

# Metro Region ARMER Standards

## Section 3 – Metro 3.48.0 Communications Unit (COMU)

**Date Established**

**3-13-20**

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**3-13-20**

### 1. Purpose or Objective

The intent of this standard is to establish protocols and procedures to be used for initial recognition and renewal of the six recognized Communications Unit (COMU) positions and oversight of the COMU in Minnesota.

### 2. Background

- **Capabilities**

The COMU program for the State of Minnesota recognizes the following positions:

- Communications Unit Leader (COML)
- Communications Unit Technician (COMT)
- Incident Communication Center Manager (INCM)
- Incident Tactical Dispatcher (INTD)
- Radio Operator (RADO)
- Amateur Emergency Communications Specialist (AECS)

- **Constraints**

To become recognized or a renewal of recognition in a COMU position, the individual must follow the recognition procedures established in the State Operating Guidelines (SOGs).

### 3. Operational Context

The National Incident Management System (NIMS) is a standardized approach to incident management established in March 2004 by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. Within NIMS, the Incident Command System (ICS) systematizes command, control, and coordination of emergency response. The COMU resides in the Logistics Section of the ICS.

The Statewide Emergency Communication Board (SECB) empowers its Interoperability Committee to manage Minnesota's COMU program. It authorizes the Interoperability Committee to adopt and maintain SOGs to guide Minnesota COMU, consistent with the Purpose Statement.

The Metro Communications Response Task Force (CRTF) team organizes and exercises pre-planned events for the Metro region and is responsible for initial deployment of COMU resources from the Metro region. The CRTF also conducts quarterly training for members.

### 4. Recommended Procedure

The procedures listed in the SOGs shall be followed in order to be initially recognized and in order to have recognition renewal in any of the six Minnesota-recognized COMU positions. Completed packets for initial recognition or renewal shall be sent to the MESB Radio Services Coordinator. All Metro-based COMU positions will be reviewed and approved by the Metro Radio Technical Operations Committee (RTOC) prior to review and approval by the State committees.

## **5. Management**

For the Metro region, documentation for an initial recognition or renewal of a COMU position should be initiated with the Radio Services Coordinator.

The Statewide Interoperability Coordinator (SWIC) will manage the COMU recognition and renewal process in Minnesota.

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