

FIRST Responder RADIOS

the Simpler, the Better

Advances in Project 25 narrowband interoperability and equipment compatibility

go a long way towards providing public servants with the functionality and reliability they need to perform their duties effectively. But if radio operation is complicated, confusing or time-consuming, it can jeopardize the mission.

Focusing On The Human Side Of The Human/Machine Interface

There are compelling reasons for designing a first responder radio to be easy to operate.

When a radio is easy to use, it's easy to quickly turn recruits into competent users. Even seasoned veterans benefit from an easy interface — one that leaves them free to carry out their primary duties in high-stress scenarios rather than manipulating their radios.

Creating an easy-to-use radio requires an enormous amount of field experience and feedback — based on human nature and real-world conditions. Thales radios are a prime example.

Seeing How Easy It Is, At A Glance

The keypad and display screen on the front of a radio are important user interface elements. Rather than using cryptic blinking numbers to convey information, the Thales radio displays plain English and readable icons that give vital data at a glance, without menu navigation or button pushing. Here's what it looks like:



Programming, Made Simple

Another example of Thales' user-friendly thinking is the PC Programmer. The model of the industry, it comes with a manual few will ever need to open. Thanks to the simplicity of the software, programming Thales radios can be accomplished in a matter of minutes while others can take many hours. Programming a channel at the scene of an incident is also

extremely easy with Thales radios. The actual programming for a new channel takes a minute or less. Programming authorization is assured by a password system that a radio technician can use to restrict access.

Other Important Ease-Of-Use Features

Thales engineers have incorporated many capabilities that simplify efficient use of the radio even by novice users. These include:

Overall Scalability — depending on the situation, the Thales radio can be scaled from a simple one-channel PTT radio to a 304 channel multi-mode radio with bank selection, zone selection, encryption, OTAR, scanning, GPS and other special features.

Vital data at a glance

- Zone Name
- Channel Name
- Type of Channel (repeater or direct)
- Modulation Type (analog or digital)
- Signaling (CTCSS-analog/TalkGroup-digital)
- Encryption (on or off)
- Power Level (Hi or Lo)
- Battery Charge State
- If zone is in scan list
- If channel is in scan list

Automatic Shadow Channel Operation — set to operate in mixed mode systems, this function enables the user to respond to either analog or digital calls without any user intervention.

Unit Caller I.D. — this software features a customizable database that gives the user both caller I.D. (caller's name displayed on screen) and scrollable on-screen phonebook for simplified outgoing call placement similar to cell phone operation.

Individualized Squelch Level — the user can preset the squelch level for each channel, high for noisy channels or low for greater range on clear channels. This means that optimum range can be achieved without the need to be constantly changing the squelch control knob.

Keypad Lock — for physically rough public safety assignments, various radio keys can be temporarily locked to prevent accidental changes.

Covert Operation — where stealth is required, radio audio and alarms can be muted and radio light sources can be dimmed or eliminated.

Thales Project 25 Radios Keep Functionality and Reliability Simple

The establishment of a common standard for the many organizations engaged in public safety missions is a major step in the right direction. But if the first responder radios engaged in multi-agency, multi-mode communications are to enhance performance — rather than impede it — they must be as easy to learn, easy to change, and easy to use as Thales Project 25 radios.

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