

Emergency Telephone System Board Of DuPage County Policy and Procedures



Policy #: 911-005.2

Previous Policy(s): 8.0.2, 8.0.3, 8.0.4, 8.0.5

Effective Date: May 7, 2013

Revised: December 13, 2023

Access to the DuPage Emergency Dispatch Interoperable Radio System (DEDIRS)

Purpose:

The purpose of this policy is to ensure compliance with State of Illinois STARCOM21 and DEDIRS requirements for use and access of DEDIRS talk groups for the purpose of interoperability for emergency communications.

Additional Authority:

50 ILCS 750 Emergency Telephone System Act

OEX-003B-89 Amending Section 40-20 of the DuPage County Code Pertaining to the Emergency Telephone System Board

Goal:

It is the goal of the Emergency Telephone System Board of DuPage County (DuPage ETSB) to provide one seamless method of interoperable communication for use by agencies on DEDIRS or for non-member agencies.

Scope:

This policy shall apply to all Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs) in the DuPage ETSB 9-1-1 System, including all Telecommunicators and other employees of the PSAP, user agencies or DuPage ETSB staff, contracted vendors or other authorized agents, DEDIRS users and agencies receiving approval to access DEDIRS talk groups.

I. Policy Statement

DuPage ETSB leases a portion of the Motorola Solutions, Inc. STARCOM21 network in Illinois as an integrated component of its emergency dispatch telephone system. The system permits communication between telecommunicators and the first responding personnel they dispatch in response to calls placed to 9-1-1. The system also permits personnel from public safety agencies throughout the County to communicate with each other during emergency joint response situations.

InterOp Talk Groups

DEDIR System will maintain nine (9) multi-use talk groups for the purpose of interoperability with outside agencies who meet the access requirements, herein referred to as "InterOp Talk Groups". The first eight InterOp talk groups will be labeled InterOp 1 through 8 for operational use. The ninth talk group will be labeled DUCALL. This talk group will be monitored by the PSAPs for radio traffic from adjacent agencies requesting access to DEDIR System. Outside agencies will also be provided 10-digit dial telephone numbers for the PSAPs as a secondary form of communication. DUCALL will also be used as a point-to-point channel between DEDIR System and non-DEDIR System PSAPs.

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The InterOp Talk Groups will be patched by PSAP Telecommunicators during an event in which interoperability is required. Once the event is completed, the patch will be disabled by the PSAP Telecommunicator.

Any agency that has been granted access to main channel talk groups in applications prior to the most recent reprogramming of subscriber units shall be asked to reprogram their subscriber units to the InterOp Talk Groups at their next reprogramming or within a year of notice, whichever occurs first. If an agency is unable to meet this request, they should seek an extension from the PAC in writing, no later than ninety (90) days prior to the year deadline. Notice shall be in the form of a certified letter to the agency head. Notification shall not be given until a satisfactory test period has been completed.

II. Application Procedure

Any agency that determines it has a need to communicate with an existing DEDIRS member for public safety purposes may apply to DuPage ETSB for use of InterOp Talk Groups 1-8. DUCALL will be a "hailing talk group" that can be monitored by ACDC and DU-COMM for requests for interoperability.

InterOp talk groups 2, 4, 6, and 8 will be AES encrypted and InterOp talk Groups 1, 3, 5, and 7 will be clear for the purposes of interoperability with requesting agencies that do not have AES encryption.

Special Use:

DuPage ETSB will consider applications for specific operational talk groups on a case-by-case basis for adjacent agencies that are non-DEDIRS Members that have daily operational assignments with DEDIRS users (mutual aid, auto aide, task force assignments etc.).

Existing Non-Member users who wish to have access to a main talk group for purposes of communication may continue to have access to that talk group unless that permission is revoked by the ETSB when access to the InterOp Talk Groups established or access to the main talk groups is proven unnecessary for daily operational needs.

Applicant Responsibilities

Application: The applicant must make application to the ETSB and supply the following documents with the application:

1. A completed DuPage ETSB DEDIRS Access Application, including the confidentiality agreement;
2. A brief cover letter/email explaining the need for interoperability. If requesting additional talk groups, provide an explanation as to the need and type of anticipated use (daily, mutual aid, auto aid, task force etc.) and any other pertinent information including which DEDIRS members the requestor will mostly likely communicate;
3. A sponsoring letter from a DEDIR System agency;
4. A completed and executed DuPage Emergency Dispatch Interoperable Radio System Access Talk Group Agreement;
5. Proof of STARCOM21 Membership;

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6. The ETSB and DEDIR System sponsoring agency will ensure that the applicant has access to DEDIRS rules and policies and completes relevant DEDIRS training.

The Applicant understands and accepts that any fees or cost incurred will be the responsibility of the Applicant.

The Applicant will agree to provide access to STARCOM21 talk groups to DEDIRS members which they currently have direct access for the purpose of interoperability for mutual aid and emergency communications and according to their own policies. Such access will be reviewed by the PAC for use and distribution.

The rights of the Applicant and the ability to utilize the DEDIRS system will rest with the Applicant and DuPage ETSB and is neither transferable nor can it be expanded upon without a written modification request to the Policy Advisory Committee (PAC).

The Applicant will have authority to program only the approved talk groups on its own subscriber units. The Applicant may not program any other DEDIRS member subscriber units owned by DuPage ETSB. The Applicant may not program any other STARCOM21 user subscriber unit with DEDIRS talk groups unless a contractual arrangement is in place between the Applicant and the third party and the third party has DuPage ETSB permission to use certain talk groups.

The Applicant will train their agency members on any ETSB policies pertinent to access of use of DEDIR System.

Application Modification: If an Applicant acquires additional subscriber units and desires interoperability for the new units, the Applicant must request authorization to expand the number of subscriber units utilizing the InterOp Talk Groups beyond its initial application. An approved application is not blanket permission for any Applicant which may expand its own fleet in the future. If additional subscriber units are added without prior approval, DuPage ETSB has the right to disable the unit.

An application modification must be submitted to PAC. The PAC shall have the authority to allow additional units without bringing the modification to the ETS Board so long as the additions do not impact DEDIRS functionality. The Applicant should submit a Form A and check modification.

Each Applicant will be responsible for those fees incurred on its behalf. All subscriber fees charged by Motorola for an Applicant's radio maintenance or operations are the responsibility of the Applicant. The PAC, DuPage ETSB or any of its member agencies are not responsible for any equipment or losses directly or indirectly associated with this system or agreement.

DuPage ETSB Responsibilities

Before an Applicant is approved for use of any DEDIRS talk groups, all member police and fire agencies shall be notified with a fourteen (14) day notification window. The process of notification will be outlined below.

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Only subscriber units and accessories which the ETSB has previously authorized for such use on the DEDIRS may be utilized on the system. Those subscriber units or accessories or information may be obtained from the ETSB or from an ETSB authorized radio vendor.

The ETSB or its authorized vendor shall provide the hexadecimal ID and program all subscriber units which operate on the DEDIRS. The public safety agency shall supply the serial number, radio identification number, and STARCOM21 identifier to the ETSB prior to the radio becoming operational on DEDIR System.

DuPage ETSB and/or Motorola may disable a subscriber unit or units at any time with or without notice to the requesting agency. DuPage ETSB may disable any subscriber unit or units which adversely impact the performance of the DEDIRS or suspend or revoke the agreement with the Applicant if, in DuPage ETSB's opinion, the Applicant's continued usage on DEDIRS adversely impacts the system or safety of the public safety personnel.

Application Process: The application shall be processed as follows:

- The application, cover letter explaining the request, DEDIR System sponsor letter, and proof of STARCOM21 membership shall be submitted to DuPage ETSB ETSB911@dupageco.org.
- DuPage ETSB shall review the application with the ETSB-approved radio vendor to assess the type of equipment the Applicant proposes to use with DEDIRS, its load potential on the system and other technical items associated with the application, including the code plug development. The approved vendor will provide a recommendation whether to approve or deny the application based solely on operational issues. If the vendor believes that the application should be denied, the vendor shall provide a brief written explanation for PAC and ETS Board consideration.
- DuPage ETSB staff will provide copies of the application to the PSAP Directors. The date that the application is distributed to the PSAPs will start the fourteen (14) day notification window for member review.
- The PSAP Directors will advise their member agencies of the application request. This can be accomplished through their own internal operational process for disseminating information to their agencies (email, committee meetings etc.). PSAPs are encouraged to bring this information through internal committees to promote discussion and consensus.
- The PSAP Directors will advise DuPage ETSB staff via email if there are no objections or of any objections to the application or recommendations within fourteen (14) days of receipt of the application. The objection must be filed in writing by return receipt email to ETSB911@dupageco.org within the allotted fourteen (14) calendar days. A nonresponse shall be deemed an affirmation of the application.
- DuPage ETSB staff shall prepare the application paperwork for the next PAC and ETS Board agendas.

The PAC shall review any application for access. During that review process the PAC shall:

- Ensure that all associated paperwork is complete;
- Shall hear a report from DuPage ETSB staff and maintainer on the status of the fourteen (14) day notification, approvals/objections/recommendations from members and vendor

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- recommendations for the application;
- Shall discuss the application and vote to make a recommendation to the ETS Board to either approve or deny the application and forward the application and recommendation to the ETS Board for its next regular meeting.

In the event the PAC denies the application, the application and brief written explanation by the PAC Chairman, or his designee, shall be forwarded to the ETS Board for their information and discussion. In the event the PAC cannot reach a consensus vote, that fact shall be reported to the ETS Board in writing for their information and discussion.

III. Implementation

The Applicant will be notified of the DuPage ETSB decision. If approved, the Applicant may then proceed to program its subscriber units with Access Talk Groups and access to other talk groups, as specified by the ETSB.

Executive Director Zerwin is authorized to make amendments to the Access Application and Confidentiality Agreement so long as the amendments do not alter the substance of the attached Agreement.

Policy adopted: _____

Greg Schwarze, Chairman