



# VX-920

## OPERATING MANUAL

**VERTEX STANDARD CO., LTD.**

4-8-8 Nakameguro, Meguro-Ku, Tokyo 153-8644, Japan

**VERTEX STANDARD**

**US Headquarters**

10900 Walker Street, Cypress, CA 90630, U.S.A.

**YAESU EUROPE B.V.**

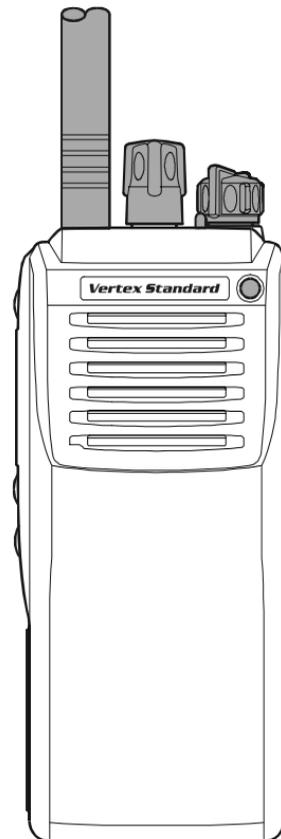
P.O. Box 75525, 1118 ZN Schiphol, The Netherlands

**YAESU UK LTD.**

Unit 12, Sun Valley Business Park, Winnall Close  
Winchester, Hampshire, SO23 0LB, U.K.

**VERTEX STANDARD HK LTD.**

Unit 5, 20/F., Seaview Centre, 139-141 Hoi Bun Road,  
Kwun Tong, Kowloon, Hong Kong



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## CONTENTS

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<b>Warning! FCC RF Exposure Requirements</b> .....	<b>1</b>	<b>Advanced Operation</b> .....	<b>8</b>
<b>Controls &amp; Connectors</b> .....	<b>2</b>	Programmable Key and Toggle Switch Functions .....	8
<b>Before You Begin</b> .....	<b>3</b>	Description of Operating Functions .....	9
<b>Operation</b> .....	<b>4</b>	<b>ARTS (Auto Range Transpond System)</b> .....	<b>14</b>
		<b>DTMF Paging System</b> .....	<b>14</b>
		<b>Optional Accessories</b> .....	<b>15</b>

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### Congratulations!

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You now have at your fingertips a valuable communications tool—a **VERTEX STANDARD** two-way radio! Rugged, reliable and easy to use, your **VERTEX STANDARD** radio will keep you in constant touch with your colleagues for years to come, with negligible maintenance down-time.

Please take a few minutes to read this manual carefully. The information presented here will allow you to derive maximum performance from your radio, in case questions arise later on.

We're glad you joined the **VERTEX STANDARD** team. Call on us anytime, because communications is our business. Let us help you get your message across.

**Notice!**: There are no owner-serviceable parts inside the radio. All service jobs must be referred to an authorized **VERTEX STANDARD** Service Representative. Consult your Authorized **VERTEX STANDARD** Dealer for installation of optional accessories.

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### Important Notice for North American Users Regarding 406 MHz Guard Band

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The U.S. Coast Guard and National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration have requested the cooperation of the U.S. Federal Communications Commission in preserving the integrity of the protected frequency range 406.0 to 406.1 MHz, which is reserved for use by distress beacons. Do not attempt to program this apparatus, under any circumstances, for operation in the frequency range 406.0 - 406.1 MHz if the apparatus is to be used in or near North America.

**Warning - Frequency band 406 - 406.1 MHz is reserved for use ONLY as a distress beacon by the US Coast Guard and NOAA. Under no circumstance should this frequency band be part of the preprogrammed operating frequencies of this radio.**

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## **WARNING! FCC RF EXPOSURE REQUIREMENTS**

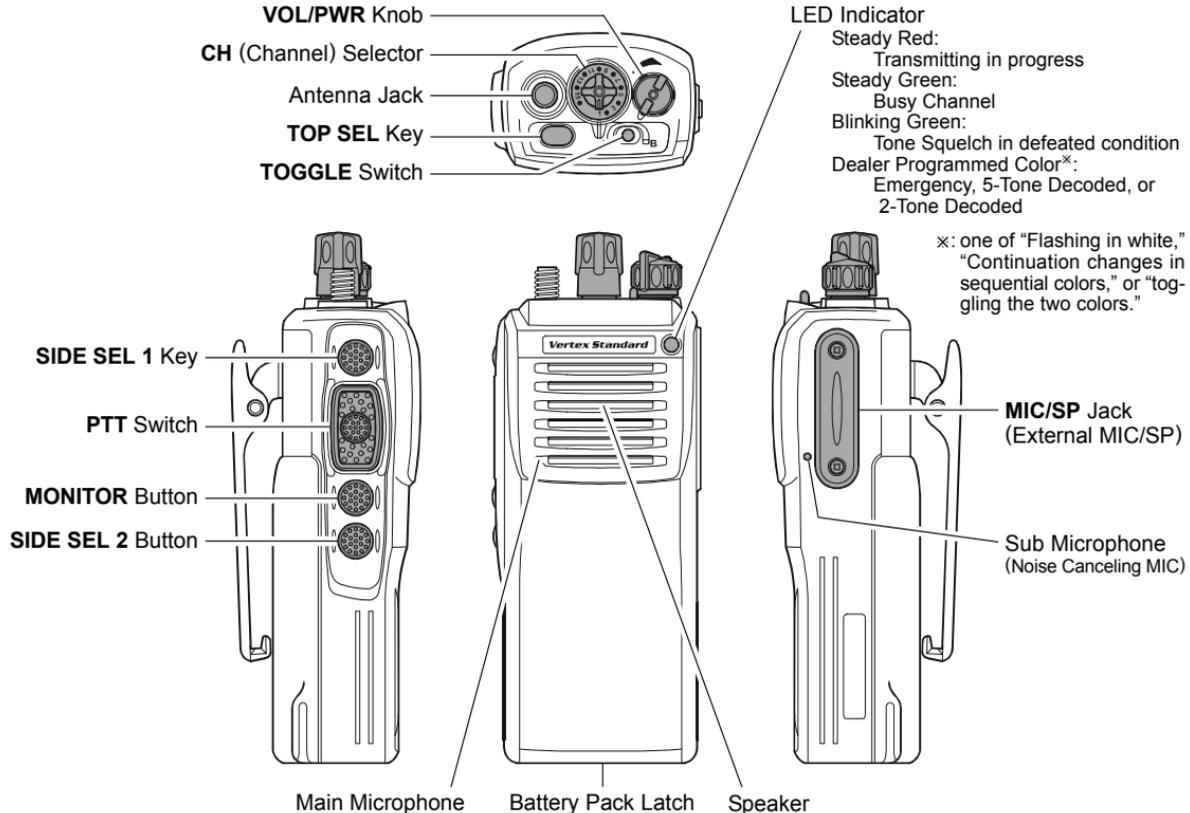
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### **FCC RF Exposure Compliance Requirements for Occupational Use Only:**

This Radio has been tested and complies with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) RF exposure limits for Occupational Use/Controlled exposure environment. In addition, it complies with the following Standards and Guidelines:

- FCC 96-326, Guidelines for Evaluating the Environmental Effects of Radio-Frequency Radiation.
- FCC OET Bulletin 65 Edition 97-01 (1997) Supplement C, Evaluating Compliance with FCC Guidelines for Human Exposure to Radio Frequency Electromagnetic Fields.
- ANSI/IEEE C95.1-1992, IEEE Standard for Safety Levels with Respect to Human Exposure to Radio Frequency Electromagnetic Fields, 3 kHz to 300 GHz.
- ANSI/IEEE C95.3-1992, IEEE Recommended Practice for the Measurement of Potentially Hazardous Electromagnetic Fields - RF and Microwave.
- This radio is NOT approved for use by the general population in an uncontrolled exposure environment. This radio is restricted to occupational use, work related operations only where the radio operator must have the knowledge to control his or her RF exposure conditions.**
- When transmitting, hold the radio in a vertical position with its microphone 2 inches (5 cm) away from your mouth and keep the antenna at least 2 inches (5 cm) away from your head and body.**
- The radio must be used with a maximum operating duty cycle not exceeding 50%, in typical Push-to-Talk configurations.**  
**DO NOT transmit for more than 50% of total radio use time (50% duty cycle). Transmitting more than 50% of the time can cause FCC RF exposure compliance requirements to be exceeded.**  
**The radio is transmitting when the red LED on the top of the radio is illuminated. You can cause the radio to transmit by pressing the P-T-T button.**
- SAR compliance for body-worn use was only demonstrated for the specific belt-clip Part Number (#RA060190A). Other body-worn accessories or configurations may NOT comply with the FCC RF exposure requirements and should be avoided.**
- Always use Vertex Standard authorized accessories.**

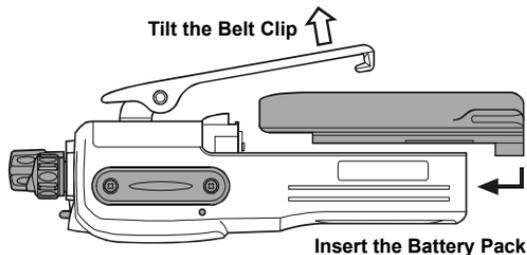
## CONTROLS & CONNECTORS



## BEFORE YOU BEGIN

### Battery Pack Installation and Removal

- ❑ To install the battery, hold the transceiver with your left hand, so your palm is over the speaker and your thumb is on the top of the belt clip. Carefully mate the battery's four insertion slots with their corresponding alignment tabs on the transceiver case, while tilting the Belt Clip outward. Proper alignment occurs with the battery pack offset about 1/2 inch from the top edge of the battery compartment.
- ❑ Guide the pack on to the tabs with a slight inward pressure, then slide the battery pack upward, until it locks in place with a “*Click*.”



- ❑ To remove the battery, turn the radio off and remove any protective cases. Slide the Battery Pack Latch on the bottom of the radio toward the front panel while sliding the battery down about 1/2 inch. Then lift the battery out from the radio while unfolding the Belt Clip.

**⚠ Do not attempt to open any of the rechargeable Lithium-Ion packs, as they could explode if accidentally short-circuited.**

### Low Battery Indication

As the battery discharges during use, the voltage gradually becomes lower. When the battery voltage becomes too low, substitute a freshly charged battery and recharge the depleted pack. The LED indicator on the top of the radio will blink red when the battery voltage is low.

**⚠ Caution ⚠**

Danger of explosion if battery is replaced with an incorrect battery. Replace only with the same or equivalent type.

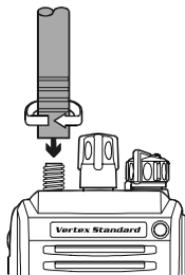
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## OPERATION

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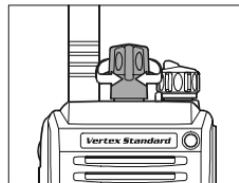
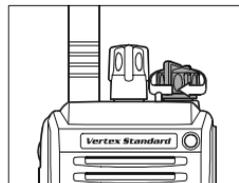
### Preliminary Steps

- Install a charged battery pack onto the transceiver, as described previously.
- Screw the supplied antenna onto the Antenna jack. Never attempt to operate this transceiver without an antenna connected.
- If you have a Speaker/Microphone, we recommend that it not be connected until you are familiar with the basic operation of the VX-920.



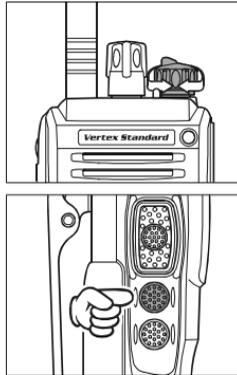
### Operation Quick Start

- Turn the top panel's **VOL/PWR** knob clockwise to turn on the radio on.
- Turn the top panel's **CH** selector knob to choose the desired operating channel.



## OPERATION

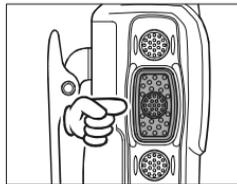
- ❑ Rotate the **VOL/PWR** knob to set the volume level. If no signal is present, press and hold in the **MONITOR** button (under the **PTT** switch) more than 2 seconds; background noise will now be heard, and you may use this to set the **VOL/PWR** knob for the desired audio level. Press and hold the **MONITOR** button more than 2 seconds (or press the **MONITOR** button *twice*) to quiet the noise and resume normal (quiet) monitoring.



- ❑ To transmit, monitor the channel and make sure it is clear.

### **THIS IS AN FCC REQUIREMENT!**

Press and hold the **PTT** switch. Speak into the microphone area of the front panel grille in a normal voice level. To return to the Receive mode, release the **PTT** switch.



- ❑ Press the (Orange) **TOP SEL** key or **SIDE SEL 1** key (above the **PTT** switch) to activate one of the preprogrammed functions which may have been enabled at the time of programming by the dealer. See the next section for details regarding the available features.



- ❑ Switch the top panel's **TOGGLE** switch to the **[A]**, **[B]**, or **[Center]** position to activate one of the pre-programmed functions which may have been enabled at the time of programming by the dealer. When this switch is in the **[A(left)]**, **[B(right)]**, or **[Center]** position, the feature programmed (by your dealer) to that switch position will be activated. See the next section for details regarding the available features.



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## OPERATION

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- ❑ If a Speaker/Microphone is available, remove the plastic cap and its two mounting screws from the right side of the transceiver, then align the connector of the Speaker/Microphone on the transceiver body; secure the connector pin using the screws supplied with the Speaker/Microphone. Hold the speaker grille up next to your ear while receiving. To transmit, press the **PTT** switch on the Speaker/Microphone, just as you would on the main transceiver's body, and speak into the microphone on a normal voice level.

*Note 1): Save the original plastic cap and its mounting screws. They should be reinstalled when not using the Speaker/Microphone.*

*2) When you press the PTT switch on the Speaker/Microphone, it disables the internal microphone, and vice versa.*

- ❑ If the Busy Channel Lockout feature has been programmed on a channel, the radio will not transmit when a carrier is present. Instead, the radio will generate short beep three times. Release the **PTT** switch and wait for the channel to be clear of activity.

- ❑ If CTCSS or Digital Coded Squelch (DCS) Lockout has been programmed on a channel, the radio can transmit only when there is no carrier being received or when the carrier being received includes the correct CTCSS tone or DCS code.

### Automatic Time-Out Timer

If the selected channel has been programmed for automatic time-out, you must limit the length of each transmission. While transmitting, a beep will sound 10 seconds before time-out. Another beep will sound just before the deadline; the “**TX**” indicator will disappear and transmission will cease soon thereafter. To resume transmitting, you must release the **PTT** switch and wait for the “penalty timer” to expire.

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## NOTE

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## ADVANCED OPERATION

### Programmable Key and Toggle Switch Functions

The **VX-920** includes the **TOP SEL**, **MONITOR**, **SIDE SEL 1**, and **SIDE SEL 2** keys, and the **TOGGLE** switch. The Programmable key and **TOGGLE** switch functions can be customized, via programming by your VERTEX STANDARD dealer, to meet your communications/network requirements. Some features may require the purchase and installation of optional internal accessories. The possible Programmable key and **TOGGLE** switch programming features are illustrated at the right, and their functions are explained on the next page. For further details, contact your VERTEX STANDARD dealer.

FUNCTION	TOGGLE SWITCH (POSITION)		
	A	Center	B
None			
Scan			
Dual Watch			
Low Power			
Talk Around			
TX Save Disable			
Encryption Disable <sup>※1</sup>			
Follow-Me Scan			
Lock			
Audio PC (PIT)			
Clear Voice			
Group Recall Shortcut	<input type="checkbox"/> Group 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Group 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Group 3	<input type="checkbox"/> Group 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Group 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Group 3	<input type="checkbox"/> Group 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Group 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Group 3

For future reference, check the box next to each function that has been assigned to the Programmable key and **TOGGLE** switch on your particular radio, and keep it handy.

FUNCTION	PROGRAMMABLE KEY			
	TOP SEL	SIDE SEL 1	MONITOR	SIDE SEL 2
None				
Monitor				
Scan				
Dual Watch				
High/Low Power				
Talk Around				
TX Save Disable				
Encryption Disable <sup>※1</sup>				
Follow-Me Scan				
Follow-Me Dual Watch				
Call/Reset				
Call 1				
Call 2				
Call 3				
Call 4				
Call 5				
Option SW 1				
Option SW 1				
Emergency				
REC/PLAY <sup>※2</sup>				
AF Min Volume				
Audio PC (PIT)				
Lone Worker				
TA Scan				

※1: Requires **FVP-35** or **FVP-36** Encryption Unit

※2: Requires **DVS-5** Voice Storage Unit

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## ADVANCED OPERATION

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### Description of Operating Functions

#### MONITOR

Press the assigned programmable key to cancel CTCSS- and DCS-controlled squelch; the **BUSY/TX** indicator will blink green. Press and hold this button for 1.5 seconds to hear background noise (unmute the audio); the **BUSY/TX** indicator will glow green.

#### SCAN

The Scanning feature is used to monitor multiple signals programmed into the transceiver. While scanning, the transceiver will check each channel for the presence of a signal, and will stop on a channel if a signal is present.

##### *To activate scanning:*

- Press the assigned programmable key to activate scanning.
- The scanner will search the channels of each channel, looking for active ones; it will pause each time it finds a channel on which someone is speaking.
- Press the assigned programmable key again to disable scanning. Operation will revert to the programmed revert channel.

*Note:* Your dealer may have programmed your radio to stay on one of the following channels if you press the **PTT** switch during scanning pause:

- Current channel (“Talk Back”)
- “Last Busy” channel
- “Priority” channel
- “Scan Start” channel

#### DUAL WATCH

The Dual Watch feature is similar to the SCAN feature, except that only two channels are monitored:

- The current operating channel; and
- The Priority channel.

##### *To activate Dual Watch:*

- Press the assigned programmable key.
- The scanner will search the two channels; it will pause each time it finds a channel on which someone is speaking.

##### *To stop Dual Watch:*

- Press the assigned programmable key.
- Operation will revert to the “Dual Watch Start” channel.

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## ADVANCED OPERATION

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### **LOW POWER**

Press the assigned programmable key to set the radio's transmitter to the "Low Power" mode, thus extending battery life. Press the key again to return to "Normal" transmit power when in difficult terrain.

### **TALK AROUND (TA)**

Press the assigned programmable key to activate the Talk Around feature when you are operating on duplex channel systems (separate receive and transmit frequencies, utilizing a "repeater" station). The Talk Around feature allows you to bypass the repeater station and talk directly to a station that is nearby. This feature has no effect when you are operating on "simplex" channels, where the receive and transmit frequencies are already the same.

Note that your dealer may have mode provision for "Talk Around" channels by programming "repeater" and "Talk Around" frequencies on two adjacent channels. If so, the key may be used for one of the other Pre-Programmed Functions.

### **TX SAVE DISABLE**

Press the assigned programmable key to disable the Transmit Battery Saver, if you are operating in a location where high power is almost always needed.

The Transmit Battery Saver helps extend battery life by reducing transmit power when a very strong signal from an apparently nearby station is being received. Under some circumstances, though, your hand-held radio may not be heard well at the other end of the communication path, and high power may be necessary at all times.

### **ENCRYPTION DISABLE (OPTION)**

When the Voice Scrambler feature is enabled, press the assigned programmable key to toggle the voice encryption on and off.

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## ADVANCED OPERATION

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### **FOLLOW-ME SCAN**

The “Follow-Me” Scan feature checks a User-assigned Priority Channel regularly as you scan other channels. Thus, if only Channels 1, 3, and 5 (of the 8 available channels) are designated for “Scanning,” the user may nonetheless assign Channel 2 as the “User-assigned” Priority Channel via the “Follow-Me” feature.

To activate “Follow-Me” scanning, first select the channel you want to designate as the “User-Assigned Priority Channel” and press the assigned programmable key. Then rotate the **CH** Selector knob to recall to the “Scanning Start” channel which has been programmed by your dealer to activate the scanner. When the scanner stops on an “Active” channel, the User-assigned Priority Channel will automatically be checked every few seconds; if activity is found on the User-assigned Priority Channel, the radio will switch between it and the Dealer-Assigned Priority Channel, if any.

### **FOLLOW-ME DUAL WATCH**

To set up a “Dual Watch” frequency pair using the “Follow-Me” feature, select a channel using the **CH** Selector knob. Now press the assigned programmable key; pressing the assigned programmable key locks the current channel as the User-assigned Priority Channel. Now rotate the **CH** Selector knob to select another channel (not the “Scanning Start” channel). Your radio will now switch back-and-forth between the currently-selected channel and the User-assigned Priority Channel.

During “Follow-Me” scanning (after you have pressed the key), you can set up the “Dual Watch” feature by rotating the **CH** Selector knob to another channel. The radio will then scan back and forth between the original User-assigned Priority Channel and the newly-selected channel.

The Priority Channel you have assigned (before pressing the key) will be retained in memory until you change it.

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## ADVANCED OPERATION

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### CALL/RESET

#### *While the DTMF Paging System*

This feature, if enabled, allows the user to change the 3-digit Page Call code, used to call other similarly-equipped stations. Press the assigned programmable key, followed by the three digits representing the Page Call code of the station you wish to call. Three tones will be heard after the last key is pressed (the new code will now be transmitted).

The receiver squelch of the other station will be opened, and you can begin communication.

#### *While the 2-Tone/5-Tone Paging System*

This feature, if enabled, press the assigned programmable key to send a 2-tone/5-tone sequential tone.

### CALL 1 TO CALL 5

Press the assigned programmable key to send a 2-tone/5-tone sequential tone group which is pre-defined.

### OPTION SW1

Press the assigned programmable key to toggle the optional accessory “1” “On” and “Off.”

### OPTION SW2

Press the assigned programmable key to toggle the optional accessory “2” “On” and “Off.”

### Emergency

The **VX-920** series include an “Emergency” feature which may be useful for alerting another party monitoring on the same frequency as your transceiver’s channel.

Press the assigned programmable key to initiate an emergency call. For further details contact your Dealer.

### REC/PLAY (VOICE STORAGE: OPTION)

This function allows your radio to record a received voice message, and to play back the recorded audio. It requires installation of the optional Voice Recording Unit.

#### *Recording;*

Press the assigned programmable key for 1.5 seconds to enable the Voice Recording Mode. If the incoming signal is received, so as to un-mute the squelch and pass audio, then received audio will be recorded.

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## ADVANCED OPERATION

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### ***Playback;***

Press the assigned programmable key momentarily to play back the last message. To stop the play-back, press this key again.

### **AF MIN VR**

Press the assigned programmable key to reduce the audio output to the (lower) level programmed by your Dealer.

### **AUDIO PITCH CONTROL**

Press the assigned programmable key to toggle the Audio Pitch Controller “On” and “Off.”

The Audio Pitch Controller allow you to the most comfortable and/or effective reception in noisy environments.

### **LONE WORKER**

Press the assigned programmable key to toggle the Lone Worker feature “On” and “Off.”

The Lone Worker feature is designed to emit an alarm for 30 seconds when the Lone Worker Timer (programmed by your Dealer) has expired. If the user does not reset the timer by pressing the **PTT** switch,

the radio switches to the Emergency mode.

### **TA SCAN**

Press the assigned programmable key to toggle the TA (Talk Around) scan feature “On” and “Off.”

While TA scan is proceeding, the **VX-920** will search both the transmit and receive frequencies. When a signal is encountered on the receive frequency, the **VX-920** will pause until the signal disappears. When a signal is encountered on the transmit frequency, the **VX-920** will check for activity on the receive frequency every few seconds (interval programmed by your Dealer).

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## **ARTS (AUTO RANGE TRANSPOND SYSTEM)**

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This system is designed to inform you when you and another ARTS-equipped station are within communication range.

During ARTS operation, when the radio receives the correct ARTS signal, ***a short beep*** will sound. If you move out of range for more than two minutes, your radio senses that no signal has been received; ***three short beeps*** will sound. If you subsequently move back into range, as soon as the other station transmits, ***a short beep*** will sound.

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## **DTMF PAGING SYSTEM**

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This system allows paging and selective calling, using DTMF tone sequences.

When your radio is paged by a station bearing a tone sequence which matches yours, your radio's squelch will open and the alert will sound.

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## OPTIONAL ACCESSORIES

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<b>FNB-V86LI</b>	7.4V, 1150 mAh Lithium-Ion Battery	<b>ATV-8A</b>	VHF Antenna (134-151 MHz)
<b>FNB-V87LI</b>	7.4V, 2000 mAh Lithium-Ion Battery	<b>ATV-8B</b>	VHF Antenna (150-163 MHz)
<b>FBA-34</b>	Alkaline Battery Case (6 x AA)	<b>ATV-8C</b>	VHF Antenna (161-174 MHz)
<b>VAC-920</b>	Desk top Rapid Charger	<b>ATV-6XL</b>	VHF Antenna (134-174 MHz, Untuned)
<b>PA-39</b>	AC Adapter	<b>ATU-6A</b>	UHF Antenna (400-430 MHz)
<b>VT60F</b>	VX-Trunk Unit	<b>ATU-6C</b>	UHF Antenna (440-470 MHz)
<b>VT60FS</b>	VX-Trunk/Encryption Unit	<b>ATU-6D</b>	UHF Antenna (450-485 MHz)
<b>FVP-36</b>	Encryption Unit	<b>ATU-6F</b>	UHF Antenna (485-520 MHz)
<b>FVP-35</b>	Encryption Unit (Rolling Code Voice Scrambler)	<b>LLC-920</b>	Leather Case
<b>DVS-5</b>	Voice Storage Unit	<b>CE59</b>	Programming Software
<b>MDC1200</b>	Digital ANI Encoder Unit	<b>FIF-8</b>	Flash ROM Writer
<b>VME-100</b>	ANI Encoder Unit	<b>FIF-10A</b>	USB Interface
<b>VMDE-200</b>	ANI Encoder/Decoder Unit	<b>CT-108</b>	PC Programming Cable (for FIF-10)
<b>SRX-3</b>	Multi Band Receiver Unit (450-512 MHz)	<b>CT-109</b>	PC Programming kit (CT-29 + CT-115)
<b>SRX-4</b>	Multi Band Receiver Unit (134-174 MHz)	<b>CT-110</b>	PC Programming Cable (for FIF-8)
<b>MH-65A7A</b>	Speaker/Microphone	<b>CT-115</b>	PC Programming Cable (for VPL-1)
		<b>CT-116</b>	Radio to Radio Programming Cable

*Availability of accessories may vary; some accessories are supplied standard per local requirements, others may be unavailable in some regions.*

*Check with your VERTEX STANDARD Dealer for changes to this list.*

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**NOTE**

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This device complies with Part 15 of the FCC rules.  
Operation is subject to the condition that this device  
does not cause harmful interference.



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