ONLY
METPH3	PUBLIC HEALTH ONLY
METPH4	PUBLIC HEALTH ONLY

<u>ARMER 800 MHz CONVENTIONAL CHANNELS AND TALKGROUPS</u>	
<u>SE REGION/ROCHESTER</u>	<u>ELIGIBILITY</u>
SE-PTAC1	PUBLIC SAFETY ONLY
SE-PTAC2	PUBLIC SAFETY ONLY
SE-PTAC3	PUBLIC SAFETY ONLY
SE-PTAC4	PUBLIC SAFETY ONLY
SE-ATAC1	ALL USERS
SE-ATAC2	ALL USERS
SE-ATAC3	ALL USERS
SE-ATAC4	ALL USERS
<u>CM REGION/ST CLOUD</u>	<u>ELIGIBILITY</u>
CM-PTAC1	PUBLIC SAFETY ONLY
CM-PTAC2	PUBLIC SAFETY ONLY
CM-PTAC3	PUBLIC SAFETY ONLY
CM-PTAC4	PUBLIC SAFETY ONLY
CM-ATAC1	ALL USERS
CM-ATAC2	ALL USERS
CM-ATAC3	ALL USERS
CM-ATAC4	ALL USERS
<u>LOCAL/SUB-REGIONAL</u>	<u>ELIGIBILITY</u>
SAMPLE TALKGROUP	PERMISSION LETTER
<u>FUTURE REGIONS</u>	<u>ELIGIBILITY</u>