Public Safety Communications Commission

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

Fleetmapping

Fleetmapping is a plan for the set-up, operation and management of the WyoLink trunked radio system. It includes the assignment of radios into talkgroups, the assignment of those talkgroups to dispatchers and creates a directory for the entire system. The functional features that are available on the radios are part of the fleetmap. Completion of the fleetmap ensures more efficient use of the radio system by controlling communication among different user groups and allowing priorities to be established for system access during it's busiest times. When completed, the fleetmap will provide for an opportunity to plan for expansion or change. The PSCC will work with each subscriber agency on the development of their fleetmap.

There are six steps to developing a Fleetmap: Step 1 – Identify the users of the radio system. When working with the individual agencies, we will help them determine the organizational structure and who needs to talk to whom.

Step 2 – Organize users into talkgroups. A talkgroup is a group of radios that can share calls and messages as a group. These are the channels that are used on a trunked system. Each talkgroup will have an alias, displayed on the consoles and radio, and system identification, used by the system to determine use. Some of the factors used in talkgroup development include the agency mission, the number of users, frequency of conversations and the console monitoring requirements. It is a balancing act, having a large number of talkgroups with few users causes the system to use more channels and having a large number of users creates the use of more sites for a conversation.

Step 3 – Organize the Talkgroups into Multi-groups. A Multi-group is a group of talkgroups that has a unique alias and ID. A multi-group is typically used by a supervisor to relay messages to a large group of users across several talkgroups. Each talkgroup can belong to one multi-group and not all talkgroups belong to a multi-group.

Step 4 – Assign talkgroup/multi-group parameters. The parameters for talkgroups will include the assignment of aliases and IDs, identify the priority levels within the system, and determine which talkgroups are recorded at consoles. The parameters will also determine the system home zone and identify valid sites the talkgroup may be used on.

http://pscc.wyoming.gov

Views From Jerry Kennedy

Born and raised in Wyoming, Jerry Kennedy has spent his entire life in Albany County. The Kennedy family, Jerry and his wife (Evelyn), son, daughter-in-law and two grandsons operate the Dodge Creek Ranch in northeast Albany County just south of Laramie Peak. They also operate a big game outfitting and summer vacation business from the ranch. The Kennedy's have another son that is not involved with the ranch. Jerry is currently serving his second term as an Albany County Commissioner and represents the Wyoming County Commissioner's Association on the PSCC. He is also serves as a fire guard for the BLM, working with the Rawlins Field Office for 40 years. Jerry was a commissioner on the former SALECS Commission, before it became the PSCC.

As a PSCC Commissioner, Jerry is currently the Secretary of the PSCC, chairman of the Wyo-Link Operations Work Group and a member of the Administration and Funding Working Group.

When asked about how WyoLink will help counties with their public safety mission, Jerry responded with "interoperability, being able to communicate between county agencies, state agencies and federal government agencies". WyoLink will be a better and more stable communication source. As a single system it will provide better wide area coverage and eliminate interference problems among the separate agency radio systems. Migration into the future on WyoLink, as a shared system could reduce the costs resulting from operating multiple radio systems. At present, in Albany County, the Sheriff's Office, Road and Bridge Department and rural fire departments all share one channel. WyoLink will provide multiple talkgroups for each agency and eliminate the sharing of the one channel. Parts of Albany County are using simplex radio communications and the wide area coverage will improve the coverage and connectivity. Jerry stated that the State of Wyoming will receive the same benefits that the counties will receive with WyoLink.

As to the challenges that face WyoLink and the PSCC, the Governor and the Wyoming Legislature have approved the budget for the completion of the WyoLink Project with the latest appropriation of $35 million. These funds will be used to complete the build out of the 57 radio sites and provide funding for the dispatch centers connectivity to WyoLink. Jerry stated the biggest challenges are in the areas of training and selling the WyoLink project to the end users. There are many misconceptions on WyoLink and we must work toward providing accurate information and start training users as the system migrates across Wyoming. Once WyoLink is built and operating state-wide, testing for portable radio coverage and in-building coverage may identify areas for improvement. Another challenge is adding federal agency participation to WyoLink, which will make the system a true state-wide interoperable radio system.

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

4/24/06 * 5/30/06 * 6/26/06   Project Team Meetings   1 pm—3 pm@ Qwest Building, Room 350

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.

6/13/06 - PSCC Meeting— Thermopolis

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.

Federal Agency Summit

The Public Safety Communications Commission, WyoLink and National Law Enforcement and Corrections Technology Center are hosting a summit with federal agencies on April 27, 2006 in Cheyenne. The purpose of this summit will provide an opportunity for the PSCC, WyoLink and potential participating federal agencies to review and discuss WyoLink.   There are many interoperability benefits that WyoLink and federal agencies may garner from cooperating together. As a state-wide trunked radio system, WyoLink may be able to offer the federal agencies an improved and reliable radio system and the federal agencies may be able to provide resources that WyoLink could use to complete and possibly enhance the system. This summit will provide the stepping stone to further talks and cooperation between the State of Wyoming, WyoLink and the federal agencies that provide services within Wyoming to enhance the interoperability communications among all public safety agencies.

Fleetmapping (Continued)

Step 5 – Determine features. Most of the features will be set by WyoLink, but there are some optional features that may be allowed. These optional features include the use of the emergency button on a subscriber radio, talkgroup startup, interruption. encryption and call alert capabilities.

Step 6 – Subscriber programming requirements. Each radio has a unique ID and subscriber determined alias. The alias will be identified on other radios and consoles and has a limited number of characters. On each radio the button use configuration, channel/talkgroup/zone assignments and primary talkgroup assignment will need to be determined. It is recommended that all radios within each organization are programmed identically.

As WyoLink progresses across Wyoming and becomes available for subscribers, the PSCC will be working with all potential subscribers to develop fleetmapping and training.

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Master Trainers

The first Motorola Master Trainer class was held February 21-24, 2006. Customizable tools kits were included in the training that will be used to develop training materials specific to the equipment being used. As part of the training, standardized radio configurations have been developed for each radio model. The master trainers will be able to provide train-the-trainer classes to local trainers which will be specific to the model (s) of radios used by that agency.

The training will be expanded to include trunking concepts, WyoLink system description and procedures, fleetmapping and scanning on a trunking system.

The WyoLink Operations Work Group has decided that there should be two (2) Master Trainers in each regional response area – one from law enforcement and one from fire/EMS. A second class will be scheduled in late 2006 or early 2007. A total of 22 trainers will be trained by on all of the features available on Motorola trunking radios, the trunking radio system and WyoLink procedures.

WyoLink Status

 The master site and five radio sites – 85 South, Sherman Hill, Russell Hill, North Albin and Whitcomb Hill are on-line as of March 16, 2006. The functional acceptance test was completed in February. This will complete the construction of the pilot phase.   The functional exercises will begin in April 2006. These exercises will provide simulated incidents to test for interoperability and functionality of the system. Upon the completion of all upgrades and testing, WyoLink will be ready for subscribers. Motorola and WyoLink are presently working on the design of the 18 radio sites in Phase 2, with construction planned to be completed by the end of 2006. WyDOT is currently seeking bids for the Phase 3 tower and building work.   Motorola is continuing the frequency engineering for the WyoLink Project with a scheduled completion in the summer of 2006.

WyoLink Compatible Equipment

The "All Agency Pricing Structure for Radio Equipment" has been updated. All of the current manufacturers have or will be adding or changing WyoLink compatible equipment. This price agreement provides radio equipment from multiple manufacturers at prices equal to or better than what an individual agency could obtain through a separate procurement process. This agreement is available http://wyolink.wy.gov and click on the equipment link.

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.