



MPSCS Newsletter

New Law Supports Nation Wide LTE Broadband System

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Did you know?

The NCC is available 24/7/365 to assist our members with issues regarding system problems.

Call 1-888-554-4622.

This past February, President Obama signed the Payroll Tax Bill into law, which has included provisions to create a nationwide public safety broadband network (PSBN).

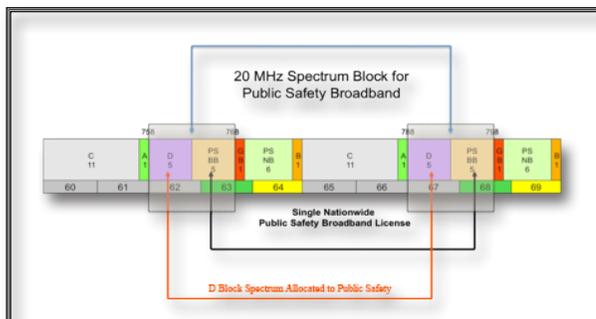
The law reallocates the D block Spectrum to public safety, identifies a 7 billion dollar budget to construct a nationwide public safety broadband network, and creates the FirstNet board that will oversee the nationwide network. This now provides first responders in the United States with a total of 20 MHz of spectrum to deploy the Long Term Evolution (LTE) standards based technology for the nationwide PSBN. This would include technology such as Next Gen software that would provide streaming video, voice, and text messages to aid in first responder services.

This new law is exciting news for Michigan as local and state agency offices, including the MPSCS, have been advocating for a nationwide PSBN that would ultimately serve the most basic and advance purposes of public safety communications across a nationwide network. Many personnel and organizations from around the nation have done their part to directly support the passing of this bill, including state and local representatives here in Michigan.

Special mentions for this effort include Capt. Tom Sands of Michigan State Police and Chief Tim Bourgeois of Kalamazoo Township, as well as many others who advised and educated elected officials and policy makers to make the best strategic decisions for public safety and the nation.

The governance of the system will be comprised of a First Responder Network Authority, FirstNet, held within the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), which was created by the law. FirstNet will consist of a 15 member committee including the Secretary of Homeland Security, the U.S. Attorney General and the Director of the Office of Management and Budget. The committee will also include 12 other members elected by the Secretary of Commerce, 3 of whom must be public-safety officials. FirstNet will be responsible for management and build-out of the system.

There are still uncertainties about the future of the Payroll Tax Act and the roll-out of the technology, but for the Office of MPSCS this step forward has been a long time coming. MPSCS will continue its support for this initiative that will promote the goals of a collaborative public safety communication network.





Words From Our Director: Brad Stoddard

The People of Public Safety Broadband Network



Bradley Stoddard
MPSCS Director

The magic has happened, the stars have aligned, and the Nationwide Public Safety Network is on the road to a reality. I was a spectator initially, as I came into the “discussion” later than many who have been providing the foundation of this idea for many years. It was easy to see the validity and value in a nationwide network for public safety to address the needs of citizen support and protection around the country. The passion that emanates from the leaders in the public safety arena is overwhelming. The message has been consistent from all persons involved in the efforts to secure the D Block funding, and a governance model that represented all levels of government and public safety disciplines.

Now that the President has signed the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012 into law, there is a strong sense of accomplishment. Still, a host of questions still remain. Is the funding identified in the law enough to construct a nationwide system? Should there be more representation from public safety or government in the governance model? The answer to both of these questions – sure, but the nation must start somewhere and common ground is the first step. We must now collectively move towards the advancement of those elements as defined in the law, while helping to define the answers to some of the other questions along the way. I had some great opportunities to participate in “advisory sessions” with leaders from around the nation, from Chief Technology Officers and VPs of leading manufacturers, as well as current and past CTOs of some of the nation’s largest cities. These sessions also included well respected public safety executives from all corners of the country and leaders of the nation’s public safety research

“The magic has happened, the stars have aligned, and the Nationwide Public Safety Network is now on the road to a reality”

programs, along with the few amazing consultants that have helped frame this space for the waiver locations. With so many faces and an equal number of names that are at times forgotten, I would be remiss if I did not call out a few that I have a mutual level of respect for both professionally and personally. Harlin McEwen, Bill Schrier

(and his tireless energy), Cynthia Wenzel Cole, Robert LeGrande, Andy Seybold, Sean Kirkendall, Joe Ross, Stacey Black, Chuck Dowd, Ken Budka, Paul Steinberg, Rhonda Grant, and so many others that have been framing this solution from concept to technical delivery. There are

names that I may have missed, and I do apologize to those leaders around the nation, but the individuals I identified are those that I have worked alongside and have made a lasting impression on me and I thank them for that.

Any one of these individuals have the strong capability of making great change in the world, but all of them collectively working together are making evolutionary changes for public safety and the citizens of our great country. The residual outcomes of this hard work will be job creation and technology change across all of the public safety disciplines. The meetings that almost all of these visionaries attend together, either in person or on conference calls, are like staring into the camp fire – you get drawn into the group, a member of the “change agent” club.

cont’d on pg. III



The People of PSBN (cont'd) - *by Brad Stoddard*

Public safety would not be faced with the captivating challenge of “the next step” without these great groups of members in the public safety broadband network club, if there were such a club. Fortunately, for public safety the “next step,” although equally daunting and challenging as the first step (securing the funding, reallocating the D Block, and development of a governance model), this same group of people are still there. They will continue to passionately develop strategies, ideas, and visionary approaches to aid in the delivery of a nationwide public safety broadband solution. It has always been said, it’s all about the people; technology may come and go but people remain the same. We know looking back on history, public safety communications has evolved based on great visionaries and passionate individuals seeking out change for the better.

Many who do not work within the public safety arena have not seen the change through the decades of public safety communications: from one-way voice to two-way voice and then the added transformation of data capabilities. These changes will continue to evolve around the needs of the public safety personnel. Some who do not live by supporting the mission of public safety, view “radio” as a less technical area, but I would strongly disagree. “Radio” is complex, it transmits

and receives data, sometimes the data is voice traffic and sometimes it is distinctly just data, but either way it is communications, and increasingly complex communications. The complexities will only continue to expand, but the technology capabilities will grow exponentially as ideas spawn new devices, smarter devices, and reactionary devices all while aiding the mission of public safety.

Years from now, the technology that public safety will be utilizing will eclipse the imagination of the many who could not predict such opportunity would ever exist. At that time, all of the people that helped make the PSBN a reality may be long forgotten (with the exception of Harlin McEwen, he’s unforgettable), but the nationwide public safety network will be serving the citizens and protecting the nation as if it had been there all along. There will be no monument or magnificent memorable moment when everyone who worked to turn the idea into reality will be equally recognized. However, working with these great people within this specialized arena, no such trinket or show is required, just the fact that they had a hand in bringing it to reality is all that any of them would ever need. Thank you to all of you for what you have done, and what you will do – Godspeed!



With the signing of the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012, collaborating to merge solution planning and design will be the defining aspect of converging the public safety broadband network with Next Generation 911.



Local Integrations and Project Updates

Chippewa Co. - Sugar Island going live soon

Lapeer Co. - 6 Site Simulcast in progress

Canton - will be adding 200 radios to the system.

Conference of Eastern Wayne
Cut-over scheduled for Mid-Summer

Additional Channels For Capacity going to be
added in Genesee County



The City of Livonia went live at the end of March. In addition to adding a 30 channel site to the Wayne County simulcast sub-system, they purchased all new subscriber radios, and went from analog to digital. The Livonia site cut-over was postponed briefly until after the migration of 7.11 due to the extensive work required to program into the system and retune.

7.11 Upgrade Status

The MPSCS successfully upgraded to system release 7.11 on March 21st at 2:15 pm. The interruption to service was less than 3 minutes when all towers migrated from the old 7.9 platform to 7.11 operating platform. Work continued for the next 10 days as the engineers migrated the many networks, databases, and diagnostic functions, and also continued “hardening” of the radio network.

Due to careful planning by the MPSCS NCC, the 7.11 system was pre-configured to permit uninterrupted operations of newly added radios between February 16th (system freeze) and March 21st (7.11 activation). Prior upgrades required a postponement of adding new radios or accepting a loss of radio service between the cut-over day and ability to re-program radios into the system databases.

MCC7500 consoles will have software patches applied between April 2nd and April 13th. Gold Elite consoles do not require a software patch for operation at 7.11. Subscriber radios do not require any flashes or upgrades to continue operation on the MPSCS.

The MPSCS leadership would like to thank Motorola’s Project Manager John Tabor, Lead Upgrade Engineer Sheilah Quintana, Motorola’s Upgrade Operations Engineers, Motorola’s regional Engineers and System Technologists for their dedication to a successful migration while minimizing the impact to our members.

Again our Network Communications Center Technicians went above and beyond expectations managing the many requests for information, establishing alternate communications, managing service requests, and validating system functionality during this upgrade. Our Engineering and Field Technicians continue to finalize the migration of spare equipment and implement new functionality within this 7.11 platform upgrade.



Rebanding Update - Rebanding Gathers Momentum

MPSCS successfully completed negotiations with Sprint for funding of the implementation of the Rebanding plan. Preparations are now underway to mobilize the resources that will be utilized in this effort.

The successful completion of negotiations for funding to complete all three phases of the project is an important milestone. The project is now able to set up schedules, assemble resources, and focus on the actual delivery of the rebanding services. The first phase of creating a dual Mutual Aid System that operates both on the existing as well as the new rebanded frequencies is 90% complete.

As noted previously, 14 of the 176 antenna sites' frequencies are "blocked" by adjacent non-MPSCS operating systems. MPSCS, working with Sprint, expects to have all of the "blocked" frequencies removed by the end of June. Crews have been assembled to complete the rebanding of the last 14 sites, which is expected to be done by the end of May.

A wide range of activities have now been initiated to mobilize and prepare for the launch of the actual rebanding of the subscriber radios. Contracts for the radio technicians and their equipment have been signed and a schedule for their mobilization has been agreed upon. Development of procedures and protocols are underway, equipment orders have been made, and testing and trial runs have been scheduled.

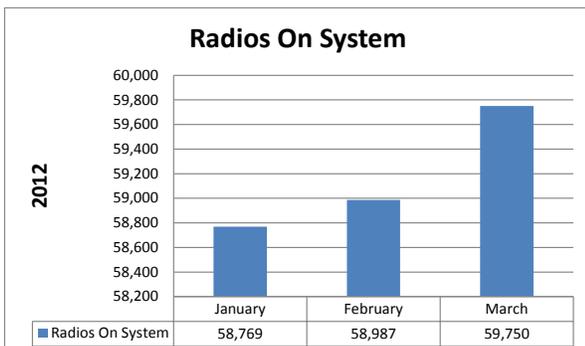
The initial trial runs of the rebanding process

will take place in June with a full implementation set to kick-off in the summer.

Communication between the Rebanding Teams and you, the radio subscriber agency, is of course critical. MPSCS has contracted with the consulting firm of RCC from the beginning of this process in 2007 to direct and coordinate the field operations. RCC has established a general overall rebanding schedule that has grouped the state's counties into five regions. RCC schedulers will contact the subscriber agencies in each county within a region to schedule rebanding times at two or more sites. These will be located to be nearest the bulk of the radios in an area to minimize disruptions to subscriber agency operations. In special cases, on-site visits may be scheduled to reband mobile radios that are in vehicles that are not readily moved or taken out of service such as bulldozers, some fire apparatus, and similar equipment.

RCC together with MPSCS will be providing you with detailed information on how the rebanding process will occur for your agency as the program begins underway. A web page has been set up by RCC to provide information on the Rebanding Project. It can be accessed from the MPSCS web page at www.Michigan.org/MPSCS and then by clicking on the 800 MHz Rebanding Project button on the top, left side of the page.

We look forward to working with you as we finally get out in the field and get this project underway.



michigan.gov/mpscs

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

Hello To New Employees

Lanny Bugg

After 26 years of military experience Lanny Bugg has joined the MPSCS as a Network Communications Center Technician. While in the Air Force he was stationed all over the United States and overseas, in England. He says that his greatest accomplishment during that time was working with Boeing engineers and Marines building a test station to repair components from the CV-22 Osprey.

He enjoys hunting, fishing, bowling, and camping. He is married to his wife Anita and has four children: one step daughter, a daughter, and two sons.

Lanny brings computer and radio frequency knowledge as well as problem solving and IT skills to his position here with MPSCS.

Verdier Wekwert

Verdier Wekwert says that out of all the jobs he has had climbing towers has been his favorite, which he has been doing for the past two and a half years.

Working on towers has had Verdier traveling from Baltimore to the Florida Keys, but he has recently settled in Michigan closer to his family. He is now a steeple jack that works out of the Gaylord Radio Shop.

He attended Washtenaw Community college and has worked in several jobs from masonry and machine operating construction work to managing a gas station.

He enjoys making maple syrup in the spring and wants to spend more time learning blacksmithing.

Eric Gibbs



Eric Gibbs has seven years of tower and field experience working for Emergency Radio Service. In continuation of this, he has recently joined the MPSCS as a steeple Jack. He says that working as a contractor for the state had opened the door to him taking this position. Before working in the field, Eric attended classes at Michigan Tech University.

In his free time Eric enjoys traveling to the U.P. He is married, has two dogs, and one child with another on the way in April.

Farewell to Tommy Thompson

Tommy Thompson has been with the MPSCS since “the system was powered up in ’96”, leaving once for the private sector. He started his job here doing performance, function, and coverage tests of the system. He then worked in the Northville and Lansing shops as a radio tech. He was also an NCC tech and Lansing Shop Supervisor. He held all of these positions before he became Field Service Manager.

Last month, Thompson took the opportunity to live closer to his family and to work as the General Manager for Northern Kentucky Operations for Comtronics, a Motorola dealer and a radio accessory and headset provider. He is in the



process now of “getting both feet running, trying to find a location for [the] business and helping Northern-Kentucky Public Safety.”

During his years here, Thompson says that watching the system start out from just serving State Police and growing to be the interoperability model it is today, connecting over 1,500 agencies across Michigan, has been one of the highlights of his career here. Thompson also says that he has “worked with some of the finest people you will ever meet” at MPSCS.

MPSCS would like to thank Tommy for his years of service with the system and for being one of the finest people his friends and co-workers here have had the pleasure to work with.



MICHIGAN'S PUBLIC SAFETY COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM

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MPSCS USER GROUP MEETINGS

Over the next year we will be reaching out to MPSCS users and partners across the state.

What are we doing right and what could we improve?

Do you have technical or billing questions, how is our customer service, and do we communicate the impact of upgrades well?

We will also have a Rebanding Update with detailed information for your agency.

Let us know if you are interested in hosting an event, or would like to come out and meet with us.

Tentative Locations and Dates for 2012



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 or visit our website @ www.michigan.gov/mpscs for updated schedule