



# MPSCS NEWSLETTER

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**Training**

Contact: Chris Moore  
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- July (none)
- August 24, 25 (2 sessions)  
Operator Training (Ionia)
- Sept 20-23  
Train the Trainer (Livonia)  
(Lansing)

**QUICK STATS**

- TOTAL RADIOS:  
53,594
- AMOUNT OF CHANGE IN PAST THREE MONTHS:  
+ 1,647

**FUN FACT**

- In 1928, Detroit became home to the first continuous radio dispatch

## Summertime increases need for special event talkgroups, users should plan ahead

The Michigan Public Safety Communications System utilizes Special Event talkgroups for large details or assignments that would disrupt normal communication channels for an agency.

Due to the many events that take place during the summer such as county fairs and car races, these event channels are in high demand. Agencies needing these special event talkgroups should make a request for them as far in advance as possible.

The Network Communications Center (NCC) controls the turning on and off of the Special Event groups. Most event talkgroups are set up for a limited number of radio towers e.g.: districts, counties, etc. In an emergency, the NCC may be contacted via phone at 517-333-5050, and an event channel can be

assigned and utilized by an Agency.

Before agencies request a Special Event talkgroup they should try to utilize local talkgroups that are pre-programmed in each

Event Talkgroups are for short duration events that typically last less than 24 hours. Requests for Event Talkgroups assignments longer than 48 hours must be approved by the NCC Manager or designee.

A written communications plan shall be submitted with the Event Request form when more than one Event Talkgroup is requested for an event or incident. The communications plan will identify the use of the additional talkgroups. Communications plans involving more than one Event Talkgroup shall reference the National Incident Management System (NIMS) guidelines, when developing the plan.

Event groups are normally enabled/disabled shortly after midnight each day. If your Event requires a special time to be enabled, please notify the NCC. In case of extreme emergency, the NCC may reassign your Event Talkgroup.



County fairs, car races, Fourth-of-July celebrations, and holiday parades are examples of events in which Special Event talkgroups help alleviate system congestion

radio and meant to be utilized for small-scale special events involving single agencies. Examples of these talkgroups are the SPEV, COM, and EMER channels.

If the event taking place is a multi agency event, then the use of a Special Event talkgroup can be requested.

The steps to request a Special Event group are:

- 1) Member completes an MPSCS Event Request form. (Form is available at [www.michigan.gov/mpscs](http://www.michigan.gov/mpscs))
- 2) Member submits the MPSCS Event Request form to the NCC by fax at 517-333-5015, or e-mail the form to [mpscs-ncc@michigan.gov](mailto:mpscs-ncc@michigan.gov)
- 3) NCC notifies the member of the assigned talkgroup
- 4) Member uses the assigned Event Talkgroup for the event
- 5) Member notifies the NCC when the event is done, or when the pre-determined expiration date is reached.

6) NCC disables the Event talkgroup and returns it to the pool for use by another member agency.

After a Special Event talkgroups has been assigned by the NCC, users can locate the talkgroups in the following locations:

- Talkgroups Event01 through Event15 in Zone G
- Talkgroups vent16 through Event30 in Zone H
- Talkgroups Event31 though Event45 in Zone I (the Zone I talkgroups are reserved for law enforcement only)

## System, Console, Temporary Patches Increase MPSCS Interoperability

Michigan's first responders utilize numerous radio systems to fulfill their public safety communication needs. However, because there are so many different systems throughout the state that operate on different frequency bands (800 MHz, UHF, VHF, etc.) there need to be methods in place to facilitate interoperable communications amongst them.

The MPSCS offers patches to agencies that do not operate their public safety infrastructure on the statewide 800 MHz system. These patches facilitate communications in both extreme and day-to-day operations regardless of system affiliation.

Typically, the MPSCS provides a county or agency (depending on size and available technology) with one talkgroup that connects the area's main dispatch channel to an MPSCS P911 talkgroup.

These patches are known as system, or hard, patches. There are currently 34 full-time system patches in place between the MPSCS and other county-wide and agency-wide communications systems. The patches transmit communications directly from radio system to radio system, creating seamless interoperability between agencies.

In February of 2000, Eaton County worked with the MPSCS to install a permanent system patch. The county

normally operates on a Harris UHF conventional radio system, but this patch connects their radios on County Main channel to the 23P911 MPSCS talk-

Regardless of the type of patch installed, all users need to be cautious of system overloading when utilizing patches

group. The users of both radio systems can now communicate regardless of their radio system's frequency bands.

Steve Leese, the Eaton County 911 Director, said, "It [the patch] does tie our two systems together, which is a benefit. We have had excellent communication with the State Police through the patch."

In addition to the permanent system patches, the MPSCS allows for console patches for MPSCS agencies, like Shiawassee, Livingston, and Monroe counties, that desire to patch other agency's conventional radios into the MPSCS. These are connected via wireline console positions and are typically used for temporary purposes only.

The infrastructure used for this type of patch is housed at the local dispatch center, which gives full control to the dispatch authorities and allows the patch to be quickly enabled and disabled depending on need. This ap-

proach creates a hands-on interoperability between agencies.

In rare cases, neither type of patch is appropriate for long-term use. In these circumstances, or in emergencies in need of cross-patching, the MPSCS utilizes an ACU-1000.

The ACU-1000 is a field-deployed device that can patch up to 12 radios very quickly. An MPSCS technician can configure this on-site, although some agencies, such as The Michigan State Police, choose to purchase and operate this device on their own.

Regardless of the type of patch installed, all users need to be cautious of system overloading when utilizing patches. There are a given number of available system resources in each area of the state. When users communicate on other systems through patches, additional resources are tied up that were not originally intended for everyday use.

System overloading is usually not an issue, but users should have plans in place to prevent and alleviate this problem should it arise.

For more information about system patches, or to find out what type of patch may be the most beneficial for your agency, contact Mike McCarty at [McCartyM@michigan.gov](mailto:McCartyM@michigan.gov).

## \$50M Grant Approved

The House Appropriations Committee's homeland security subcommittee approved the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) spending bill for the fiscal year 2011. The bill includes \$50 million for the Interoperable Emergency Communications Grant Program (IECGP), which is the same amount the program has received for the past three years.

More information about the DHS' spending bill and about the IECGP will be provided in the next issue of the MPSCS Newsletter.

## New Bulletin Notice

MPSCS Bulletin # 2010-01 MCC 7500 Console Startup is now posted to the MPSCS' website (under the 'About MPSCS' tab). This bulletin provides proper start-up procedures for the MCC 7500 IP consoles. If you operate these consoles and have not received the bulletin, please visit the link below and save a copy of the bulletin for future reference. The bulletin can be located at the following web address: <http://www.michigan.gov/mpscs/0,1607,7-184-25408--,00.html>

## Rebanding: Completed Proposal Submitted

MPSCS submitted its complete proposal to Sprint/Nextel on April 12 that detailed the process of Rebanding the entire MPSCS radio system. Previously, the plan for building the Back-to-Back (B2B) Mutual Aid Repeater system had been submitted to Sprint/Nextel in an effort to move forward on the first phase, while finishing up the plans for the following two phases (Subscriber Rebanding and Reconfiguring the Fixed Network Equipment/Tower antennas).

Negotiations continue on the B2B Phase with notable progress in refining both the work to be done as well as the cost and period within which the installation would take place. However, a final agreement appears to be 4 to 6 weeks away as of mid-June.

Once an agreement is achieved, Motorola will begin implementing the plan. A communications schedule will be developed to keep everyone informed of current and future activities.

Discussions are also now in high gear to ensure that the entire Rebanding Plan is complete, comprehensive, and can be rolled out in a coordinated and effective manner

Negotiations with Sprint/Nextel on the balance of the Frequency Reconfiguration Agreement (FRA) for Phases 2 and 3 have just begun. These are less time-critical as they will not be implemented until the completion of the B2B phase of the FRA. However, discussions are also now in high gear to ensure that the entire Rebanding Plan is complete, comprehensive and can be rolled out in a coordinated and effective manner.

MPSCS will maintain a flow of information on the project to assist your agency's understanding of the operation as it moves forward. We look forward to your participation as field operations draw closer in the coming months.

*Updates will appear in each future issue of this Newsletter. However, detailed project information, upcoming events, and up-to-date progress reports can be found on the Rebanding Project's website:*  
<http://www.rccpm.com/MI800MHz/default.aspx>

## Radio Testing Procedure, Radios for Use Approved

The MPSCS provides interoperable radio communications to over 50,000 Motorola, EF Johnson, MA/Com-Harris, Kenwood, and Tait radios across the state. Each radio model is put through a rigorous testing process to ensure its ability to function properly on the MPSCS' 800 MHz system, and to adhere to MPSCS standards for operation.

In April, the MPSCS approved an updated version of the Radio Acceptance Testing Procedures. This documentation now provides detailed information about how the Radio Programming Unit (RPU), MPSCS field technicians, and MPSCS engineering team test each radio model before acceptance, or rejection, for use on the system. The new testing procedure allows for a more detailed and consistent evaluation from radio to radio.

The MPSCS makes the radio testing procedure available to all radio manufacturers. This creates a transparent environment in which manufacturers can ensure their radios will meet the MPSCS users' needs and the MPSCS' operating requirements.

If a radio manufacturer is interested in having a radio accepted for use on the system, they first contact the MPSCS and then the testing process takes place.

The MPSCS separates tests into two categories. The first category contains tests that each radio must pass for radio

acceptance, while the second category includes tests of a radio's optional features for informational purposes.

The mandatory tests assess the radio's security features, ability to participate in calls within both simulcast and multicast systems, to roam from coverage area to coverage area, and to complete full spectrum scans for available channels in addition to other test items.

The optional features tests look at items such as the radio's emergency call and alert functions, and capability to send/receive data.

In addition to these tests, MPSCS field technicians conduct field tests in which the radio is evaluated in a typical end-user environment. These tests help identify any potential problems that were not discovered during standard tests.

The MPSCS recently accepted two TAIT radios, the mobile TM9155 and portable TP9100, and one Motorola APX portable radio, for use on the system after they went through this rigorous testing process.

Midland Radio and Thales Communications have recently contacted the MPSCS about products they're developing that may meet all MPSCS requirements. Once the products are available, the MPSCS will begin evaluating the radios.



MPSCS recently approved the above Tait radios for use on the system using the updated testing procedure

## Planning Ahead, Following Procedures Crucial to Emergency Alerts

The Emergency Alert function on an MPSCS radio may be one option to support Police or Fire personnel caught in a threatening situation. Enabling the Emergency button on the radio requires a Radio Control Manager (RCM) computer at your dispatch center and template reprogramming. Other options have been developed for the RCM computer and can be found in the MPSCS Policy 1.1.3.

**After an Emergency Alert is received ... the center should call the NCC to confirm receipt of the alert.**

Even before the RCM and radio template is modified, an operational plan must be developed by the member agency identifying how they will respond to an alarm. Each member agency using the Emergency Alert function must store the radio assignment information at their Dispatch Center for easy retrieval when they receive an alarm.

The NCC has access to the database that identifies who owns the radio. Members with an RCM terminal can receive a copy of the Microsoft Access® database that contains that information. The NCC does not keep records identifying where the radio is installed or assigned.

As soon as possible after an Emergency Alert is received at a Dispatch Center, the center should call the NCC to confirm receipt of the alert. Once the situation is stable, the Dispatch Center should again contact the NCC to advise them of the resolution to the alert.

For more information on the Emergency Alert function, see the April/May issue of the MPSCS Newsletter, or contact Dan Robinson, at (517) 336-6621.

Below is a list of all radios that have been approved for use on the MPSCS.

**Mobiles**

<b>Motorola:</b> Spectra Plus: W4+ W5+ W9+	W5 Motorcycle W7 W9 W5Consolette W7Consolette W9Consolette XTL1500MX	XTL5000 W5 W7 W9 O5Consolette
<b>Spectra:</b> W3 W4 W4Motorcycle W5	XTL2500M5 XTL5000W5Motorcycle XTL5000 W3 W4 W5 W7 W9 O3 O5	<b>Tait:</b> TM9155
		<b>EF Johnson:</b> 53xx Series (ES/SL)

**Portables**

<b>Motorola:</b> Saber 2 Saber 3 XTS1500 1 XTS1500 1.5 (x2) XTS2500 1.5 (x2) XTS2500 2 (x2) XTS2500 3 (x2) XTS3000 2 (x2) XTS3000 3 (x2) XTS5000 2	XTS5000 3 APX 1.5 APX 3.5  <b>Tait:</b> TP9100  <b>MA/Com - Harris:</b> P7100 JP P7200	<b>EF Johnson:</b> 51xx Series (ES/SL/LT) ASCEND (ES)  <b>Kenwood:</b> TK5200-K1 TK5400-K2
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## Radio IDs Recovered

Through collaboration with both Motorola and a current MPSCS user group, the MPSCS has recovered enough IDs to program all radios that are currently in queue.

If you have already purchased radios that need to be programmed for use on the MPSCS, please contact Dan Robinson at 517-336-6621.

The MPSCS is planning a system upgrade that will double the radio ID capacity from what it is today. The total number of available radio IDs will increase from 64,000 to 128,000 after the upgrade and is currently slated for the end of the second quarter, 2011.



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Comments or suggestions are appreciated!  
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[www.michigan.gov/mpscs](http://www.michigan.gov/mpscs)

### Usage Statistics

2010	Total Calls	PTTs	PTT Change From 2009
Mar	4,704,501	8,420,662	+682,487
April	4,693,433	8,430,821	+699,497
May	5,319,235	9,528,848	+1,092,812

### Want additional information?

Email: [mpscs@michigan.gov](mailto:mpscs@michigan.gov)

For topics of interest related to articles in this volume contact:

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### Special Thanks

Thank you to everyone who has helped make this newsletter a success:

Rich Rybicki, Norm Dawson, Mike McCarty, Dick Baker, Dan Robinson, Chuck Thomas, Dave Hayhurst, and Theron Shinew.

### Keep Your Eyes Open for UPCOMING ISSUES of the *MPSCS Newsletter*.

- Wind-speed Monitors
- Fire Paging Workarounds
- System Issues
- MIOC Relocation
- Frequency Naming Changes
- Staff Bios
- System/User ID Updates
- Rebanding Updates
- ...and more!