

Operational Communications Advisor Course (Airwave)

Course Overview



JESIP
Working Together – Saving Lives

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The Aim of the Course is:

To qualify selected personnel to act as communications advisors on all aspects of emergency services operational communications, to support the Operational and/or Tactical Commander in the effective management of both pre-planned events and spontaneous incidents.

The Role of the Communications Advisor

When trained, the Communications Advisor will be responsible to their operational and tactical planning teams, providing advice and best practice guidance on all aspects of the operational use of Airwave.

They will have a high level of understanding of the provisions made for the operational use of mandated and mutual aid talk groups, together with the Airwave service requirements around major incident and event planning.

For them to be effective, the Communications Advisor must be invited to participate at the very earliest stages of major event planning and importantly be invited to assist where protracted spontaneous incidents are encountered in control rooms.

The objectives that have been set for the course:

On completion of the course the successful student will be able to:

- LO1. Describe the roles and responsibilities of a Communications Advisor
- LO2. Describe communications requirements for pre-planned and emergency situations
- LO3. Describe the importance of operational communications and their usage
- LO4. Develop joint operating rules and working practices within their own organisation
- LO5. Demonstrate a thorough knowledge of all relevant national guidance and policies covering operational communications
- LO6. Describe the importance of interoperability and the different operational communications approach in other organisations
- LO7. Describe the operation and flexible use of Airwave
- LO8. Demonstrate an ability to provide communications advice to Incident Commanders



Course Pre-reading

Prior to attending this course is it advisable that you make yourself aware of the following documents:

- JESIP Doctrine that can be found at <http://jesip.org.uk/joint-doctrine>
 - The three key elements of this are:
 - Five Principles for Joint Working
 - M/ETHANE
 - Joint Decision Model (JDM)
- An awareness on how your organisation uses Airwave in a Tactical and Operational role. For further information on this speak to your organisations Airwave Team.

Students should familiarise themselves with Airwave handsets and vehicle sets (terminals) if they do not regularly use them.

Please can you:

1. Find out what handsets, vehicle sets and (if you have them) desktop fixed mobile units your organisation uses, how to select a talk group, the talk group structure on your organisations handsets and if you have Gateways available.
2. Find out what control room equipment (ICCS) your organisation uses and what its capabilities are
3. Find out how many existing communication tactical advisors there are (these may be called Airwave Tac Advisors in your organisation).

The course is classroom based delivery, supported by delegate notes and delegate participation in problem solving scenarios.

There is an assessment process in place with continual assessment and a knowledge check and individual competency scenario test on the final day.

Certification

In order to successfully complete the course a delegate must complete the classroom phase and be considered suitable to give advice at the stage of forward planning and at the time of an ongoing incident.

Delegates are required to show continual professional development following the course and ensure they stay up to date with all relevant doctrine, policies and procedures, nationally and locally.

Delegates must attend a CPD event within 18 months of completing the course.