

# ECS - ADVANCED PROGRAMMING

## VOICE OF GOD: PARTY LINE VS. GROUPS

In a normal TV Studio everyone needs to hear the Director & PA (assistant) commands  
This can be achieved by using Party lines or Groups.

**There is NO correct or wrong way.**

**It all depends on how the operators are used to working in the studio**

**Party lines:** The Director has a **Party Line button** to **talk** and to **listen** to all the ports in the PL

- ▶ All the panels can be forced to **listen** to the Production talkback PL (by being **FIXED listen** members)
- ▶ All panels have a talk key to the Production talkback Party line
- ▶ When a panel replies, all the other panels hear the reply to the command

**Groups:** The Director has a **Group button** to **talk** to all panels

All panels have a direct talk back key to the Director

When a panel replies it **talks only** to the Director panel. The other panels do not hear the reply to the command

- ▶ Often the control room panels will have their own group keys which includes the director and other members of their production crew.
- ▶ Example: The Sound desk panel will have a group key that includes the director and other sound operators on the Studio floor
- ▶ **In general Groups are easier to setup and maintain**