Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Governor's Office of Administration

Public Safety Radio Technology Bulletin

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Supporting Documents

Type	Document ID	Title
		None

Record of Changes

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1.0	11/21/2008	J Seefeldt	Downlevel	Original issue
1.1	2/2/2009	J Seefeldt	Published	Remove categorization and rename from "USE007"; conform to boilerplate changes.

1. Purpose

This policy establishes guidelines for the connection of county public safety agencies with the Pennsylvania Statewide Radio Network (PA-STARNet) for communication in support of emergency and routine operations.

2. Scope

This policy applies to all PA-STARNet interoperability partners for public safety and emergency response, actual or potential, especially Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs).

3. Policy

3.1. The single point of connection to PA-STARNet for emergency response and routine public safety communication between PA-STARNet users and county and local agencies shall be a PSAP.

3.2. The sole methods allowed for connecting PSAP communications systems with PA-STARNet, in order of increasing capability, shall be the following:

3.2.1. **Standalone Fixed Station Radio** (Control Station):
A fixed station radio installed at the PSAP, colocated with dispatch operations, operating as a standalone subscriber device on PA-STARNet.

3.2.2. **Fixed Station Radio With Console Integration**:
A fixed station radio installed at the PSAP, operating as a subscriber device on PA-STARNet, and appearing as a selectable position on the dispatch console through an audio interface appropriate to the communications system and console technology.

3.2.3. **Gateway Connection**:
An Internet Protocol (IP)-based voice gateway using Tyco Electronics, Inc. NetworkFirst® technology.

3.2.4. **Internetworked Connection**:
A full-featured internetworking connection supporting a range of PA-STARNet advanced features and functions in addition to basic voice communication.

3.3. Any communications equipment, lines, or circuits required to implement a supported method of connectivity specific to the connection to the PSAP's communications system shall be installed at the PSAP, at the expense of the jurisdiction responsible for the PSAP.

3.4. Any private communications lines required to implement a supported method of connectivity shall meet the following requirements:

3.4.1. Connection to the PA-STARNet firewall through one of the points of connection established by the Office of Public Safety Radio Services (OPRS).

3.4.2. Conformance with all Commonwealth policies and procedures concerning network connection by external entities.

3.4.3. All installation and recurring costs at the expense of the jurisdiction responsible for the PSAP.

4. Definitions

4.1. Agency
Any organization using PA-STARNet.

4.2. Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP)
A communications center operated by an agency responsible for answering calls for emergency assistance, and for directing those calls to the appropriate responders, such as police, fire, and emergency medical services, within a geographic jurisdiction.

4.3. NetworkFirst®
An equipment and software product offering of Tyco Electronics, Inc. for internetworking of two-way communications systems that use disparate technologies (analog or digital, conventional or trunked, different portions of the frequency spectrum), connecting them for intercommunication through IP-based digital protocols. The principal components are the voice gateway for conversion of analog audio streams to digital data, and the Network Switching Center for central switching, processing, and control.

4.4. PA-STARNet Connection Point
A center for connection of agency communications lines supporting data transfer between PA-STARNet and agency applications, including firewall support to ensure controlled access and network protection. OPRS has established two such connection points in Pennsylvania, in Harrisburg (Dauphin County) and in Johnsonburg (Elk County).

5. Responsibilities

5.1. OPRS is responsible for the following:

5.1.1. Providing Connection Points for agency data communications with PA-STARNet.

5.1.2. Establishing standards and requirements for connection of external communications systems to PA-STARNet.

5.1.3. Approving or rejecting proposed methods of connection to PA-STARNet within the standards and requirements established by this policy.

5.1.4. Assisting county and local agencies in the evaluation, selection, and implementation of appropriate technologies for connecting their communications systems with PA-STARNet.

5.2. County and local public safety agencies are responsible for the following:

5.2.1. Evaluating and selecting methods of connection to PA-STARNet within the standards and requirements established by this policy.

5.2.2. Formulating and following a plan for PA-STARNet connectivity whose objective is the implementation of the most capable method of intercommunication consistent with existing agency communications technology, budgetary resources, and other pertinent circumstances.

5.2.3. Procuring, installing, and operating any communications equipment, lines, or circuits required to implement a supported method of connectivity and specific to connection to the agency's communications system.

6. Procedures

Not applicable.

7. Exemption

Any affected entity seeking exemption from this policy shall complete and submit a *Public Safety Radio Standards Waiver Request,* and submit it by e-mail to RA-RadioPolicy@state.pa.us for review.

8. Questions

Any questions about this policy statement are to be directed by e-mail to RA-RadioPolicy@state.pa.us.