



ALABAMA FIRST RESPONDER WIRELESS COMMISSION POLICY ACTION



Introduction

In May of 2013, Act 2013-330 (House Bill 92), codified the Governor's Executive Order 34 and permanently created the Alabama First Responder Wireless Commission (AFRWC). The AFRWC vision is to strengthen public safety emergency communications and interoperability and to create a unified and integrated voice/data communications platform, with the technology, equipment, and procedures necessary to allow first responder and public safety agencies at the local, tribal, county, regional/divisional, state and federal levels to communicate safely, effectively, and efficiently to protect the people of Alabama.

In November of 2013, by unanimous approval, the Policies and Procedures Workgroup was formed to work in concurrence with the other AFRWC workgroups and stakeholders to draft policy and procedure recommendations for consideration by the AFRWC.

The following policies and procedures have been adopted by unanimous motion of the AFRWC.



ALABAMA FIRST RESPONDER WIRELESS COMMISSION POLICY ACTION



Policy Action 01-2014 "System of Systems"

It is the policy of the Alabama First Responder Wireless Commission (AFRWC) to promote and support a "system-of-systems" approach to achieving interoperability in Alabama. Through this approach, IP-based communication gateways, Project 25 compatible communication infrastructure and Inter-RF Subsystem Interfaces (ISSI) will allow the connection of otherwise incompatible public safety communications systems. This approach builds on existing public safety communications infrastructure and systems deployed throughout the State, and the AFRWC finds this alternative to be a feasible option compared to other alternative actions.

Therefore:

Public safety communications plans and investments at both the state and local level should be implemented based upon a system-of-systems approach to achieving public safety communication interoperability.

The AFRWC will work to coordinate state and local public safety interoperability plans and investments to achieve high levels of communication service quality and efficiencies in cost on behalf of Alabamians.



ALABAMA FIRST RESPONDER WIRELESS COMMISSION POLICY ACTION



Policy Action 02-2014 "Level 4 Interoperability"

It is the policy of the Alabama First Responder Wireless Commission (AFRWC) to promote and support a statewide level of interoperability that reaches "Level 4" Interoperability as defined and described by SAFECOM.

Higher levels of interoperability should be pursued in areas where it is cost effective and necessary for protection of the public.

Note: Level 4 = Gateway (Console Patch) – use of dedicated device(s) to connect systems together, rather than connecting individual radios together.



ALABAMA FIRST RESPONDER WIRELESS COMMISSION POLICY ACTION



Policy Action 03-2014 "Statewide Platform"

It is the policy of the Alabama First Responder Wireless Commission (AFRWC) to support the development of a statewide public safety communications platform to serve public safety agency communication needs, and to meet the interoperability needs of the entire statewide public safety communications community, including local, tribal, county, regional/divisional, state and federal entities.

The architecture of the communication platform shall include the following elements connected within a Virtual Private Network (VPN):

- Statewide basic infrastructure;
- Emergency communications virtual private network;
- Statewide 700Mhz/VHF P25 hybrid system;
- Interoperability channel(s) designation(s) for VHF, UHF, 700/800 MHz and 700 MHz Data Network;
- Public safety communications access for local, tribal, county, regional/divisional, state and federal entities. communications needs.
- The network basic infrastructure and communications equipment includes the state operation of the statewide VPN.

The AFRWC shall assume the lead for policies concerning the:

- Emergency communications virtual private network;
- Interoperability channel(s) designation(s) for VHF, UHF, 700/800 MHz and 700 MHz Data Network;

The State of Alabama shall assume the lead responsibility for:

- Constructing, operating and maintaining the statewide basic infrastructure;
 - Operating a statewide 700Mhz/VHF P25 hybrid system.
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ALABAMA FIRST RESPONDER WIRELESS COMMISSION POLICY ACTION



Policy Action 04-2014 "Regional Coordination"

The Alabama First Responder Wireless Commission (AFRWC) supports and encourages regional efforts to plan, coordinate and implement interoperability solutions. To the extent this has not yet occurred in parts of the State, the AFRWC recommends regions that are patterned after the Alabama Emergency Management Agency and Alabama Law Enforcement Agency Regions/Divisions.

The AFRWC is mindful that regional borders are "paper only" and should not act as a limitation to communications, coordination or interagency planning.



ALABAMA FIRST RESPONDER WIRELESS COMMISSION POLICY ACTION



Policy Action 05-2014 “Nationwide Interoperability Channel Administration”

The Alabama Emergency Management Agency (AEMA) through the Alabama First Responder Wireless Commission (AFRWC) should be the designated authority to administer nationwide interoperability channels in the 150 MHz, 450 MHz, and 700 MHz and 800 MHz bands in Alabama. The purpose of this designation is to assure in all interoperability conditions that these channels are available for emergency use. “Interoperability conditions” includes day-to-day use in areas of concurrent jurisdictions, task force operations, and mutual aid involving multiple agencies. Channels designated for nationwide interoperability are as outlined in the National Field Operations Guidebook (NIFOG) located here [Online NIFOG](#):

VHF Radios

Non-Federal VHF National Interoperability Channels				
VHF High Band				
Description	Channel Name	Mobile Receive Freq.	Mobile Transmit Freq.	CTCSS Tone
Calling	VCALL10	155.7525	155.7525	CSQ / 156.7 (5A) ±
Tactical	VTAC11 *	151.1375	151.1375	CSQ / 156.7 (5A) ±
Tactical	VTAC12 *	154.4525	154.4525	CSQ / 156.7 (5A) ±
Tactical	VTAC13	158.7375	158.7375	CSQ / 156.7 (5A) ±
Tactical	VTAC14	159.4725	159.4725	CSQ / 156.7 (5A) ±
Tac Rpt	VTAC33 *•	159.4725	151.1375	CSQ / 136.5 (4Z)
Tac Rpt	VTAC34 *•	158.7375	154.4525	CSQ / 136.5 (4Z)
Tac Rpt	VTAC35 •	159.4725	158.7375	CSQ / 136.5 (4Z)
Tac Rpt	VTAC36 *•	151.1375	159.4725	CSQ / 136.5 (4Z)
Tac Rpt	VTAC37 *•	154.4525	158.7375	CSQ / 136.5 (4Z)
Tac Rpt	VTAC38 •	158.7375	159.4725	CSQ / 136.5 (4Z)

*VTAC11-12, VTAC33-34, and VTAC36-37 may not be used in Puerto Rico or the USVI.
 ±Default operation should be carrier squelch receive, CTCSS transmit. If the user can enable/disable without re-programming the radio, the indicated CTCSS tone also could be programmed for receive, and the user instructed how and when to enable/disable.
 • VTAC33-38 recommended for deployable tactical repeater use only (FCC Station Class FB2T).
 • VTAC36-38 are preferred; VTAC33-35 should be used only when necessary due to interference.
 All channels on this page are NARROWBAND only. Limited to 3 watts ERP above Line A or East of Line C.



ALABAMA FIRST RESPONDER WIRELESS COMMISSION POLICY ACTION



Policy Action 05-2014, Continued

UHF Radios

Non-Federal UHF National Interoperability Repeater Channels			
Description	Channel Name	Mobile RX (MHz)	Mobile TX (MHz)
Calling	UCALL40	453.2125	458.2125
Calling	UCALL40D	453.2125	453.2125
Tactical	UTAC41	453.4625	458.4625
Tactical	UTAC41D	453.4625	453.4625
Tactical	UTAC42	453.7125	458.7125
Tactical	UTAC42D	453.7125	453.7125
Tactical	UTAC43	453.8625	458.8625
Tactical	UTAC43D	453.8625	453.8625
Default operation should be carrier squelch receive, CTCSS 156.7(5A) transmit. If the user can enable/disable CTCSS without reprogramming the radio, the indicated CTCSS tone also could be programmed for receive, and the user instructed how and when to enable/disable. All channels on this page are NARROWBAND only. Limited to 3 watts ERP above Line A or East of Line C.			

For a listing of 700 & 800 MHz channels, please reference the most current NIFOG at the link given above.

As technology emerges and opens other interoperability avenues, the AFRWC will assume this same authority in order to promote consistency in the prioritization of use.



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Policy Action 06-2015 "First Responder"

The Alabama First Responder Wireless Commission adopts the following definition for use in carrying out the purposes and objectives of the Commission:

"First Responder" - Federal, state, local and tribal law-enforcement officers, fire, and emergency medical services personnel, hazardous materials response team members, public safety dispatchers and emergency communications personnel, or any individual who is responsible for the protection and preservation of life, property, and evidence, and has been sent or directed to respond to a request for assistance as a result of a critical incident.



ALABAMA FIRST RESPONDER WIRELESS COMMISSION POLICY ACTION



Document History and Version Control

Version	Date Approved	Approved By	Brief Description
1.00	20140304	AFRWC	Creation of original document
1.05	20141209	AFRWC	Updated Seal for AFRWC
1.06	20151117	AFRWC	Add Policy 06-2015, First Responder