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State of Wyoming

Public Safety Communications Commission

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We would like to thank you for your interest in Wyoming's PSCC. We welcome any questions, comments, or suggestions you may have to this publication. You may direct them to Bob Symons at 307.777.5065 or by email at bsymon@state.wy.us

Earl Atwood Retires

Earl Atwood retired from the State of Wyoming on March 14, 2008 after serving the State of Wyoming for 34 years.

Earl was the Administrator of the Information and Technology Division (ITD) for State of Wyoming Department of Administration and Information (A&I). As part of his duties, Earl was the Executive Director of the former SALECS Commission and was involved in the development of the Wyoming Public Safety Mobile Communication Plan. This plan led to the revision of the Wyoming Statute that created the Public Safety Communications Commission (PSCC) and the development of WyoLink. This statute states the PSCC will work with the administrator of ITD in an advisory capacity to promote the development, improvement and efficiency of public safety communications systems in the state. Earl became the Executive Director of the PSCC on July 1, 2004.

Chairman Steve DeCecco stated "The PSCC has accomplished a lot and in no small measure due to the leadership, direction and support that Earl has provided." Earl has provided general oversight and leadership to the PSCC. The PSCC is a very diverse commission with seventeen members and Earl was instrumental and adeptly walked the PSCC through the process of developing the PSCC and setting the stage for where the PSCC is today and headed into the future. Some of the unique attributes of Earl stated by the PSCC Commissioners include: knowledge and wisdom, clear guidance, and calm and steadfast spirit especially during times of uncertainty and controversy. Earl was very wise in leading the PSCC into many measured responses and is a superb diplomat.

The PSCC would like to thank Earl for his service and wish him well with his retirement.

Earl Atwood (left) receives retirement plaque from Chairman Steve DeCecco

http://pscc.wyoming.gov

National Interoperability Channels

The National Public Safety Telecommunications Council (NPSTC) has adopted a standard channel naming format to be used with the FCC designated Interoperability Channels. The Wyoming PSCC has also included the standard channel naming format into the WyoLink Handbook and recommends local agencies program these channels into their radios. Local dispatch centers should consider adding the CALL channels. Standard channel nomenclature is essential to the interoperability process, such that all responders to an incident will know the appropriate channel to which to tune their radios.

The national interoperability channels are eligible for use by any public safety agency that holds a current FCC license on the public safety band. These channels may be used by Federal agencies, state agencies and local agencies to provide simplex radio interoperability. An example of use would be a natural disaster that involves agencies from all levels of government or an incident along state borders that involve agencies from multiple states. These channels may be used during an in-state incident for simplex tactical communications.

The Channel use designator is an alphanumeric 3 or 4 place tag to signify the primary purpose of the operations on the channel. CALL – interoperability calling and contact with local dispatch centers, FIRE – interagency incident communications by Fire licensees, LAW – interagency incident communications by Police licensees, MED – Interagency incident communications by Emergency Medical Service licensees. TAC – Interagency communications by any Public Safety eligible.

The WyoLink Handbook lists the following National Interoperability Channels:

VCALL10, VTAC11, VTAC12, VTAC13, VTAC14, VFIRE21, VMED28 and VLAW31

8CALL90, 8CALL90D, 8TAC91, 8TAC91D, 8TAC92, 8TAC92D, 8TAC93, 8TAC93D, 8TAC94, and 8TAC94D. The "D" is for simplex radio communications on 800 MHz radios.

Wyoming agencies have been using some of the national interoperability channels by the following names: FERN for VFIRE21, NLEC for VLAW31, and EMS Regional for VMED28.

The WyoLink Handbook may be viewed and downloaded from the PSCC website at

http://pscc.wyoming.gov For further information on the NPSTC standard channel naming you may visit the NPSTC web site at http://www.npstc.org/channelNaming.jsp

John Hartwig—PSCC Executive Director

It is with great pleasure that we announce the new ITD Administrator and PSCC Executive Director, John Hartwig. John was the Director, Department of Information Services, Snohomish County, Everett, WA.

John's experience includes technology integration with assignments in manufacturing; marketing, sales/account management, branch/regional management, field service management, and over 15 years in internal governmental IT operations. He has proven success setting expectations and creating high energy IT operational work groups covering systems and network engineering, telecommunications, data center operations, technical support, application development, security and IT administrative services.

Upcoming Events

Calendar posted @ http://pscc.wyoming.gov

4/28/08 * 5/19/08 * 6/30/08 Project Team Meetings 10 am—12 pm

@ WyDOT Planning Building, 2nd Floor Training Room

This is a monthly meeting held by the WyoLink Project Manager and Motorola. The meeting gives an overview of the progress over the past month, what is taking place in the near future, and any problems or concerns that need to be addressed with WyoLink.

6/9/08—PSCC Informational Meeting—Laramie

6/10/08 - PSCC Meeting— Laramie

This is the quarterly general business meeting of the PSCC. Each committee gives a standing report; any concerns or problems are discussed and action taken, if needed. A progress report on the WyoLink project is also presented.

Dispatch Center Standard Channel Naming

The PSCC has adopted a standard channel naming format for all channels or talkgroups. WyoLink is a software based radio system that requires a unique name for all talkgroups and/or channels. As the local dispatch centers are upgraded and added to the WyoLink system, their current channels and WyoLink talkgroups will be added to the console database. Each dispatch center console is sharing the statewide server and has access to all channel listings, therefore the need for unique names. There are many examples of identical current channel names being used throughout Wyoming. An example may be "CCSO" for Carbon County Sheriff's Office, Converse County Sheriff's Office and Campbell County Sheriff's Office. Or RFD for Rawlins Fire Department, Riverton Fire Department, and Ranchester Fire Department, etc.

The above examples may be duplicated many times around the state. Without a standard channel naming plan, the first dispatch center added to the system could use a channel name that other agencies may be using and the other dispatch centers would have to rename their channels. To keep this from becoming a problem, the PSCC developed a standard channel naming plan. The channel name will consist of eight alphanumeric characters with the first two designating the county number. Eight characters were chosen because this is the maximum number of characters on the radio display of some radios being used on WyoLink. By using the county number as the first two characters, the common name becomes unique to the system. For example – 06CCSO identifies the channel as Carbon County Sheriff's Office, 13CCSO for Converse County Sheriff's Office and 17CCSO for Campbell County Sheriff's Office.

WyoLink and PSCC staff will be working with the dispatch centers on developing channel names and talkgroup names. For further information, you may contact Bob Symons, PSCC Administrative Support at 307-777-5065 or bsymon@state.wy.us

PSCC Members

Chairman
Steve DeCecco
Game and Fish

Vice-Chairman
Bill Westerfield
State Parks and Cultural Resources

Secretary
Jerry Kennedy
County Government

Lanny Applegate
State Fire Marshal

Lauri Wempen
Emergency Medical Services

Bob Dean
Dept. of Health

Kebin Haller
DCI

Mark Harshman
Fire Chief's

Billy Janes
Police Chief's

Mark Joiner
Federal

Dave Johnson
Municipalities

Kim Lee
Homeland Security

Danny Glick
Sheriff's

Doug Noseep
Tribal

Col. Sam Powell
Wyoming Department of Transportation

Jimmy Siler
Livestock

Bob Wyatt
Public at Large

Executive Director
John Hartwig

Staff Support
Bob Symons

Wyoming Mutual Aid Channel

With the development of the WyoLink project, Wyoming Department of Transportation (WYDOT) made a decision to enhance the current Wyoming Mutual Aid Channel. Mutual Aid is currently a simplex VHF channel operating on a transmit and receive frequency of 154.8750 MHz. This frequency has been licensed by WYDOT for state-wide use and some local areas have also licensed the frequency. This existing Mutual Aid channel will not change and will continue to operate as a simplex car-to-car channel, under the new label Mutual Aid 1. The car-to-car Mutual Aid 1 channel will not be monitored by the Wyoming Highway Patrol Dispatch in Cheyenne.

A new Mutual Aid frequency has been licensed by WYDOT, to be used as a new repeater input frequency. This new input frequency will be used to convert the existing WYDOT Mutual Aid radio towers located through-out Wyoming to repeater operation. This enhancement will add greater coverage area for the Mutual Aid channel. The new repeated Mutual Aid channel, to be called Mutual Aid 2, will be monitored by the Wyoming Highway Patrol Dispatch. Local agencies and dispatch centers will not be allowed to license this frequency or have their own additional repeaters due to the interference that may be caused between the WYDOT repeaters and the local repeaters. Local agencies and dispatch centers are encouraged to use the new Mutual Aid 2 channel State repeater in their area for interoperability as needed, including the installation of a small base "control station" so that their dispatch can talk through it, too.

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) rules require all license's to maintain a listing of radio users and number of users. Because of this rule, local agencies will need to complete a new Mutual Aid Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) before programming radios with the new Mutual Aid frequency. There is no cost for the MOU, which can also include the authorization to put in the small "control station" if desired.

Any agency wishing to program their radios with the repeated Mutual Channel may request a new MOU from the WYDOT Telecommunications Office at 307-777-4064 or 307-777-4440 or by e-mailing a request to Larry Sheridan at Larry.Sheridan@dot.state.wy.us

At this time the new repeated Mutual Aid channel is not operational through-out Wyoming. As WyoLink radio sites are being activated, the new Mutual Aid channel will also be activated at that site. WYDOT telecommunications is providing a weekly e-mail update to all dispatch centers and County Coordinators on the current status of upgrading radio sites with the new Mutual Aid channel. If you would like to be included on the e-mail list, contact Larry Sheridan at Larry.Sheridan@dot.state.wy.us

PSCC Newsletter

The goal of the PSCC Newsletter is to disseminate information to all agencies and individuals interested in the PSCC. To reduce printing and postage costs all issues will be in electronic format. If you would like to continue receiving the PSCC newsletter please visit **http://pscc.wyoming.gov** and click on E-mail/Newsletter sign up. This will be a quarterly, electronic publication distributed after every Commission meeting.

PSCC Mission:

The mission of the Wyoming Public Safety Communications Commission is to develop recommendations for policy and guidelines, identify technology and standards, and coordinate intergovernmental resources to facilitate statewide interoperability with emphasis on public safety.