

Missouri State Interoperability Executive **Committee**

Summary

Enclosed you will find a Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) and a copy of the established operating parameters for FIXED and MOBILE use of the Missouri specific multi discipline interoperability channel, 154.680 MHz MTAC. **The MTAC channel is to be utilized primarily as a multi-discipline “calling channel” for Missouri’s first responder community and to promote communication between MTAC users in the field (mobile) and in Missouri’s PSAP/fixed dispatch community..** The term “multi discipline” infers that this channel, as indicated in this document outlining operational and technical parameters for the channels FIXED and MOBILE use, is to be used by all public safety users to communicate to users within their discipline (Law Enforcement to Law Enforcement, Fire to Fire, etc.) as well as across other public safety disciplines (Law Enforcement to Fire, Fire to Local Government) as well as between all MOBILE and FIXED MTAC users. Missouri Public Safety Answering Points (PSAP) and other public safety dispatch facilities will monitor the MTAC channel at all levels of government 24 hours a day, 7 days a week throughout Missouri as a primary use of the MTAC channel. Non 24/7 use will be on a secondary basis. Those fixed facilities monitoring the channel will answer all calls received on MTAC and will coordinate the usage of the channel and any contention resulting from use of the channel with agencies within their community. The channel is not to be utilized within a single agency for day-day operations but can be utilized to promote inter-agency communications in conjunction with Incident Command Structure (ICS) operations during multi-agency training and exercise events.

Previously allocated FCC interoperability channels assigned for inter-system sharing (Law Enforcement Mutual Aid, Fire Mutual aid, EMS HEAR channel etc.) within certain disciplines should continue to be used by Missouri’s First Responders to facilitate communications within their respective discipline.

The Missouri State Interoperability Executive Committee requires this channel to be utilized under an Incident Command/Incident Management structure where channels are used as resources to accomplish the communications function at specific incident(s). Eligible entities within the Public Safety Radio Pool include, but are not limited to, agencies under the following categories, per FCC 90.20

Missouri State Interoperability Executive Committee Memorandum of Understanding, January 2011
Missouri MTAC Channel FIXED and MOBILE Operation

Fire
Highway Maintenance
Emergency Medical
Forestry-Conservation
Law Enforcement
Special Emergency
Local Government

See <http://wireless.fcc.gov/publicsafety/pspool.html> for further information on public safety radio pool eligibility.

If there is any uncertainty as to whether or not your agency is licensed under Part 90.20 of the FCC's rules, or you have any questions regarding the proposed use of this designated interoperability channel, please feel free to contact Stephen Devine, Missouri Interoperability Program Manager, Missouri Department of Public Safety at 573 522 2382 or stephen.devine@dps.mo.gov

To use the MTAC channel for FIXED use in Missouri complete the online Memorandum of Understanding for FIXED operation of MTAC. Save a copy of your signed agreement for reference along with the guidelines herein for use of the channel below. The FIXED site will be licensed by the State of Missouri at the transmitter location. To use the MTAC channel for MOBILE use in Missouri, complete the online application section for MOBILE use. Applicants for FIXED or MOBILE use must submit a copy of their existing FCC license with their application for MTAC use.

A list of agencies that have agreed to the FIXED use of the Missouri MTAC channel and are licensed for such use by the State of Missouri is available at www.mointeroperability.gov

Sincerely,

Stephen T. Devine, Chairperson
Missouri State Interoperability Executive Committee

Missouri Statewide Interoperability *Executive Committee*

A committee formed to improve interoperable public safety communications for Missouri's First Responder Community.

The objectives for Missouri Tactical Channel use are as follows:

MTAC PRIMARY OBJECTIVE: On a primary basis, the MTAC channel is to be used as a means of communication between mobile MTAC users and *fixed, permanent* public safety answering points and dispatch centers. This usage can be categorized as: Mobile MTAC users, operating independently and originating outside a command post service area, may utilize the MTAC channel on a primary basis as they respond to an incident. The nature of the traffic between fixed and mobile users should be concise and consistent with the priorities outlined below. Mobile units should contact either fixed MTAC dispatch facilities or an established Command Post on the MTAC channel to receive the necessary instructions.

Emergency notifications from field mobile users to PSAP's should be prioritized as:

- Disaster or extreme emergency operation for mutual aid and inter-agency communications;
- Emergency or urgent operation involving imminent danger to life or property;
- Special event control, generally of a preplanned nature (including Task Force operations)
- Joint training evolutions (these channels do not qualify for use by single agencies for their secondary communications purposes)

To resolve contention within the same priority and assuming all radio equipment is exercising the lowest output and effective radiated power level practicable, the channel should go to the organization with the wider span of control/authority. This shall be determined by the SIEC for the operation or by the levels of authority/government identified in the contention.

MTAC SECONDARY OBJECTIVE: Strictly on a secondary basis, MTAC can be utilized by an established Command Post, with the oversight of its Incident Commander (IC), to liaison with established fixed dispatch facilities that normally monitor and operate on MTAC within the incident area of operation. This communication should be in a non-discipline specific manner with the purpose of protecting life and property while ensuring the safety of the responder community.

MTAC mobile users can also utilize the channel for on-scene multi-agency, multi-discipline tactical communications, as needed. Note that with dispatch facilities across Missouri utilizing MTAC as a calling channel and receiving and transmitting MTAC on multiple base stations, the tactical use of MTAC for on-scene communications may be compromised by local higher power operation. It is recommended that other simplex on-scene VHF tactical channels in addition to MTAC be utilized to ensure on-scene communication needs can be met.

Missouri SIEC MTAC Memorandum of Understanding **MOBILE USE**

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for agencies to operate Missouri MTAC multi-discipline interoperability channel in accordance with Missouri Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee guidelines

This memorandum of understanding (hereafter referred to as MOU) is submitted by _____ (hereafter referred to as APPLICANT) representing a public safety agency indicating compliance and agreement with the attached operational and technical guidelines for the MOBILE use of the Missouri MTAC multidiscipline interoperability channel. By virtue of signing and submitting this MOU, APPLICANT affirms its willingness to comply with the proper operation of the interoperability channel as dictated by the Missouri Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee (SIEC).

The applicant agency will use these interoperability channels with _____ (**number of mobile/portable units**) and will notify the Missouri Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee if the number of radios programmed increases by more than 10% of the number of units listed above.

Priority Levels:

- Disaster or extreme emergency operation for mutual aid and inter-agency communications;
- Emergency or urgent operation involving imminent danger to life or property;
- Special event control, generally of a preplanned nature (including Task Force operations)
- Joint training evolutions (these channels do not qualify for use by single agencies for their secondary communications purposes)

The APPLICANT shall abide by the conditions of this MOU, which are as follows:

- To operate by all applicable Federal, State, County, and City laws/ordinances.
- To utilize “plain language” for all transmissions.
- To monitor the MTAC channel and coordinate its use in accordance to and in cooperation with other public safety use in Missouri.
- To identify inappropriate use and mitigate the same from occurring in the future.
- To mitigate contention for the MTAC channel by exercising the Priority Levels identified in this MOU.
- To utilize the MTAC channel in accordance with the licensed parameters of the State of Missouri’s FCC authorization as posted at the transmitter site.
- To share the MTAC channel between all qualified public safety entities without respect to discipline and to not monopolize the use of the channel.
- MTAC will be operated in the narrowband mode of operation utilizing emissions consistent with 11K3F3E

The preceding conditions are some of the requirements for operation of this Missouri specific MTAC interoperability channel. They are not a complete list and applicants are referred to the complete SIEC guidelines (attached) for the complete list of operational and technical requirements.

Any violation of this MOU or FCC Rule shall be addressed immediately. The first level of resolution escalation shall be between the parties involved, next the SIEC, and finally the Federal Communications Commission.

Frequency	Channel Name	TX CTCSS	RX CTCSS	P25 NAC
154.680 MHz	MTAC	156.7 Hz	156.7 Hz	Not Auth

Missouri SIEC MTAC Memorandum of Understanding **FIXED USE**

Memorandum of Understanding for agencies to operate Missouri MTAC multi-discipline interoperability channel in accordance with Missouri Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee guidelines

This memorandum of understanding (hereafter referred to as MOU) is submitted by _____ (hereafter referred to as APPLICANT) representing a public safety agency indicating compliance and agreement with the attached operational and technical guidelines for the FIXED use of the Missouri MTAC multidiscipline interoperability channel. By virtue of signing and submitting this MOU, APPLICANT affirms its willingness to comply with the proper operation of the interoperability channel as dictated by the Missouri Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee (SIEC).

Priority Levels:

- Disaster or extreme emergency operation for mutual aid and inter-agency communications;
- Emergency or urgent operation involving imminent danger to life or property;
- Special event control, generally of a preplanned nature (including Task Force operations)
- Joint training evolutions (these channels do not qualify for use by single agencies for their secondary communications purposes)

The APPLICANT shall abide by the conditions of this MOU, which are as follows:

- To operate by all applicable Federal, State, County, and City laws/ordinances.
- To utilize “plain language” for all transmissions.
- To monitor the MTAC channel 24 hours a day 7 days a week and coordinate its use in accordance to and in cooperation with other public safety use in Missouri.
- To identify inappropriate use and mitigate the same from occurring in the future.
- To mitigate contention for the MTAC channel by exercising the Priority Levels identified in this MOU.
- To utilize the MTAC channel in accordance with the licensed parameters of the State of Missouri’s FCC authorization as posted at the transmitter site.
- To share the MTAC channel between all qualified public safety entities without respect to discipline and to not monopolize the use of the channel.
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Any violation of this MOU or FCC Rule shall be addressed immediately. The first level of resolution escalation shall be between the parties involved, next the SIEC, and finally the Federal Communications Commission.

Frequency	Channel Name	TX CTCSS	RX CTCSS	P25 NAC
154.680 MHz	MTAC	156.7 Hz	156.7 Hz	Not Auth

Missouri MTAC Channel-Fixed Use

GUIDELINES FOR USE

1. Fixed use of the MTAC frequency (154.680 MHz) is licensed with the FCC by the Missouri State Highway Patrol and the Missouri Department of Public Safety and is available for use to Missouri first responders under 47CFR90 to satisfy intermittent public safety incident response requirements. The State of Missouri will be the licensee for all authorization of fixed operations in Missouri. The frequency is available on a shared basis in Missouri and will not be authorized for the exclusive use of any one agency. Public Safety entities may apply to the Missouri Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee on a case-by-case basis for permission to use this channel on a fixed basis through this application. While *public service* entities can, through a separate portion of this agreement with the Missouri Department of Public Safety utilize the MTAC channel for mobile use it will only be permitted when the application is to provide assistance and support to the public safety community in completing their mission.

In all cases involving use by non-traditional responders, the governmental entity served shall be responsible for proper operation and control of communications equipment at all times and the user agency licensee shall take measures to insure operations abide by all applicable FCC Rules and Regulations.

2. The operating parameters for MTAC are listed below:

The statewide channel, 154.680 MHz, will have a designated CTCSS tone of 156.7 Hz. Use of any CTCSS to mask co-channel operation by another authorized user is not permitted.

MTAC will primarily be utilized as a *calling channel* to talk to Public Safety Answering Points and other manned dispatch facilities by Mobile MTAC

users, operating independently and originating outside a command post service area **with emergency radio traffic, and to promote interaction and coordination between users and agencies in areas as Incident Management/Incident Command is being implemented.**

The Missouri Common Channel will be referred to as “MTAC” while being used with *plain voice*, inter-discipline/inter-agency communications.

In all cases, both traditional and non-traditional responders shall comply with all FCC type acceptance/certification requirements. Use of modified, frequency agile VHF amateur radio transceivers operating on MTAC under this MOU is not authorized.

3. Agencies should ensure their users

- **Have been trained in the differences between CTCSS and Carrier Squelch modes of operation,**
- **Have an understanding that resources outside of Missouri may not use the Missouri standardized MTAC CTCSS tone, and,**
- **Can demonstrate competent practical motor skills in reconfiguring their equipment so that it operates in Carrier Squelch receive mode for the operational period of the incident.**

4. Digital modes are not, at this time, authorized on MTAC.

5. Alert paging and SCADA operations are not permitted on the MTAC channel.

6. By entering into this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), the applicant certifies that their personnel, field, command, and telecommunicators, have acknowledged the Incident Command System/Incident Management System concept of command structure, the characteristics associated with it and will implement same at such time use of the interoperability channels is required. Applicant should check below that acknowledge that Incident Command and NIMS guidelines will be implemented in their use of the MTAC channel.

Will the MTAC channel be monitored 24/7 in this facility? YES__ NO__