

November 13, 2024

To: Statewide Communications Stakeholders

From: Matt Joski, Interoperability Council Chair

Ref: Update to Recommendation of Landing Zone Channels

Greetings,

Over the years, our Public Safety Communications Community has done a great deal of work in advancing Interoperability throughout the State of Wisconsin. We have witnessed the evolution of not only the relative equipment and technology, but even more important the culture of interoperability. What was merely conceptual just a few years ago is now both reality and practical. As with any successful initiative, our greatest assets are our people and the relationships that we cultivate to bring about the greatest outcomes.

In the area of Emergency Medical Services, we are served by so many local agencies from full-time and part-time to the vast number of volunteer agencies. A key supporting element to each and every one of those agencies are our Air Transport resources. The ability to coordinate those air resources are critical, and communication once again is the foundation of that coordination.

The ability to coordinate these resources was at the center of a recent discussion and action by the Land Mobile Radio (LMR) Subcommittee of the Interoperability Council. To address concerns of interference between ground users of MARC1 repeaters statewide and air resources operating on MARC2 (which shares its simplex frequency with the MARC1 repeater output frequency), the LMR Subcommittee did recommend, and the Interoperability Council did approve, the following as it pertains to the designation of specific state-licensed interoperability channels for use when coordinating Air Ground medical resources:

- **Discontinuation of the use of MARC2** as a primary air-ground coordination channel
- Designation of **FG GRAY and 8TACGRAY** as the new primary channels
- Designation of **FG BLACK and 8TACBLACK** as the new secondary channels
- Transition to these channels **as soon as possible, but no later than December 31, 2026**

In addition to the transition to these new primary and secondary state-licensed channels, the Interoperability Council and LMR Subcommittee continue to support the use of other statewide, regional, and local communications systems for air-ground communications as appropriate. Specifically for users of the WISCOM statewide trunked radio system, the regional RCALL/RTAC talkgroups may be used for this purpose, in addition to any talkgroups designated by the Department of Health Services in the Wisconsin Emergency Medical Services Communications Plan.

We extend our gratitude to those on the LMR Subcommittee as well as all those who played a role in the studies and data collection to arrive at this outcome. The work of the LMR Subcommittee along with all

of our Interoperability Council subcommittees have an important function in our ability to address the needs and concerns of our Public Safety community, now and into the future.

Please feel free to reach out to any members of the LMR Subcommittee or Interoperability Council with any questions regarding these designations.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matt Joski". The signature is written in a cursive, somewhat stylized font.

Matt Joski, Interoperability Chair