

Waltham Police Department

CHAPTER 57

DECONFLICTION

General Order Number: GO-01

Effective Date: 01/2023, 06/2024

Accreditation Standard #'s: 42.2.5, 46.2.8

PURPOSE:

In 2003, the New England HIDTA ISC (High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area – Investigative Support Center) implemented a secure internet-based application that was primarily designed to facilitate officer safety [42.2.5-J] for drug operations throughout the six New England states.

Participants in the resulting deconfliction system now include numerous local, state and federal law enforcement agencies located throughout New England.

Operations entered into the system currently average more than five hundred (500) per month. The system determines on average that about 20% of all entered operations are in potential conflict.

Deconfliction is a secure Network Application with the primary purpose of officer safety. [42.2.5J] The application will scan existing event and target entries then compare them with new information to determine if the entered enforcement action or target is in close proximity to any other entered enforcement event or a match.

The system is monitored by the NEHIDTA Watch Center who will alert both parties of any conflict.

DEFINITIONS:

1. **DECONFLICTION:** Deconfliction is a secure Network Application with the primary purpose of officer safety. The application will scan existing event and target entries then compare them with new information to determine if the entered enforcement action or target is in close proximity to any other entered enforcement event or a match. The system is monitored by the NEHIDTA Watch Center who will alert both parties of any conflict
2. **DECONFLICTION NUMBER:** A unique number specific to each operation that is issued by the New England HIDTA ISC Watch Center.
3. **NEHIDTA:** New England High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area.

4. **IN-CONFLICT:** A situation arising when one operation is planned to occur in close geographic proximity and time with a second operation thereby creating a possible conflict or safety issue.
5. **ISC:** Investigative Support Center.
6. **WATCH CENTER:** An office staffed by law enforcement personnel and members of the National Guard that processes deconfliction notifications and requests.
7. **WATCH OFFICER:** A law enforcement officer, law enforcement intelligence analyst or member of the National Guard that is assigned to the New England HIDTA ISC to process deconfliction notifications and requests
8. **HIDTA ISC:** High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area – Investigative Support Center
9. **DARTS:** DARTS is the primary internal National Deconfliction tool for DOJ, designed to exploit active investigative information, including information from communication and related sources.
10. **DICE:** DARTS interfaces with the DICE, which is used by other vetted federal, state, local, and tribal law enforcement users with approved accounts that access the application over an Internet browser through a secure connection to DICE servers [46.2.8-2E]

POLICY:

It is the policy of the Waltham Police Department that:

1. All departmental employees utilize the New England High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) Investigative Support Center (ISC) prior to participating in any drug, organized crime or violent crime operation where the Waltham Police Department is the lead agency and requiring an operations plan. [46.2.8-2D]
2. Supervisors of the Waltham Police Department, or in cases where the Supervisor is a Task Force Supervisor, shall ensure that the operations plan is reviewed and the plan has a deconfliction number assigned to the case. [46.2.8-2D]

PROCEDURES:

1. Prior to all drug, organized crime or violent crime operations requiring an operations plan, Waltham Police Case Detectives/Officers shall contact the New England HIDTA ISC Watch Center Monday through Friday from 0800 hours to 1700 hours at telephone number 978-451-3900 and/or by email at

watchcenter@nehidta.org. In the event of an emergency situation contact 508-962-8350. **[46.2.8-2A, B, D]**

2. This telephone number can also be contacted outside the aforementioned time period and an on-call Watch Center officer will be contacted to process your notification or request. Typically, the notification process takes less than five (5) minutes.
3. The notifying officer shall provide the Watch Center with the following information: **[46.2.8-2C]**
 - a. The notifying officer's name, title, current duty assignment and contact information including telephone call back number(s).
 - b. WPD Case Number.
 - c. Operation event type (i.e., arrest, buy-walk, search warrant, etc.).
 - d. Address or intersection of the operation.
 - e. Date, time and expected duration of the operation.
4. The Watch Center will then provide the following information to the notifying officer:
 - a. A unique "deconfliction number" for the operation that is issued by the New England HIDTA ICS Watch Center. This unique number shall be included in the operations plan on the cover page.
 - b. The Watch Center will advise the notifying officer if the operation is "in conflict" with another entered operation.
 - c. If a potential conflict exists with another operation, the notifying officer will be provided with the other officer's name and contact information for the notifying officer to call to resolve the conflict. The other party will also be notified by the Watch Center of the potential conflict and they will be given the notifying officer's contact information.
 - d. If exigent circumstances exist where an officer does not have time to contact the Watch Center before taking enforcement actions, that officer is requested to contact the Watch Center as soon as practicable after the event so that a "deconfliction number" can be obtained.

- e. The Watch Center does not divulge details about your operational information. Each agency determine what details are to be released to resolve the conflict.
- f. Utilization of the New England HIDTA ISC deconfliction system is not a substitute for routine coordination with another law enforcement agency concerning operations in that agency's territory.
- g. The Watch Center shall maintain a database of contact information for all officers working criminal matters that have been loaded into the deconfliction system. The department may also pre-load contact information for officers assigned to duties that routinely require operations related to drug, organized or violent crime investigations. **[46.2.8-2D]**

DECONFLICTION SYSTEM:

The system is monitored by the New England HIDTA ISC Watch Center, which is staffed by law enforcement personnel and members of the National Guard. The primary data criteria used to identify conflicting operations are: date, time and location. The deconfliction system helps solve the issue of two law enforcement agencies interfering with each other during high- risk operations. It can also help prevent two agencies from conducting surveillance on the same violator at the same time, working a sting operation that involves another agency's undercover officer, or executing arrest or search warrants in an area worked by another agency that is unaware of the planned law enforcement action to be taken at that location.

OPERATION/EVENT DECONFLICTION:

Operation/Event Deconfliction can help solve the issue of two law enforcement agencies interfering with each other, without knowledge, during high-risk operations. NEHIDTA Deconfliction can help prevent conducting surveillance on the same violator, working a sting operation that involves another agency's officer in an undercover role, or executing arrest or search warrants in an area being worked by another agency unaware of the planned law enforcement action at a particular location.

The following designations have been integrated with event deconfliction: addresses and persons.