



MPSCS Newsletter

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MPSCS Partnership with City of Grand Rapids to Improve Public Safety Interoperability

When the Grand Rapids S-Curve corridor and downtown areas near Van Andel Arena were identified as having inadequate coverage, Michigan's Public Safety Communications System and the City of Grand Rapids developed a low cost partnership improving critical emergency communications in that region.

The MPSCS and the city co-located equipment and are sharing tower space, improving emergency communications near the US-131 S-curve and near the Van Andel Arena.

Planning started in 2009 and funds were leveraged through Homeland Security and Interoperable Emergency Communications Grants for some of the microwave and 800 MHz equipment. MPSCS moved their existing shelter to the City of Grand Rapids Belknap tower site and the tower became part of the MPSCS backbone.



Photo Credit: Brian Aprill

The site has eight 800 MHz trunked channels, an alarm control system, and microwave connectivity. The MPSCS performed or contracted all the of work required for the move.



Eric Holmer hooks up consoles and radio equipment in the Belknap shelter.

Grand Rapids Police Chief Kevin Belk said that the coverage in downtown Grand Rapids has improved significantly.

"This is the perfect example of how the state and local units of government can work together to better serve

residents of the great state of Michigan," said MPSCS Director Brad Stoddard.



Shelter being lowered onto new foundation.

"This development increases coverage and interoperability for public safety first responders and resolves officer safety concerns."

MSP Rockford Post Commander F/Lt. Christopher McIntire said "We greatly appreciate the cooperative efforts of the MPSCS and city of Grand Rapids on this accomplishment."



Words From Our Director: Brad Stoddard

Simple Communication = Success

It's ironic that we have been speaking to one another long before technology carried our voice conversations over wired or wireless mediums, yet we are still as challenged with our communication skills today despite this advanced technology.

Advancements have been made with technology that has replaced the simple ways of being in close proximity of one another, creating new ways to miscommunicate our thoughts. The term "noise" can fulfill both technical and non-technical definitions to describe content we just don't want or need to hear. That was true a century ago and stands true today.



At times, we simply need to look in the rearview mirror to determine the parallels we face on

the road in front of us; from the miles of cables that stretched across the nation to form a delivery network for non-verbal data messages of the telegraph, to the radio frequency and the challenge of use across different bands without some "black box patch" device.

The world doesn't drastically change; it gradually improves on what we have learned through history. Those simple lessons of years ago should be the capitalized interest of our future and even as we have grand advancements with technology for both voice and data standards; it's the basics we must remember

- *simple communications.*

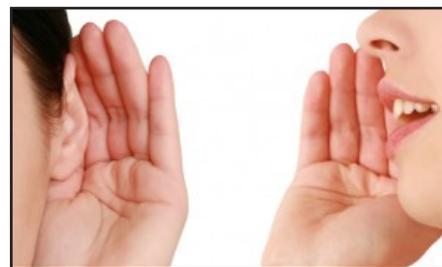
**"... it's the basics we must remember
- *simple communications*"**

Without standards, a vision, a strategic direction, and of course funding, a successful communication solution will not succeed. This can be viewed in economies of scale where a build once, share often, and excel always will maximize the return over the long run. Grand visions can be had that carefully define a strategy that is solid as a mason's home, and is strongly supported by the community as the preferred choice, yet lack sustainment. This can quickly park the vision and strategy along with derailing future opportunities and partnerships due to lack of simple talking and listening.



**Brad Stoddard,
Director, MPSCS**

Just like "video killed the radio star", technology evolution is "killing" basic communications. Keeping



an eye carefully on the horizon while also fixating on the rearview mirror will provide the balance of taking the appropriate steps of learning

from past hurdles and turning the future into a greater number of total successes. This can be had by using the basic communication skills we have, by talking and listening.

Across the state and across the country, many public safety communications initiatives are underway, including rebanding efforts, land mobile radio system construction, and public safety broadband. The fundamentals of listening and talking will be the enabler for success in any of these communications efforts.



Local Integrations and Project Updates

Marquette/MSP Dispatch
- upgrading to MCC7500's.

Cheboygan-Charlevoix-Emmet Co. (CCE) - T1's are installed and site will go live at end of September.

Montcalm Co., - law enforcement and EMS are using MPSCS as primary communications and are adding console positions.

Wayne Co. - replaced T1's with a microwave.

Wayne Co. Airport - will be migrating in early winter.

Conference of Eastern Wayne (CEW) - Integration complete.

Software Upgrade to 7.13

The 7.13 software upgrade will be installed in August. The actual impact to our users will be very minimal and be observed when they do the Zone Controller switches. These switches typically take 30 to 45 seconds and the sites drop into Site Trunking during that time.

The multicast sites will also be upgraded but only one at a time and never two adjacent sites. Most radios will jump to adjacent sites during the site upgrade reboot. Portable radios typically are the ones that notice the rebooting of the site controller. Again this is only a short time while the site controller reboots.

The simulcast systems will be upgraded but due to redundant controllers, their impact will be less noticed in those areas.

The system connected consoles will continue to work and software upgraded in September with several improvements and features:

- System connected MCC7500 IP Dispatch Consoles will be upgraded as required during September.
- More stations can now be connected to an Enhanced Conventional Channel Gateway (ECCGW).
- IP Console Aliasing option available for the current MCC7500 Consoles
- Interzone Conventional station control
- Several software enhancements to improve programming and system management.

Congratulations to Dennis Fountain as the new Rockford Shop Supervisor, and to Ralph Liddle as the new Network Communications Center (NCC) Supervisor.



Site-On-Wheels (SOW) Deployed for Festival

The Site-On-Wheels (SOW) and Point-to-Point (PTP) capability were successfully deployed to provide portable coverage for the Michigan State Police and other public safety personnel at the Electric Forest Festival in late June. This deployment also served as an



opportunity to set up for training of the system. All divisions within the MPSCS had a part in making this successful.

Mobilization and training

were scheduled from June 18th thru June 21st, and Engineering worked hard to prepare the SOW prior to the event. The latest software updates/configurations were loaded in all equipment and the zone core wiring pre-work was done. Pre-deployment configurations were designed with the NCC and the path design from the SOW deployment Site to Site 6606 and took care of the DACS cross connects.

Site Services towed the SOW while dispatching three deployment teams consisting of two radio technicians per team and steeplejacks.

Adjustments were made with location during set up due to shadowing, which turned into an excellent training opportunity for staff. The site was in wide trunking with six channels and video surveillance was set up for the duration of the event through the MESH network with a live camera feed back to the NCC via the Interoperability Gateway Network (IGN).

Michigan State Police Sergeant Orville Theaker said the deployment was a huge success. The SOW was demobilized on July 1, 2013.



Photo Credit: David Barnett

Joe Zerlaut Retired

Joe Zerlaut began his career on October 1989 as a Michigan State Police Communications Division Employee to support their 90 communications towers. He was one of two steeplejacks that supported all of the MSP towers through the State.



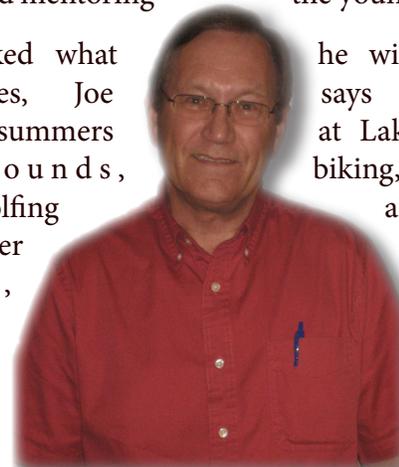
In the mid 1990's he not only continued to support Michigan State Police's now legacy system, but was instrumental in the build-out and construction of the current Michigan's Public

Safety Communications System (MPSCS) that numbered 180 towers. Joe climbed every tower up to 500 feet inspecting all components on the towers, as

well as the equipment shelters, emergency generator systems and HAVC units.

Joe supervised eight Site Maintenance personnel that support the entire infrastructure of 244 tower sites of the MPSCS. Joe has been a model employee forever smiling and mentoring the younger staff.

When asked what he retires, Joe spending summers c a m p g r o u n d s , Harley, golfing the winter Phoenix, Joe said miss his at the and we the best.



he will do when says he will be at Lake Michigan biking, riding the and spending months in Arizona. he will friends M P S C S wish him



New MPSCS Staff

Chris Shanks

After 22 years of military experience with the US Coast Guard as an Electronics Technician, Chris Shanks has joined the MPSCS as a Radio Technician at the Northville Radio Shop.

Chris says he and his wife Mara are coming up on "20 years of crazy adventures together". They have lived in New York, Alaska, North Carolina, Nevada and Michigan. In fact, they loved Michigan so much they moved back here to raise their family. They have two daughters;



Kaitlin, 17, who will be attending CMU this fall and Corinne who is 11.

Michael has a Master Degree of Business Administration and a Bachelors of Science in Electrical Engineering from Michigan Technological University in Houghton, MI.

Daniel Witgen

Daniel Witgen comes to us after four years in the US Army as a Special Electronics Technician and one and a half years as a Radio Support Technician for the Office of Security Cooperation in Iraq (OSC-1). He had special electronics training at the U.S. Army Ordnance, Munitions and Electronics Maintenance School (OMEMS) in Fort Gordon, Georgia. He is excited about the opportunity to provide Land Mobile Radio support to public safety personnel out of the Rockford Radio Shop.



Jeffrey Zinski

Mr. Zinski spent almost 10 years in the United States Navy as a Cryptologic Technician. He graduated from Northern Michigan University in Marquette in 2012 with a BS in Business Computer Information Systems.

He came to the MPSCS after an IT Internship in 2012 at the Marquette Board of Light and Power, and is glad to work at the Gwinn Radio Shop so he can stay close to his hometown of Marquette, MI. He enjoys working on electronics which made this position a great fit. He has been married 7 years and has traveled all over the world while in the Navy.



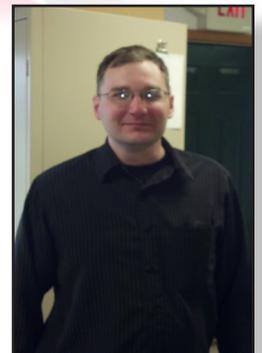
Kevin Davis

Kevin Davis is a new Radio Communications Technician at the Bay City Radio Shop. Kevin received his training from the United States Air Force in Ground Radio Maintenance. He is also attending Baker College currently studying Computer Networking Technologies. Prior to coming here, he worked for the wireless industry and construction. He has a "lovely wife and 2 wonderful children."



Michael White

Michael is a soldier in the Michigan Army National Guard as a computer and detection systems repairer. He came to the MPSCS because of the diverse range of long term opportunities and it fit his new position as a Radio Technician at the St. Ignace Radio Shop.





MICHIGAN'S PUBLIC SAFETY COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM

MPSCS MEETINGS

Locations and Dates for 2013

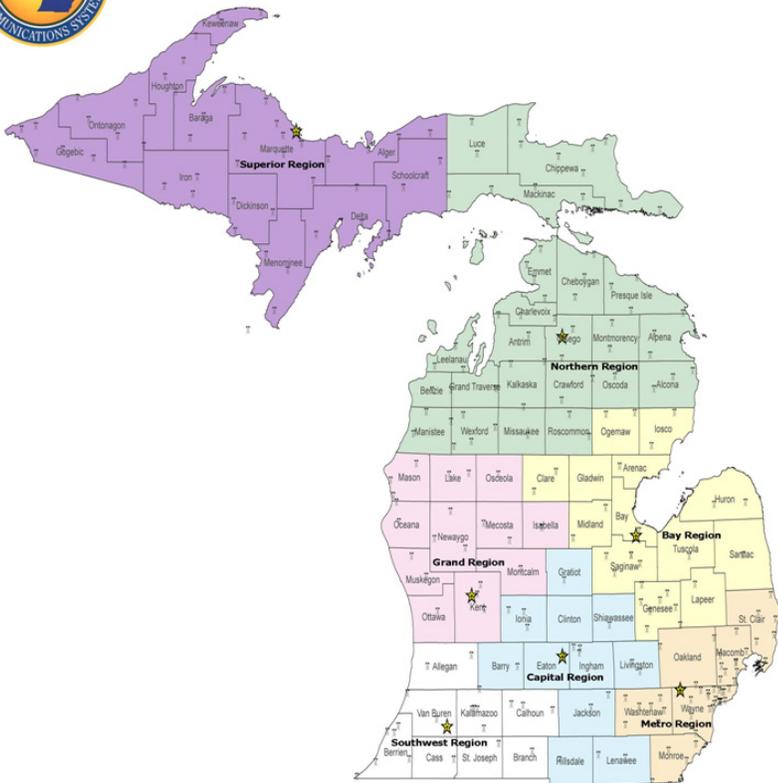
Allegan County
Monday, August 12
10:00 am - 12:00 pm
2233 33rd St.
Allegan, MI
Zimmerman Room @
Human Services Building



Gaylord, MI
September



MPSCS Regional Service Centers



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For newsletter questions and concerns:
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NOTICE:

Effective June 10th, our radio shops have a new naming convention that more accurately describes our section and should not change in the future based on a physical location of a building.

Check out our website
and let us know what you
would like to see.
www.michigan.gov/mpscs