



# MPSCS Newsletter

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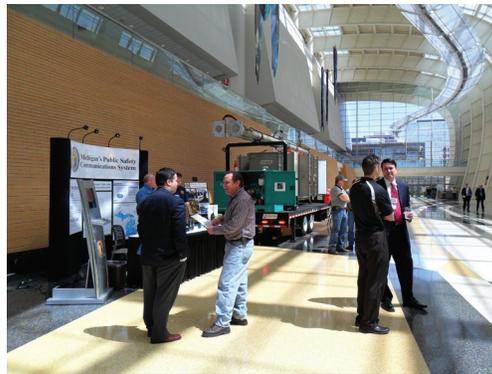
## Homeland Security Conference: The MPSCS exhibited the SOW Trailer

The 2011 Great Lakes Homeland Security Conference and Training Expo took place this year on May 3rd - 5th, 2011, at the DeVos Place in Grand Rapids Michigan. The event was hosted by Michigan State Police, Emergency Management and Homeland Security Division, Michigan Department of Community Health- Office of Public Health Preparedness and the FBI- Detroit Office.

was the commander of the joint task force for Hurricane Katrina. Among the list of other dynamic speakers was MPSCS's own Director Brad Stoddard. Stoddard spoke on Friday about the changing and advancing technology within Homeland Security and how the state must be prepared to adapt to the responsibilities that comes with it.

The MPSCS also had its own booth among over 50 other exhibitors, with a full Site on Wheels (SOW) trailer on display. MPSCS staff members Dick Tryce, Radio Technician, and Dan Robinson, Departmental Analyst, were available at the booth to answer any questions about the SOW. A 7 minute MPSCS produced video was also premired, explaining how to assemble and disassemble the SOW, and the potential it has for increasing public safety communications. Robinson said that this year more than ever the new technology made the "attitude of the crowd very confident in the MPSCS's ability to provide radio service in Michigan."

Next year's Great Lakes Homeland Security Conference and Training Expo is scheduled for May 1-3rd and will also be held at the DeVos Place in Grand Rapids.



*The MPSCS booth at Devos Place in Grand Rapids with the SOW Trailer.*

The theme for this year's event was "Never Forget" a tribute to the 10th anniversary of 9-11. Employees from all levels of government came together to honor this theme and promote public safety.

The keynote speakers for this year were Rudy Giuliani (former Mayor of New York City) and Lt. General Russel Honoré, (Ret.), U.S. Army who

*MPSCS staff members, Dick Tryce and Dan Robinson at the booth ready to answer questions.*



You can now follow us on Twitter @ [www.twitter.com/mpscs](http://www.twitter.com/mpscs)

and check out our videos @ [www.youtube.com/thempscs](http://www.youtube.com/thempscs)

### Did you know?

The MPSCS is the largest P25 communications system in the world based on the numbers of zones.

## NENA Conference: MPSCS highlighted interoperability with 911 call centers

The 2011 National Emergency Number Association (NENA) Conference was held in Lansing on May 22-25. The conference's focus this year was "Reaching New Horizons" and Dave Hayhurst, Infrastructure Services Manager, was asked to speak about what the MPSCS has on its horizons at this year's event.



*David Hayhurst of the MPSCS discussing the evolution of the organization to NENA Conference attendees.*

On Tuesday the 24th, Hayhurst gave a presentation overviewing the history of the MPSCS, technology that is used including trunking, current and future growth of the system, and our projects to NENA members. The main goal for the presentation was to help users understand talk groups, and understand the radio templating process.

With 44 dispatch centers across Michigan using MPSCS radios for communication, "It is important for our users to know some of the inner workings behind the technology and processes the system uses," Hayhurst commented. The presentation was successful in highlighting future plans for the MPSCS and how they will affect current members as well as 911 call centers looking to join the system.

## 7.9 Upgrade: Completed

The system wide upgrade to 7.9 successfully took place on Thursday March 24th. All sites were cutover by 8am that morning. Preparation and the completion of the process started on March 21st and continued through the following Friday. Changes to both hardware and software in all master sites allowed for enhanced upgrade benefits including increasing system IDs from 64,000 to 128,000, improving the ability to use 700 MHz channels at remote sites, and improved security and diagnostics reporting at all tower sites.

The MPSCS would like to thank its field techs, our Network Communications Center technicians, Motorola, and its users for making the transition run smoothly. For more information about the upgrade please visit our website for updated bulletins found under the About MPSCS tab to the left of the page.

## SOW Video

The Public Safety Interoperable Communications Grant (PSIC) allowed the state of Michigan to purchase 2 trailers to support a fully integrated MPSCS site and a microwave backhaul system capable of linking the portable site back into the MPSCS. In April, the MPSCS produced a video explaining the setup and functionality of the Site On Wheels trailer.

Check it out on our YouTube site at:  
[www.youtube.com/theMPSCS](http://www.youtube.com/theMPSCS)



*Rodney Anway, Joe Zerlaut, and Joe Krenke (not pictured) wave to the camera after a day long video shoot.*



# New Employees

## David Demello

David DeMello's experience working in both the public and private sector gives him the knowledge of a variety of methods and ways to complete tasks that will benefit the MPSCS and help him handle client support. Previously David has worked as a PC Technician, HelpDesk Analyst, Network Administrator, and Network Engineer. He has worked for a private IT consulting firm, Jackson National Life, and also with the state for MDOS. His interest in working for the MPSCS is influenced by his father (Dick DeMello) who worked for State Police and DNR and was involved with the radio network. David is looking forward to opportunities for growth as an IT programmer analyst for the MPSCS. He will be helping to implement CAD as well as offer on-going support for InforEAM, Mobil Data, and NetMotion.

## William Selleck

After five years as a temporary employee, William Selleck says he was ready for a career change. He says he was lucky enough to receive an interview and now join the team at the MPSCS as a radio installer. William has had experience working as both a long and short haul truck driver and also with warehousing and logistics operations. He now works at the Vehicle and

Travel Services Building in the secondary complex. He helps to install radios in State Police, DNR, and other state owned vehicles. William received his Associate's degree from LCC and has returned since then from EMT/paramedic training and currently for HVAC system's training. William has also worked for The American Red Cross, during which he learned much about this state and the character of its people, especially during disasters such as 9-11. This along with his father working for the State of Michigan for both Civil Services and State Police exposed him to the atmosphere and makes him glad to be a part of it today.

## Darren Whitman

Darren Whitman, a graduate of Troy State University, joins the MPSCS as an IT Programmer/Analyst. After spending 21 years in the private sector and 3 years in the US Army as a mainframe operator, Darren was ready for a change of pace. He spent a short period of time working at the Data Center Operations and then transitioned to the MPSCS for the opportunity to work on new and advancing IT systems in the public sector. As a programmer analyst, Darren will be working with some of the MPSCS's latest technologies. His main responsibilities include the implementation and rollout of CAD and on-going support. He will also be providing

support services for InforEAM, Mobil Data, and NetMotion.

## Joseph Wassa

Before becoming a Radio Technician, Joseph Wassa had worked for 17 1/2 years with the MPSCS's radio provider, Motorola. He has had ample experience working in two different Motorola service shops and prior to that, 18 years of repair service experience working on TV's, VCR's, home and car stereo systems, as well as antenna and satellites. Joseph has spent years servicing police, fire, ambulance, and government radio systems. He has also worked with simulcast and paging systems in the private sector. This makes him well prepared for his new position as he services the backbone of MPSCS radio systems while also working on installation, maintenance, and customer's radios.

## Kimberly Miller

After 16 years as a Media Specialist in the MI Legislature producing media products and tracking legislation, Kim was looking for a new challenge. Previously she worked for the City of East Lansing, MDOT, MSU, Message Makers, WLNS TV6, film and TV, and has been a business owner developing PR campaigns, strategies, and media materials for groups, such as EMU, and the MI Credit  
*New Employees - cont'd on Pg. 5*



## Rebanding Update: Implementation Phase

The project is now well into the implementation phase as we mobilize equipment, staff and schedules for the installation of the Back-2-Back (B2B) Repeater System. As you will recall, the implementation of the project has been split into three phases:

*1. Installation of a second set of frequencies/channels at each of the 176 antenna sites that make Michigan the nation's largest interoperable mutual aid public safety radio system. This will ensure that total communications are maintained throughout the Rebanding of the subscriber radios – regardless if a radio has been Rebanded to the new frequencies or has yet to be Rebanded and is operating on the old/existing frequencies - they will have full access to all other radios on the state wide system.*

*2. Upon completion of the B2B installation, Rebanding of subscriber radios will begin.*

*3. Upon completion of the subscriber Rebanding, the remaining antenna system (another 50+ sites) along with B2B sites will be permanently migrated to onto the new Rebanding channels.*

The B2B phase is now acquiring and assembling the equipment needed to build a repeater capability at

each of the 176 sites. Generally, each site will have a second receiver and transmitting capability installed so that both the existing as well as the new Rebanding frequencies can be processed. This will enable transmissions to be repeated and passed on to their destination. The process will be seamless to the user as there will be no reduction from existing levels of performance.

Initial B2B installs will begin in August 2011 with a completion date of December 2011. The installations, after test sites are proven, will begin in the UP and work their way south finishing in the Southeast Detroit metro area.

Planning continues on the Subscriber phase as we seek to optimize the process to effectively as well as efficiently Reband the 56,000+ subscriber radios starting after the completion of the B2B installation. Subscriber Rebanding will begin in early 2012.

The years of planning are bearing fruit as we move smoothly into implementation. MPSCS will be happy to discuss any concerns that you may have as we move forward.

### MPSCS Radios In Aircraft

Many MPSCS members have installed MPSCS radios in their aircraft and experienced mixed results while in flight.

So why can't an aircraft talk on the MPSCS while in flight when the aircraft will consistently talk with the control tower and other aircraft service stations?

When the aircraft is sitting on the ground, it operates like a typical mobile radio. Once in flight it becomes the "antenna on a very tall tower". In flight the radio will hear the local base station and stations counties or states away as the altitude increases. When the pilot transmits in flight, he or she will

be heard counties and states away. As the MPSCS system reuses frequencies at intervals of 70 miles or greater, this can cause problems with radio system users in other parts of the state.

So when does the interference start? Let's start by assuming a typical 450' MPSCS tower over fairly flat land. An aircraft at 1000' will hear all towers on the same frequency up to 75 miles away. Climbing to 1500' and they will hear towers 93 miles away. Flying at 3000' allows you to hear stations 107 miles away. During flight, the radio may not properly detect the digital control channel signal and therefore miss the call or message.

**To read the full article visit our website and follow the link at:  
[www.michigan.gov/mpscs](http://www.michigan.gov/mpscs)**



MICHIGAN'S PUBLIC SAFETY COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM

Want additional information?

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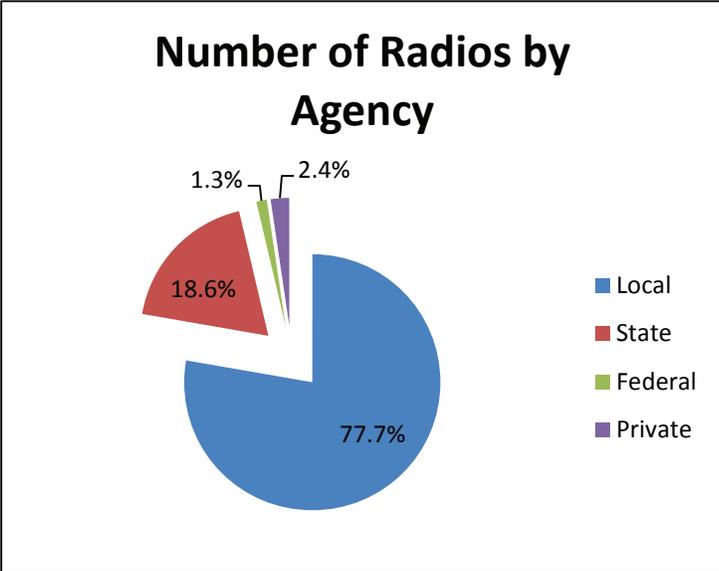
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New Employees Cont.  
Kimberly Miller

Union League. For 12 years she has been the Promotions Coordinator for the Dancing by the Riverbank Powwow in Lansing, MI and is a Telecommunications grad from MSU. She thinks that the MPSCS is truly a cutting-edge organization and she is excited to work with so many talented and smart people. Kim hopes to apply her 25 years of media experience to help promote MPSCS initiatives, and help further clarify MPSCS policies moving forward. Recently, she along with the MPSCS produced a seven minute video promoting the SOW Site-On-Wheels, and hopes to create more multi-media products to better explain who and what the MPSCS is.

| 2002  | 2011   |
|---|--|
| 8,000 mobile and portable radios                              | 55,402 mobile and portable radios                              |
| 4 Master sites  | 7 Master sites   |
| 180 tower sites   | 235 tower sites  |
| 6 Dispatch Centers<br>38 console positions                    | 44 Dispatch Centers<br>203 console positions                   |
| 2 million/month Push-To-Talks (PTT)                           | 8.7 million/month Push-To-Talks (PTT)                          |
| 152 agencies with interoperable voice and data communications | 1203 agencies with interoperable voice and data communications |
| 440 mobile computers  | 820 mobile computers   |

Check out our website for Talk Group Concurrence Letter and Radios Approved for Use on the MPSCS System  
New website coming soon!



[ michigan.gov/mpscs ]