

# **AWIN Radio System Interconnect Policy**

## **1. Introduction**

This policy establishes the terms and conditions for connecting two-way public safety radio equipment into the Arkansas Wireless Information Network (AWIN) system.

## **2. Purpose**

The purpose of this policy is to establish protocols for the use and deployment of radio systems interconnects utilizing the AWIN system, ensuring the most effective system usage while maintaining the high grade of service (GOS) necessary for all users of the system.

## **3. System Interconnect Policy**

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

The AICEC allows radio system interconnects on a short-term basis with the aim of providing a temporary solution for interoperability. A permanent connection between systems is prohibited. Use of an interconnect for an extended or indefinite period must be approved by the AICEC. AWIN is considered a State asset. Any non-law enforcement system interconnect must be coordinated with ADEM in accordance with ARKANSAS STATEWIDE EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS PLAN.

The AICEC does not allow non-law enforcement radio system interconnects without prior notification to AWIN Operations and ADEM. AWIN Operations will monitor and be on standby to assist if there is an issue establishing the interconnect.

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

AWIN Operations or ADEM has the right to disable the interconnect if it adversely affects system performance.

## **4. Enforcement**

Violation of the above policy shall result in thorough administrative investigation by AWIN Operations, which will be reported to the AICEC.

Violations of this policy shall result in the affected device being disabled by AWIN. A radio that has been disabled by AWIN will not be able to transmit on AWIN.

If a interconnect is determined to be adversely affecting the performance of AWIN, the Incident Commander will be notified. Should reasonable attempts to contact the Incident Commander fail, AWIN reserves the right to "inhibit" or turn off the radio that is being used to connect to other systems remotely. This means shall be used as a last resort to preserve AWIN system performance for all other users.

It is not the intention of the AICEC or AWIN to deter the use of radio interconnect capabilities, but rather to maximize usage of the system statewide. The AICEC and AWIN are responsible for ensuring that system performance is maximized at all times for all users.

## 5. Definitions

**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, enabling users on different networks to 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. Other terms commonly used to define this process include “**cross-connect**,” “**patching**,” “**gateway**,” or “**bridging**”.

**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 renders the radio unable to transmit on AWIN.

**Primary AWIN User** is an agency that depends on the AWIN system for its daily operations.

**Emergency Interoperability User** (also commonly referred to as a “part-time user”) is an agency that depends on a radio system other than the AWIN system for its daily operations. Emergency Interoperability Users use AWIN to establish interoperability and in the event of primary system failure.

**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.

**Arkansas Department of Emergency Management (ADEM)** is Arkansas’ Homeland Security and Preparedness Agency. ADEM serves as the State’s coordination center for the capabilities necessary to prevent, protect against, mitigate the effects of, respond to, and recover from those threats that pose the greatest risk to the security of the Nation.