

Radio Technology Bulletin Common Document

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BPD = Best Practices	OPD = Operations Document
GEN = General Information	WHP = White Paper

Record of Changes

Ver.Rel	Issue date	Revised by	Status	Description
1.0	1/8/2007	J Seefeldt	Downlevel	Original issue
1.1	2/8/2007	J Seefeldt	Published	Update system name to PA-STARNet

Purpose

This document provides general information about classifying the types of two-way radio intercommunication. A standard classification contributes to clarity and precision in discussions of interoperability.

Content

Following is a classification scheme for radio intercommunication types based on organizational (agency) boundaries, system technology, system affiliation, and frequency of use (see **Figure 1—Communication Types Taxonomy**):

1. Internal

The normal mode of communication within an agency fleet using the voice groups native to the agency's fleet map, excluding any shared or interoperability voice groups.

2. External

2.1. Interagency

Also known as intraoperability, communication within the same radio system, but across agency fleet map boundaries.

2.1.1. Routine

Planned interfleet communication reflecting a routine operational requirement, using voice groups owned and administered by one agency and shared by its communication partners through agreement among the communicating agencies.

2.1.2. Ad Hoc

Unplanned interfleet communication stemming from multiagency response to an emergency or some other ad hoc need, provided for through voice groups and connections modified or created to satisfy operational requirements as they emerge.

2.2. Intersystem

Communication across radio system boundaries.

2.2.1. OpenSky

Intersystem communication in which both systems use the same

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communication technology: for example, both are M/A-COM OpenSky systems.

2.2.2. Non-OpenSky

Interoperability in the classic sense: intersystem communication across radio systems using disparate communication technologies, for example, M/A-COM OpenSky and legacy VHF radio.

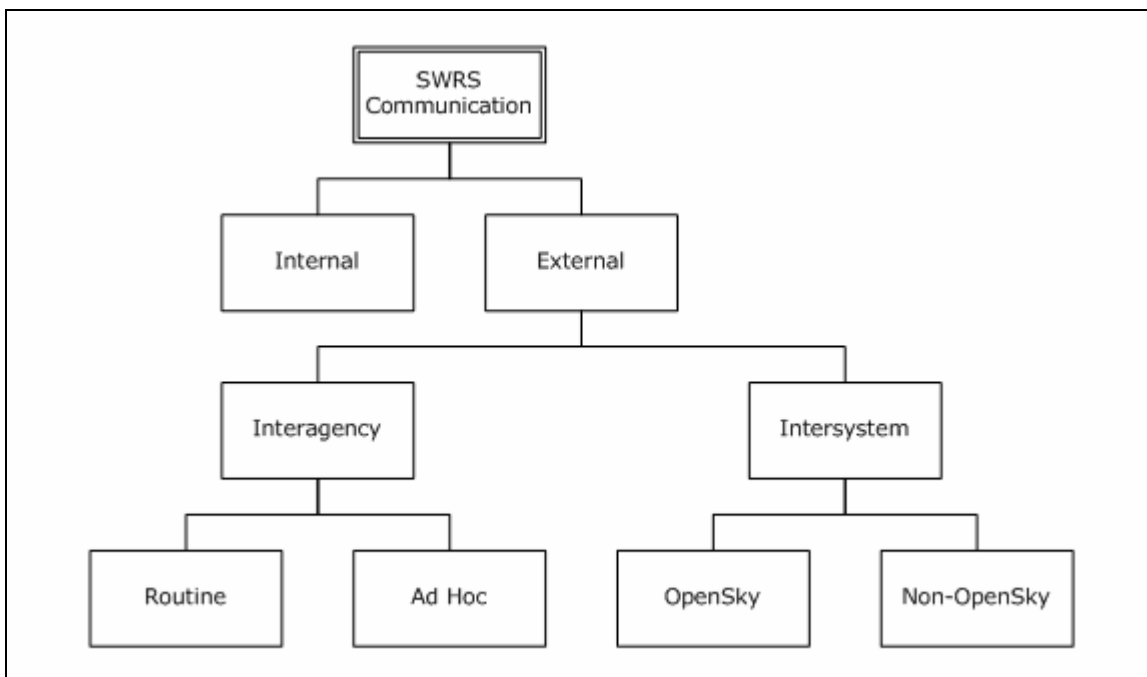


Figure 1—Communication Types Taxonomy

The hierarchy of entities in the OpenSky system introduces an ambiguity in the terms “agency” and “fleet.” The Pennsylvania Statewide Radio Network (PA-STARNet) network is segmented into seven regions, each controlled by a Regional Operations Center (ROC). Agencies exist within regions, identified by an Agency Code. Strictly speaking, then, an organization with statewide operations exists in PA-STARNet as seven distinct fleets, with intercommunication among their respective fleet maps by way of shared voice groups, classified here as “Routine Interagency” communication. For most purposes this detail is of no consequence, however, and communication within an organization, or agency, will be referred to as “Internal,” regardless of the number of PA-STARNet regions in which that agency operates.

Questions

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