

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU)

Interstate communications intentions between State of Illinois and the State of Iowa

Objective

The purpose of this MOU is to establish the guidelines and procedures for interstate communications needed during planned and emergent events requiring interoperability among entities between Illinois and Iowa.

The STARCOM21 Oversight Advisory Sub Committee (referred to as SC21 AdSub for the purposes of this document) and Iowa Statewide Interoperable Communications System Board (Referred to as ISICSB) have both established standards for use of the statewide and regional interoperability talkgroups.

Operational Context

Planned and emergent events requiring interoperability among agencies from different states present dynamic challenges for public safety agencies. There is a high level of variability from different areas of the state. This variability in communications can lead to hindrances of operational success if not properly addressed.

Agencies along state borders may have pre-existing agreements with their neighboring states for interoperable scenarios, this agreement does not supersede those existing agreements in so far as they are consistent with all system policies from either state. Use of the STARCOM21 and ISICS radio systems regional and statewide interoperable talkgroups could enhance operational effectiveness. Different event types (static vs mobile; planned vs emergent) may require different approaches.

Recommended Protocol / Standard

Statewide and regional interoperability talkgroups are recommended for public safety communication centers with full connectivity to the STARCOM21 and ISICS radio systems. Regional and statewide interoperability talkgroups are recommended for public safety communication centers using control stations to integrate with the STARCOM21 and ISICS. All operations will be consistent with STARCOM21 and ISICSB policies.

Procedure

- Iowa
 - Will provide access to the ISICS Regional and Statewide Interoperable talkgroups.
 - Interoperability rules of use of ISICS are outlined in ISICS State Standards available online at: <https://isicsb.iowa.gov/resources/policies/isics-standards>
 - Illinois participants will be allowed access to ISICS for no cost to the receiving agency as stated in the ISICS Memorandum of Agreement (MOA).
 - Illinois PSAPs will be granted one ID for control station access to ISICS upon signing the ISICS MOA. Illinois agencies desiring additional system IDs on the system, may ~~can~~

submit an Applicant Participation Plan outlining the desired number of IDs. The application follows the process outlined in ISICS State Standard 2.8.0¹.

- ID Ranges may vary.
- Use of any interoperable talkgroup should be announced per agency policy and on the location-appropriate ISICS regional calling talkgroup.
- During emergent events, temporary, on-demand soft patches of local operable or channels/talkgroups from neighboring states to existing ISICS regional and statewide interoperable talkgroups are permitted with proper coordination and when consistent with ISICS policies.
- Statewide and/or location-appropriate regional interoperable talkgroups are recommended. Events that are mobile may be best handled with statewide interoperable talkgroups. StatusBoard should be updated as time allows to inform other users that the talkgroup is in use.
- Planned events can use location-appropriate regional and/or statewide interoperable talkgroups. Neighboring states' regional/statewide interoperable talkgroups may be soft-patched into the location-appropriate regional and/or statewide interoperable talkgroups as needed with proper coordination and when consistent with ISICS policies. StatusBoard should be updated to reflect the use of the talkgroup(s).
- Any soft-patches must be taken down at the conclusion of the interoperable event.
 - Operability - This MOU does not cover any operable talkgroups.
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- Illinois
 - Will provide access to the State of Illinois STARCOM21 System Statewide Interoperability talkgroups (known as Zones BA and BB)
 - Interoperability rules of use as documented in the Illinois Tactical Interoperable Communications Plan (TICP) will govern use of talkgroup resources, (TICP can be found here: <https://www2.illinois.gov/iema/LocalEMA/Documents/SCIP/TICP.pdf>)
 - Iowa participants will be allowed access to STARCOM21 for no cost on a limited basis to be decided in consultation with the system owner Motorola with proper coordination and when consistent with STARCOM21 policies.
 - State of Illinois ~~and~~ will work with Motorola to reserve STARCOM21 IDs for use by Iowa participants for Interoperability
 - Motorola will track ID assignments as part of the contractual agreement they have with State of Illinois on Starcom21 and report to the SC21 AdSub on an as requested basis.
 - Iowa users will be set up through the STARCOM21 applications process and brought before the SC21 AdSub for consideration.
 - Information on STARCOM21 can be located here: <https://www.motorolasolutions.com/STARCOM21>
 - Primary Interoperability – Fixed/Temporary sites and mobiles will communicate on the respective regional talkgroup. For the Illinois/Iowa border all communications will use RGN2B as primary hailing, coordinating, and use talkgroup. RGN2A will be used as a backup

¹ Requesting Access and Participation: https://isicsb.iowa.gov/sites/default/files/isics_standard_2.8.0_-_requesting_access_and_participation_0.pdf

- Additional Interoperability through Statewide talkgroup resources known as BA can be leveraged for emergent and interoperable needs. These talkgroup resources can be assigned by Calling the IEMA Dispatch center at 217.782.7860.
- Custom Interoperability Talkgroups can be arranged and eventually approved at a later point in time.
- Operability - This MOU does not cover operational talkgroup requests

Ongoing Management of this MOU

Each states’ Statewide Interoperability Coordinators (SWICs) meet quarterly in order to have continual conversations and be responsible for remediating any and all conflicts regarding future challenges that may surface. The states SWICs shall keep the appropriate governing bodies informed

- Illinois – SC21 AdSub
 - STARCOM21 System issues will be addressed by the SC21 AdSub and the system owner Motorola
 - Interoperability issues may need to be reviewed and approved by the Statewide Interoperable Executive Committee (SIEC) which will be coordinated through the SC21 AdSub.
- Iowa - Iowa Statewide Interoperable Communications System Board (ISICSB)
 - Interoperability will be addressed by the ISICSB
 - ISICS issues will be discussed with the System Administrator, necessary Subsystem Administrators, Operations Committee, User Group Committee and/or Technology Committee.

Agreed to and Executed by:

Illinois Statewide Interoperable Executive Committee Chair, Lambert P Fleck III	Date
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Iowa Statewide Interoperable Communications System Board Chair, Thomas Lampe	Date
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