



# Phoenix Regional COMU

*Interoperability Working Group eNewsletter*

## Regional Dispatch Interoperability Briefings Continue

Thanks to everyone who have supported and attended our Regional Dispatch Interoperability Briefings these past months! The turnout has been fantastic with 77 total attendees so far. **After a little break for the summer we next head to the West Valley hosted by Avondale PD on Thursday, September 26 with two identical sessions at 10:00 and 15:00. In October we will be hosted by Paradise Valley PD.** More info will be out on these briefings as we get closer in. Both civilian and sworn are welcome so mark your calendars!

The briefings run 90 minutes and the interactions between both RWC and non-RWC agencies is invaluable. Note we will also be glad to schedule individual agency sessions if desired. Included with this eNewsletter is the ***Dispatch Interoperability Briefing Outline*** which provides more details. For more information drop us a line at:

[phxcomu@chandleraz.gov](mailto:phxcomu@chandleraz.gov)

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### REFERENCE

### MATERIALS

- Non-RWC Agency Interoperability Resources
- Dispatch Interoperability Briefing Outline

## Who's Deck is it Anyway?

As our interoperability resources have evolved over the past few years, and our processes and personnel have refined interoperability across the region, sometimes those "urban legends" persist. One of those urban legends is that the RWC interoperability decks (G Deck and H Deck in particular) somehow belong to Phoenix PD. While Phoenix PD is of course a major agency here in the region, the interoperability decks are a regional resource that the RWC freely shares with both members and non members. Any RWC dispatch center has the ability to activate and manage these channels, Phoenix does not need to be called in order to utilize them, unless of course an agency needs to work directly with Phoenix PD.

The process within the region is that an RWC agency needs to be involved with any non members to utilize the decks, however the request for that need should go to the RWC agency dispatch center that is actually involved with the incident. They will be able to activate and advise on which interoperability channel can be utilized. The PSAP channel facilitates this quickly and our investment in the Regional Dispatch Interoperability Briefings continues to equip dispatchers across the region with the understanding and skill to quickly and efficiently activate any needed resources.



# Phoenix Regional COMU

## Name That Deck

One of the confusions that arises in dispatch centers and particularly in the field is the naming conventions of the interoperability decks. Prior to the APX™ radios, the name of the deck did not actually appear on the radio, only the channels. However, now those decks are selected from a menu listing of the deck names rather than the channel names.

Within this legacy programming, much of which is still out in the field, there are decks named things such as “PHX PD G” and “PHX PD H,” which results in some of the confusion we noted earlier in this eNewsletter regarding who “owns” the decks.

Technical terminology also remains out there such as “SEC OVERLAY P,” “O OVERLAY,” “U 700 DECK,” “L

EVENTS,” and others that make no sense to our first responders.

Even if we think along the lines of NIMS protocols for standardization of plain language, this mixed bag of naming conventions becomes problematic.

Our processes from training to documentation to day to day operations depend on utilizing simple, standards-based names

for each of the interoperability decks such as “G DECK,” “H DECK,” “P DECK,” etc. This creates mutual understanding across all agencies.

While it is understood that changing the naming in portable and mobile radios takes time and a lot of effort, we encourage all agencies to work towards making these changes as other updates are made.

## Standard Interoperability Deck Naming Examples

G DECK	H DECK	L DECK	O DECK	P DECK	U DECK
G01 INT A	H01 PS 01	L01 FIREDISP	O01 OCEAN 01	P01 EOS 01	U01 7CALL50
G02 INT B	H02 PS 02	L02 EVENT 02	O02 OCEAN 02	P02 EOS 02	U02 7CALL50D
G03 INT C	H03 PS 03	L03 EVENT 03	O03 OCEAN 03	P03 EOS 03	U03 7MED65
G04 INT D	H04 PS 04	L04 EVENT 04	O04 OCEAN 04	P04 EOS 04	U04 7MED65D
G05 INT E	H05 PS 05	L05 EVENT 05	O05 OCEAN 05	P05 EOS 05	U05 7TAC55
G06 INT F	H06 PS 06	L06 EVENT 06	O06 OCEAN 06	P06 EOS 06	U06 7TAC55D
G07 INT G	H07 PS 07	L07 EVENT 07	O07 OCEAN 07	P07 EOS 07	U07 7FIRE63
G08 INT H	H08 PS 08	L08 EVENT 08	O08 OCEAN 08	P08 EOS 08	U08 7FIRE63D
G09 INT I	H09 PS 09	L09 EVENT 09	O09 OCEAN 09	P09 EOS 09	U09 7TAC56
G10 INT J	H10 PS 10	L10 EVENT 10	O10 OCEAN 10	P10 EOS 10	U10 7TAC56D
G11 INT K	H11 PS 11	L11 EVENT 11	O11 OCEAN 11	P11 EOS 11	U11 7LAW61
G12 INT L	H12 PS 12	L12 EVENT 12	O12 OCEAN 12	P12 EOS 12	U12 7LAW61D
G13 INT M	H13 PS 13	L13 EVENT 13	O13 OCEAN 13	P13 EOS 13	U13 7GTAC57
G14 INT N	H14 PS 14	L14 EVENT 14	O14 OCEAN 14	P14 EOS 14	U14 7GTAC57D
G15 INT O	H15 PS 15	L15 EVENT 15	O15 OCEAN 15	P15 EOS 15	U15 7CALL70
G16 DYNRGP	H16 PS 16	L16 EVENT 16	O16 OCEAN 16	P16 EOS 16	U16 7CALL70D



Sponsored by the Phoenix Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI)

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## Goals and Objectives



- Develop and implement best practices in interoperability across the Phoenix region
- Foster cooperation between RWC, TRWC, MCSO, DPS, Pinal County, Indian Communities, and all other public safety stakeholders around the region
- Better integrate specialized assets such as Air Units, K9, and Special Assignment Units/SWAT
- Evaluate the DOJ PSAP Intercommunications System facilities and practices
- Develop quality, scenario based, training materials and interoperability exercises
- Engage collaborative technology for increased discussion and communication region wide
- Work together to develop the best operational and tactical practices from a practical, daily operations standpoint

### Reminder! Our Next Interoperable Communications Subcommittee meeting:

Thursday, October 3, 2019 - 10:00 AM - Phoenix Emergency Operations Center (EOC)

2425 W. Lower Buckeye Rd., Phoenix, Arizona 85009

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## Thank You For Your Support! By Ron Parks

*“The Valley of the Sun is recognized across the nation as “having our act together” when it comes to interoperability and that credit goes to all of the agencies that day in and day out work together, especially when critical incidents arise.”*

As the editor of the eNewsletter and the COMU lead for the region along with Nicole Diedrick, we would both like to take this opportunity to say “thanks” to all of our vital partners throughout the Phoenix Region who continue to support our initiatives in continuous improvement of interoperability. The Valley of the Sun is recognized across the nation as “having our act together” when it comes to interoperability and that credit goes

to all of the agencies that day in and day out work together, especially when critical incidents arise. We also stand on some tall shoulders who, over the years, have laid the groundwork for what we enjoy today.

We also want to thank everyone who attends our Interoperable Communications Subcommittee meetings. Our attendance and interactions in the meetings in the past year have

been outstanding. Every time we come together we all learn and further develop both our techniques and relationships.

I do not often editorialize in these pages however it is truly a pleasure to work here in the Phoenix region and the support that we continue to receive from the Phoenix UASI and all of you out there is making a huge difference.

**Thank you!**



# Non-RWC Agency Interoperability Resources



## AIR UNITS

- ALL AIR UNITS IN THE PHOENIX REGION HAVE BOTH G AND H DECKS

## DPS

- Monitors PSAP
- In dispatch: G-1, G-6, G-13, and H-1
- Most troopers have G Deck in portables only

## FBI

- Monitors PSAP
- In dispatch: G, H, L, O Decks, all channels
- Some agents have access to G and H

## GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY

- Monitors PSAP
- G Deck channels 1 – 5 available on dispatch consoles
- Officers have G Deck in portables and mobiles

## GILBERT PD

- Monitors PSAP
- G and H Decks, all channels available on dispatch consoles
- Officers have RWC G & H decks and TRWC V, W, X decks in radios

## MCSO

- Monitors PSAP
- G and H Decks, all channels available on dispatch consoles
- Deputies have RWC G, H, L, O, P and TRWC V, W, X Decks in radios

## MESA PD

- Monitors PSAP
- G and H Decks, all channels available on dispatch consoles
- Officers have RWC G & H decks and TRWC V, W, X decks in radios

## PINAL COUNTY SHERIFF

- Coming soon, PSAP access in dispatch
- G Deck, all channels available on dispatch consoles
- Deputies have G, L, and O Decks in radios

## SALT RIVER PIMA-MARICOPA INDIAN COMMUNITY

- Monitors PSAP
- Have G, H, L, O Decks, all channels available on dispatch consoles
- Field units have G, H, L, O Decks



# Phoenix Regional COMU

## Dispatch Interoperability Briefing

### Outline



The Phoenix Regional COMU Dispatch Interoperability Briefing is a 90-minute session for dispatch teams to build understanding of our shared regional resources and best practices for use. The session is presented live with visual media and printed reference materials. Both RWC and non-RWC agencies are welcome to attend and we will schedule both joint and individual agency sessions. Sworn are also always welcome. **Contact [phxcomu@chandleraz.gov](mailto:phxcomu@chandleraz.gov) for more information.**

## Overview

Enabling and Empowering Regional Interoperability

### Section 1 – A few basics just for review

- 1.1 – The Regional Wireless Cooperative (RWC)
- 1.2 – The TOPAZ Regional Wireless Cooperative (TRWC)
- 1.3 – Other Regional and Local Systems
- 1.4 – The PSAP Intercommunications System
- 1.5 – Access and use of Interoperability Channels
- 1.6 – Patching and Multi-Selecting

### Section 2 – Regional Resource Overview

- 2.1 – G and H Decks
- 2.2 – L Deck, O Deck, and P Deck
- 2.3 – V and W Decks
- 2.4 – Coverage Areas
- 2.5 – I Deck - Arizona Interagency Radio System (AIRS)
- 2.6 – “TRAILER” and “NIFOG” Interoperability Assets

### Section 3 – Utilizing Regional Resources

- 3.1 – Overview
- 3.2 – Patching vs. Direct use of an Interoperability Channel
- 3.3 – Patching and Encryption
- 3.4 – Console Tones
- 3.5 – Console Priority
- 3.6 – G-H Deck Organizational Chart
- 3.7 – V-W Deck Organizational Chart
- 3.8 – Turning Repeaters OFF and ON

### Section 4 – Example Scenarios

- 4.1 – Immediate Tactical Incidents
- 4.2 – Planned Tactical Operations
- 4.3 – Planned Events
- 4.4 – Outside Agency Assistance
- 4.5 – Cache or Loaner Radios
- 4.6 – Unified Command
- 4.7 – Be the Magic Behind the Curtain!

### Handouts

- Phoenix Regional Dispatch Interoperability Guide
- G Deck / H Deck Quick Reference
- V Deck / W Deck Quick Reference
- Non-RWC Agency Interoperability Resources
- U.S. Department of Homeland Security Interoperability Continuum
- Glossary of Terms