



MPSCS BULLETIN

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Editor's Note

We would like to thank you for your interest in MPSCS. We welcome any questions, comments or suggestions you may have to improve the quality of this publication. You may direct them by phone to Ms. Kelly Maltby of the Michigan State Police, Communications Division, 517.336.6675 or by e-mail at maltbyk@michigan.gov.

MPSCS A VALUABLE RESOURCE IN MOUNT PLEASANT INCIDENT

MPSCS recently proved to be a valuable tool for emergency responders when a man shot and killed three people outside the Isabella County Courthouse on March 5, 2002.

51-year-old Thomas Wendt murdered his ex-wife along with two other witnesses that were set to testify against him in a probation violation hearing around 10:30 that morning. After the shooting, he barricaded himself in his home in nearby Weidman for over six hours.

A special event talkgroup was immediately activated on MPSCS to coordinate emergency efforts outside Wendt's trailer. The talkgroup helped coordinate the more than 60 officers that had arrived to assist at the scene.

"The talkgroup helped us command and control the scene as well as units arriving from outside the area," said Sergeant Larry Schloegel of the Mount Pleasant Post.

The talkgroup was able to accommodate nearly all of the officers that responded to the scene including the Emergency Support Team, Aviation Section officials, K-9 units, and the Department of Natural Resources. It also was reported as being a significant time saver that

ensured officer safety at the scene. Because the suspect's trailer was located in a secluded area, the talkgroup enabled commanders at the scene to give directions to the officers arriving from varying regions. The digital talkgroup also allowed officers to communicate securely without the risk of a scanner picking up crucial radio transmissions.

After a nearly seven-hour standoff, police fired a concussion grenade into the suspect's trailer, prompting him to surrender without contest.

MPSCS special event channels are a distinct advantage for members as they allow for statewide interoperability and the ease of being reconfigured to each situation's needs.

Special event channels in the G and H zones are programmed into every radio on the system and can be recorded or

unrecorded in format. When a situation arises that a separate channel is needed by your agency to coordinate and manage a special event, contact the Network Communications Center (NCC) at 517.333.5050 and they will have your emergency or special event communication and command flowing with greater ease and safety within minutes.



The Michigan State Police Emergency Support Team coordinates their response outside Wendt's trailer.

TOWERS WITHSTAND MARCH WINDSTORM

MPSCS personnel once again proved to be one step ahead of nature when a windstorm struck Michigan on March 9 and 10. The storm brought winds in excess of 65 mph and blizzard-like conditions to most of Michigan.

In all, three MPSCS towers were damaged the storm. No portion of Michigan was immune from its effects, as two of the damaged towers were located in the Traverse City area and the other located in the thumb region.

Site maintenance and storm preparation was a tremendous success in this scenario as all MPSCS towers remained functional throughout the storm. Each of the affected towers only had microwave dishes that were thrown out of alignment, slightly impairing the sites' capabilities. This type of damage is relatively minor

considering the extreme weather conditions.

The Site Maintenance Section's immediate response to the tower damage allowed MPSCS to function at full capacity the morning after the storm.

The Site Maintenance Section is truly a benefit to all MPSCS members as they are on-call at all times. While it may take weeks or even months for a stand-alone system to be repaired, MPSCS' infrastructure is often repaired before the impacts of any tower damage affect its users.

If you have any questions regarding site maintenance, please contact Mr. Theron Shinew at 517.336.6188 or via e-mail at shinewt@michigan.gov.

TRAIN THE TRAINER COURSES

The Train the Trainer course further develops the practical functions of the radio that are taught in end user training as well as teaches some of the more advanced features and concepts of the radios and the system as a whole.

Train the Trainer courses are ideal for agencies who would like to have an in-house radio expert that would be able to handle common inquiries as well as train new hires.

-The three-day course is scheduled for August 14-16, 2002.

-Class begins at 10:00 a.m. on the first day and will be held in Room C-6 of the Michigan State Police Training Academy.

-Registration is limited to 15 students and is first-come first-serve.

-To register, please contact Ms. Shonda Zilch at 517.336.6674 or via e-mail at zilchs@michigan.gov.

FROM THE CAPTAIN'S DESK

MPSCS Prepares for New Members in Upper Peninsula

With the construction of all 61 towers complete and system acceptance testing underway, many agencies in the Upper Peninsula are now preparing to join MPSCS.

Upon the completion of acceptance testing, State of Michigan agencies will be brought online. It is anticipated that local agencies will be able to join after state agency equipment has been installed and programmed and employees have been trained. Based on the current project schedule for Phase 4, the target date for allowing local agencies to join will be October 4, 2002. Interested agencies, however, should contact the Communications Division as soon as possible in order to begin the member transition process.

The process of joining MPSCS consists of several steps. The first step is to contact F/Lt. Gene Adamczyk at 517.336.6148. The agency's requirements will then be assessed including timeline, budget, equipment, dispatch and coverage. A formal presentation to administrators as well as coverage testing may also be

scheduled at this time.

Once a formal decision has been made to join the system, the local agency will contact the vendor of its choice to determine equipment needs. Once the equipment purchase has been made, the agency will be sent a membership agreement.

After the membership agreement is signed and returned, a meeting will be scheduled to determine radio template design. The agency will also schedule the programming and installation of equipment as well as end user training at this time. Once training is complete, the agency will officially be brought online with all trained users being able to utilize the system.

If you have any questions regarding the process of joining MPSCS or the project schedule in the Upper Peninsula, please feel free to contact F/Lt. Gene Adamczyk at 517.336.6148 or via e-mail at adamczyk@michigan.gov.



Capt. Thomas J. Miller

Thank you.
Capt. Thomas J. Miller

REGIONAL FORUMS PROVIDE INFORMATION TO LOCAL PUBLIC SAFETY AGENCIES

The Communications Division recently conducted a series of regional forums that provided current and potential local users with important information regarding MPSCS.

The MPSCS Regional Information Forums were held in seven locations throughout the state including Gaylord, Baraga, Escanaba, Sault Ste. Marie, Lansing, Grand Haven and Sterling Heights.

The forums addressed the most current issues surrounding the system including the implementation status of the Upper Peninsula, the ASTRO 25® 6.0 IP Voice System upgrade process and the impact it will have

upon members, 700 MHz coordination, system patching, the membership transition process, and funding sources.

The forums also invited the two current APCO Project 25-compliant vendors, EF Johnson and Motorola, to speak and provide information regarding new products and services.

The forums were attended by over 250 interested customers throughout the state of Michigan. It is anticipated that MPSCS personnel will continue to hold forums such as these in the future to regularly address member concerns and provide information regarding the system.

THE BENEFITS AND CHALLENGES OF 700 MHz

In the aftermath of critical emergencies such as those faced in Oklahoma City in 1995 and New York City in both 1993 and 2001, the lack of communication between emergency personnel was consistently looked upon as a major handicap endured by emergency rescue and coordination personnel. This inability to communicate is mainly attributed to the lack of radio frequencies available for public safety use.

This issue must be constantly addressed by the federal legislature and the FCC. In 1997, a portion of the Balanced Budget Act was introduced in order to reallocate an additional 24 MHz of radio spectrum in the 700 MHz band. The frequencies will become available as television stations occupying channels 60 to 69 convert to digital television. This reallocation will more than double the amount of radio spectrum available to public safety today.

A challenge, however, arises in obtaining these frequencies for public safety as the legislation allows the television stations to continue operating on these channels until 2007. While some broadcast stations have already begun the transition to digital television, the uncertainty of an actual transition date is preventing state and local governments from making plans or committing funds.

Obtaining the frequencies will also prove to be an even greater challenge in Michigan as Canadian legislation regarding spectrum use differs from U.S. regulations.

When 700 MHz frequencies do become available in Michigan, it is anticipated that MPSCS will be able to operate on both frequency bands, greatly enhancing system capacity. We will continue to keep you informed of any 700 MHz progress and inform you of MPSCS-specific details as they become available.

NEW MANUFACTURER ENTERS MPSCS MARKET

In an effort to gain a foothold in the MPSCS market, EF Johnson Inc. recently launched its new 5300 Series mobile radio.

EF Johnson was able to manufacture an MPSCS-compatible product in spite of the system's infrastructure being constructed by Motorola. This open-market condition exists because MPSCS was built to support the Association of Public Safety Communications Officials' (APCO) Project 25 standards. These standards allow for open architecture when constructing communications systems. Thus a radio built by EF Johnson to adhere to the Project 25 standards will function on any system infrastructure that also supports the standards.

In order to provide members with an opportunity to save money by purchasing a variety of equipment from multiple manufacturers, the State of Michigan made the APCO standards a priority when configuring the system's design.

MPSCS was originally built to adhere to the Project 16 standards and was upgraded to the open architecture of the

Project 25 standards in 1997.

The new EF Johnson mobile radio features digital and analog trunking modes, 500 programmable talkgroups, emergency calling, and scanning capabilities. The radio can be configured to be dash or remote mounted and allows for either handheld, remote or dual control heads. EF Johnson is expecting to release its 5100 Series portable radio sometime later this year.



The EF Johnson 5300 Series Mobile Radio

The State of Michigan is very pleased to have both EF Johnson and Motorola in the MPSCS market. Additional manufacturers such as Bendix King, Kenwood and Racal are also preparing to introduce their Project 25-compatible radios in the coming years.

MPSCS personnel will continue to keep members informed of these new products as they become available.

If you have any questions regarding MPSCS manufacturers, please contact F/Lt. Gene Adamczyk at 517.336.6148 or via e-mail at adamczyk@michigan.gov.

STRETCHING YOUR BUDGET: Homeland Security Funds

President Bush recently announced the allocation of \$3.5 billion in funds to the newly created Department of Homeland Security. This will be the first installment of grant monies that will be made available to public safety in an effort to prepare for and respond to national security threats in the United States.

The funds are in the process of being distributed to grant-administering federal agencies such as the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) where specific funding opportunities will be created.

While the funds have not yet been designated to specific agencies, it is anticipated that the money will be

available for Fiscal Year 2003.

Interoperability via communications systems is expected to be a top priority for the available funds. Because MPSCS is one of the only communications systems in the nation to offer full statewide interoperability, it is anticipated that Michigan will be looked upon favorably when agencies reward funds.

It is our intent to keep you updated as more information regarding Homeland Security funds becomes available. If you have any questions regarding funding sources, please contact Ms. Kelly Maltby at 517.336.6675 or via e-mail at maltbyk@michigan.gov.

SUCCESS STORIES

On the evening of December 18, 2001, eight Motorola XTS3000 portable radios and chargers valued at over \$22,000 were stolen from a Michigan Army National Guard vehicle in Westland.

The theft was discovered the following day and was reported to the Westland Police Department and the MPSCS Network Communications Center (NCC). At the request of Lt. Col. Pat Carter, the NCC inhibited the stolen radios. This prevented the perpetrators from using them or otherwise listening to crucial radio transmissions.

On December 21, all eight radios were found in a dumpster. The thief was later arrested by the Westland Police when he attempted to cash a personal check that he had stolen along with the radios.

During an interview, the thief later admitted to

stealing the radios, but got rid of them when he discovered they were not working and would be difficult to sell.

MPSCS has proven itself, not only to provide statewide interoperability and reliable communications during critical events, but also to maintain system and member security through the radio inhibit feature.

If your agency has a radio that has been stolen or misplaced, please notify the NCC at 517.333.5050. They are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week to serve MPSCS members.

If your agency has a story that demonstrates the success of MPSCS, please contact Ms. Kelly Maltby at 517.336.6675 or via e-mail at maltbyk@michigan.gov.

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MICHIGAN'S PUBLIC SAFETY
COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM

4000 COLLINS ROAD
LANSING, MICHIGAN 48910



*Our Web Site has been
Updated*

Visit www.mpscsc.com
for the latest information
about the system as well as
our new user profile
section that lists
information about current
MPSCS members.

**Michigan Department of
State Police**

Communications Division

4000 Collins Road
P.O. Box 30631
Lansing, Michigan
48909-8131

517.336.6675



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS
8,142 Radios in Operation

State Agencies

Department of Natural Resources, Forest Fire Division
Michigan Department of Community Health

Mid-Michigan Agencies

Green Oak Township Fire Department

Northern Michigan Agencies

City of Ludington Police Department
Hart Police Department
Hesperia Police Department
Isabella County Emergency Support Team
Little River Band of Ottawa Indians Department of Public Safety
Oceana County Friend of the Court
Oceana County Sheriff Department
Village of New Era Police Department
Village of Pentwater Police Department
Village of Rothbury Police Department
Village of Scottville Police Department
Village of Shelby Police Department
Village of Walkerville Police Department

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