

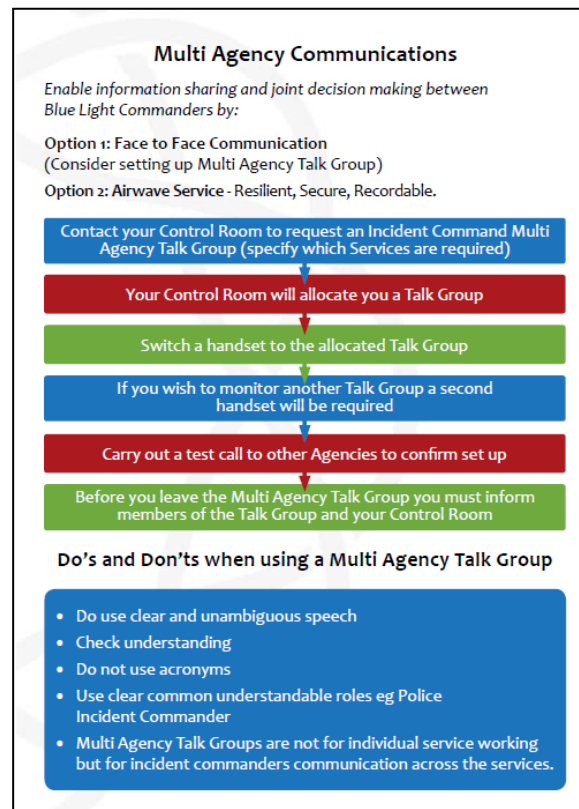
# Emergency Services Airwave Interoperability Test Regime

## Introduction

1. The benefits of multi-agency Airwave use are a feature of JESIP training courses for commanders and control rooms. These courses highlight the various multi-agency talkgroups available and the arrangements in place to activate them. To help embed this learning and maintain familiarity with procedures, JESIP developed a simple test procedure. This is attached at Annex A.
2. This document sets out JESIP's expectations with regards to local implementation of the Airwave test procedure.

## Background

3. The Joint Emergency Services Interoperability Programme (JESIP) published "Joint Doctrine: The interoperability framework" in 2013. This guidance focuses on police, fire and ambulance interoperability in the early stages of the response to a major or complex incident. Its purpose is to provide emergency service commanders with a framework to enable them to respond together as effectively as possible. It has since been used as the basis to train over 12,000 emergency services commanders and control room supervisory staff in a tri-service environment.
4. The core principles outlined in the doctrine are co-location, communication, co-ordination, joint understanding of risk, and shared situational awareness. Other key components are the METHANE mnemonic as a means to achieve shared situational awareness and a Joint Decision Model.
5. JESIP is people, rather than technology focussed, but does provide guidance on the effective use of existing technological solutions.
6. The JESIP Aide memoire provides the following (*right*) guidance on multi-agency communications.
7. Airwave, as the emergency services' digital radio platform, plays a crucial role in day-to-day operations for the emergency services. Given the different response arrangements and alternative uses of the radio network for each agency, a guide on developing procedures for the multiagency use of Airwave was



produced in 2010<sup>1</sup>. This followed with an expectation that Local Resilience Forums would jointly develop their own agreed protocols for use in their area. This would support communication efforts between incident commanders when it was not possible for them to co-locate.

## Accountability

8. As with other JESIP products, accountability for implementation and operation of this test procedure resides with the organisation's designated JESIP Strategic Lead. The occurrence of tests will be monitored periodically through analysis of multiagency talkgroups usage reports by the JESIP Board. The JESIP team will also seek assurance that individual services have a regular Airwave test regime in place as part of the JESIP Self-Assessment Toolkit and it may also form part of any single or tri-service reviews by inspecting bodies. .

## Expectations

9. The table below specifies the expectations that each agency is expected to meet:

Element	Expectation
<b>Organisations involved</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To include at least the ambulance trust, fire and rescue service and territorial police force.</li> <li>• These core organisations may be augmented as agreed locally with other users of the Airwave system. In particular, areas may wish to consider the involvement of other local users most likely to be included when invoking multi-agency talkgroups . E.g. British Transport Police, Maritime &amp; Coastguard Agency, Airport Fire Services.</li> <li>• There is <u>no requirement</u> that emergency services' control rooms should be conducting tests of <u>all</u> local Airwave user organisations every month. This is based on practicalities of conducting the test, and in recognition that many users already conduct regular tests within their sector.</li> </ul>
<b>Personnel involved</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tests will be held for both Tactical Commanders and Operational Commanders on duty at that time (not necessarily on the same call).</li> </ul>
<b>Frequency</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Control rooms should participate in a test at least monthly. Due to the different number and jurisdiction boundaries of control rooms between services, some control rooms will need to participate more frequently.</li> <li>• Consideration should be given to scheduling these so as to maximise exposure of commanders and control room staff to the tests over the course of a year.</li> </ul>
<b>Test Duration</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is anticipated that each test will last no more than 10 minutes.</li> </ul>

<sup>1</sup> Standard Operating Procedures Guide on Multiagency Airwave Interoperability, 2010; [http://www.acpo.police.uk/documents/uniformed/2010/20110831%20UOBA%20SOP-Guide-Multi-Agency-Airwave-Interoperability-20101%20\(2\).pdf](http://www.acpo.police.uk/documents/uniformed/2010/20110831%20UOBA%20SOP-Guide-Multi-Agency-Airwave-Interoperability-20101%20(2).pdf)

## Implementing the Test Arrangements

10. It is recommended that the Ambulance Trusts coordinate the scheduling of tests. As a result of their larger geographical footprint they will be expected to undertake a greater number of Airwave tests. It would be prudent that tests are scheduled at a mutually convenient time when demand is forecast to be at a minimum, e.g. 0800 hours on Sunday mornings.
11. Agencies will be expected to implement this test regime and hold their first Airwave tests in May 2015. Local services' JESIP Delivery Leads and all participants in control room training courses conducted since the autumn 2014 have been made aware of the intended implementation.
12. Copies of this briefing note have been sent to JESIP Strategic Leads, JESIP Delivery Leads and control room managers.

## Annex A: Airwave Interoperability Test Flowchart

