

	<b>Department of Information Systems</b> <b>Arkansas Wireless Information Network</b>	
	<b>Radio System Interconnect Policy</b>	
<b>Effective Date:</b>	<b>Revision Date: 03/02/2018</b>	<b>Issued By: AICEC</b>

## **Introduction**

This policy establishes the terms and conditions for connecting 2-way voice radio equipment into the Arkansas Wireless Information Network (AWIN) system. These connections and the equipment involved are commonly referred to as bridges, patches or gateways.

## **Purpose**

The purpose of this policy is to establish protocols for the use and deployment of radio systems interconnect equipment between AWIN and non-AWIN systems and to ensure the most effective system usage while maintaining the high grade of service (GOS) necessary for all users of the system.

## **Definitions**

**Arkansas Interoperable Communications Executive Committee (AICEC)** is responsible for the ongoing operations of the AWIN system. The AICEC approves all policies and processes that affect AWIN and AWIN's users.

**Disable** is the term used to define a change in status of a radio operating on the AWIN system. Disabling a radio on the AWIN system results in removing the ability of the radio to transmit on AWIN.

**Monitored** for the purposes of this policy means that there are personnel present who can respond and/or take corrective action as necessary

**Radio System Interconnect** is one of several terms used to define the equipment and protocols that enable radio systems built by different manufacturers to be connected together into wide area networks so that users on different networks can talk with each other. For the purposes of this policy, Radio System Interconnect refers to the equipment and protocols used to connect AWIN to another radio system. Some of the other terms used to define this process include *cross-connect*, *gateway*, *patching* or *bridging*.

**Temporary or short-term** is defined as one operational period, no longer than 24 hours.

## **System Interconnect Policy**

The Arkansas Interoperable Communications Executive Committee (AICEC) recognizes the benefit of radio system interconnects and supports their use to enhance interoperability.

For the purpose of this policy, the AICEC recognizes that there are two kinds of interconnects that maybe used: temporary and permanent.

## **Temporary Connections**

Temporary radio system interconnects are those connections that are made on an as needed basis, usually for a specific event or activity. These radio system interconnects may be as simple as a console patch, or may be as complex as a interconnect unit that is deployed in the field, connecting multiple

disparate radio systems. In order to ensure that users are not adversely impacted, the following applies to temporary interconnections:

Requests for temporary interconnects are treated as Requests for Assistance and should be made to the Arkansas Department of Emergency Management (ADEM).

The AICEC allows radio system interconnects to AWIN on a temporary, short-term basis. If the duration of the incident extends beyond this, the request for an interconnect should be repeated for each new operational period. The AICEC does not allow radio system interconnects to AWIN without prior notification and permission from the administrator of the affected systems.

Temporary interconnects to dispatch channels or to interoperability channels (MAC, Regional, EMS) should be employed judiciously.

Temporary interconnects should be continuously monitored.

### **Permanent Connections**

Permanent radio system interconnects are those connections that are made to support an ongoing need. These radio system interconnects may be an interconnect unit that is installed at a dispatch center, at a tower site or, in some cases, at the system core. In order to ensure that users are not adversely impacted the following applies to permanent interconnections:

Requests for permanent interconnects are made to the AICEC. These are researched and reviewed similarly to AWIN New Project Requests.

The AICEC may allow radio system interconnects to AWIN on a permanent basis.

The AICEC does not allow radio system interconnects to AWIN without prior notification and permission from the administrator of the affected systems.

The AICEC does not allow permanent interconnects to dispatch channels or to interoperability channels. Utilization of any of the statewide interoperability talkgroups (MACCALL, MAC 1 – 15, EMS A-L) for interconnect purposes is strictly prohibited.

The AICEC allows permanent connections between agency proprietary talkgroups.

Permanent interconnects should be continuously must be monitored by dispatch 24/7.

### **Disabling a Connection**

Temporary connections must be disabled upon completion of the operation.

Permanent connections maybe disabled after all parties to the connection have been notified and given adequate time to adjust their communications protocols.

### **Prohibited Operations**

The use of AWIN as a means for monitoring an interconnected radio system from outside the subscriber's daily response area is strictly prohibited.

## **Enforcement**

Violations of this policy shall result in the affected device being disabled by AWIN. Disabling a radio results in the device being unable to transmit on AWIN.

The AICEC authorizes AWIN Management and Operations to terminate an interconnection if there is a malfunction or abuse of the connection.