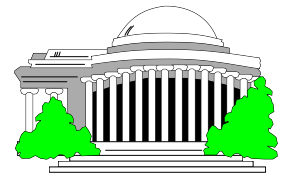


The Capitol Hill Monitor



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U.S. PARK PD ENCRYPTED RADIO SYSTEM ON TARGET FOR 2018 COMPLETION

One of the staples of scanner listening in Washington, D.C. remains on the butcher block!

Although behind schedule, the United States Park Police's radio system replacement and enhancement project is slowly approaching completion. Radio techs have just begun testing the radios earlier this month.

The all-new VHF Project 25 digital encrypted narrow-band conventional simulcast system is scheduled to be fully operational within the next couple months, replacing the agency's VHF wide-band analog radio network.

The existing system is being replaced with IP-based radio infrastructure to enhance operational capabilities by adding an additional VHF channel (the analog system is down to only two repeater channels).

Radio coverage will vastly improve within the agency's area of responsibility. The footprint is the same for all three channels and will offer the largest coverage area on a single channel of any conventional simulcast system in the region.

The system will now have nine transmit sites, seven more than the old analog network. The receive sites have also been increased from 13 to 20.

The sites are integrated through the use of a Motorola Conventional Sub-System (CSUB) and interconnected to a Motorola M-Core microcontroller. The system employs new Motorola G-series repeaters, new antenna systems, duplexers and site gateways.

The U.S. Park PD dispatch center will receive three MCC7100 IP dispatch computers and six fixed MCC7500 dispatch consoles. Dispatch is located at the Anacostia Operations Facility (AOF) and the on-site equipment room will have a new digital logging recorder and several new multi-band consolettes for seamless interoperability throughout the region.

The system also includes an encryption key management facility (KMF) that will support two remote client machines and one network management terminal.

The channels will be entirely encrypted once the system is up and running, although radio techs have just started testing the system this month without encryption.

The U.S. Park PD primary channel line-up will feature three repeater and one simplex channels. The channels are no longer numbered 1, 2 and 3.

New U.S. Park PD Channels:

171.7750 r Dispatch (currently IWN control ch.-FBI HQ)
169.7875 r Admin Traffic (listed in Radio Reference as Independent Hill control ch. for IWN)
169.7000 r Special Events (nationwide DHS Common for law enfo. except in DC area)



A separate simplex channel is planned for use throughout the mobile and portable radios by specialty units with different NAC codes so they won't hear each other.

The radio fleet includes Motorola Astro Spectra Plus, XTL5000, APX7500 and APX8500 for mobiles. Portables are XTS5000, APX7000 and APX8000.

Once the new system is live, upgrades to fiber circuits will take place at the district stations and all base station radios will be replaced with RoIP (radio over Internet Protocol) connections using Motorola MCD5000 gateways and desksets.

D.C. NEWS HELO UPDATES

Three years ago we [featured a profile](#) on "News 1," the only aircraft used by all four D.C. TV news outlets.

Last January, WRC gained exclusive control of "News 1," which is photojournalist Brad Freitas' aircraft. He regularly posts breaking news with photos to Twitter ([@Chopper4Brad](#)), vimeo ([Chopper4Brad](#)), YouTube ([NewsChopperBrad](#)) and Facebook ([Chopper Brad](#)).

Now, a second helicopter, known as "News 2," is shared by WTTG, WJLA and WUSA. Each station rotates dis-

patching "News 2" on a monthly basis.

Although both helicopters are leased from [Helicopters Inc.](#), Brad says the crews function independently and he is able to provide exclusive content for WRC.



Helicopter Inc. Helos Assigned to D.C. News

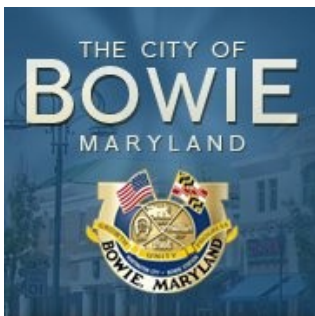
N98CL	Bell 206-L4	"News1"
N67CL	Bell 206B	"News2"
N9QD	Bell 206B	(backup for either News1 or 2)

Related Frequencies:

123.0250	Helo-to-Helo Common
134.3500	DCA Tower (helos over D.C.)
153.0500 [331]	WRC
161.7300 [88.5]	WTTG
450.2625 [311]	WJLA Ch.2
450.0875 [141.3]	WUSA Ch.3

WBAL, WJZ and WBOC are the only other news outlets in the entire region with aircraft.

CITY OF BOWIE POLICE DEPT GETS ITS OWN DISPATCH CENTER AND TALKGROUPS



Prince George's County.

Bowie has grown from a small agricultural and railroad town to one of the largest and fastest growing cities in the state. Bowie is 18 square miles with nearly 2,000 acres set aside for parks or open space and a population of approximately 55,000 residents.

Bowie PD consists of 65 officers with 11 dispatchers

In December, the City of Bowie became the latest police agency to start its own dispatch center. The city joins Hyattsville, Bladensburg/Mt. Rainier, Riverdale, Laurel and Greenbelt PDs who operate their own municipal dispatching facilities in

and two supervisors. The department provides its own detectives (CID) and crash investigators.

Chief John Nesky says residents are instructed to call 9-1-1 for emergencies and to call 240-544-5700 for non-emergency police-related calls. "Once the 9-1-1 call has been triaged by county communications and is determined to be a police call inside of the City of Bowie," he said, "it is routed directly to us."

"The county does not reimburse us," Chief Nesky noted, "but provides us talkgroups on their radio system and access to their CAD [computer-aided dispatch]. We would have been hard pressed to go forward with the dispatch center without those benefits," he added.

Bowie PD has been assigned talkgroups 229 (dispatch), 231 (tac) and 233 (SAT), originally known as municipal 1, 2 and 3 from the old PGPD fleetmap. These talkgroups will be re-programmed into the county radios.

"This is a great opportunity for both the city and the residents," Chief Nesky pointed out. "It allows residents to have direct access to us to report concerns or incidents. It also creates a communications hub for the city after hours so that we may provide faster and more efficient service and will increase safety for non-police city employees out in the field."

MONTGOMERY CO. PLANS P25 CUTOVER NEXT SUMMER!

As the technology ages and parts become harder to find for the old Motorola proprietary trunked systems, local jurisdictions are carrying out plans to modernize.



In Montgomery County, Dieter Klinger, COO for the Dept. of Technology Services, says the county is planning a cutover to a new Project 25 public safety radio system in the summer of 2019.

As for how much will be encrypted, Klinger says "The County business owners are in the process of determining which talkgroups will be encrypted."

"The new P25 Radio System will have interoperability with all P25 capable radios," he added. "This is to ensure interoperability with neighboring jurisdictions, regardless of which radio manufacturer they use."

"The county has made a business decision, as many jurisdictions have, to standardize on a single radio manufacturer [Motorola] for operational efficiency and effectiveness, by ensuring that all operations, functions and features are identical on all radios. Therefore, at this

time, the county does not anticipate procuring radios from multiple manufacturers," he said.

As the only municipality in the county with a 24-hour dispatch center, Takoma Park officials report that the county is on track to replace the city's aging police dispatch consoles and upgrade the fiber network by June. The county is providing the city with two new consoles for dispatch at no cost.

Takoma Park has not looked at testing an alternative radio brand because the city would be responsible for all of the programming, configuration, encryption keys, maintenance and contract costs to use them, which are currently covered by the county.

WMATA P25 SYSTEM ON TRACK FOR 2022 COMPLETION

Metro's P25 trunked radio system design was completed by Motorola on time this past November, says Richard L. Jordan, Metro spokesman. The tunnel cable installation continues and remains on track for completion by the federal 2022 deadline, he added.



Work is underway to procure new/leased tower sites. According to a source familiar with the system, the only encryption is going to be on the police talkgroups.

ANNE ARUNDEL CO. SIGNS MOTOROLA FOR P25

Anne Arundel County awarded a contract to Motorola this past December for a new P25 trunking radio system. The project is still in the design phase, so no timeline or project schedule has been released as of yet.

JOIN THE D.C. ZELLO INCIDENT NOTIFICATION AND DISCUSSION GROUP AND GET THE SCOOP ON BREAKING NEWS!

Zello is a push-to-talk (PTT)-style app for smart phones much like the old Nextel Direct Connect that allows walkie-talkie-like communication between individuals and among groups of users.

Inspired by the [Scan-DC](#) e-mail group, Kenny Lorber created the "[National Capital Region Public Safety](#)"

group on Zello several years ago. Now thanks to the efforts of veteran newsman Steve Eisen, the group has a fair amount of breaking news discussion.



We hope this group will continue to grow as people discover the need to share information on emergency events and breaking news among us fellow radio hobbyists — especially after what happened in Hawaii!

Those seeking to join must be approved to transmit but anyone with the password may listen. Download the [Zello app](#), then join the [NCR group](#). The password for the group is "scandc2018!" (without the quotation marks but make certain to include the exclamation point).

The moderators are [Kenny Lorber](#) and [Alan Henney](#) and either can provide assistance with the app if needed or help getting you approved to transmit. Please see [this newsletter](#) for guidance on what topics to broadcast. If you need assistance, talk to us on Sunday at Ledo's.

CHM GET-TOGETHER THIS SUNDAY !!!

[Ledo's Restaurant](#) in College Park has reserved space for us starting at 2 p.m. Sunday, January 21, 2018.

Assuming there are no working incidents, [Vito Maggiolo](#), journalist-turned-D.C. Fire/EMS spokesman, will be our guest speaker. It has been about 25 years since he last spoke to CHM and at that time he worked for CNN. So bring your questions!

IMPORTANT: Ledo's often does a few group checks with 20 percent added for tip. We'll have to split it up on our own. So please bring extra cash with you! The restaurant is at 4509 Knox Rd near the Univ. of Maryland off Route 1. Free public parking is available on Sunday! No need to RSVP, just show up! **EVERYBODY'S WELCOME TO COME.**



The Capitol Hill Monitor
c/o Alan Henney
6912 Prince George's Avenue
Takoma Park, MD 20912-5414

**CHM GET-TOGETHER SCHEDULED
THIS SUNDAY, Jan.21, 2018,
IN COLLEGE PARK. See p.3.**



Please address all correspondence to Alan. We encourage readers to submit material and write articles that relate to the hobby. All submissions are subject to editing for style and content. When submitting material please make certain we can contact you should we have any questions. We welcome frequency and visitor requests, but please include a reply envelope.

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The *Capitol Hill Monitor* is the non-profit newsletter of the Capitol Hill Monitors. The newsletter keeps scanner enthusiasts abreast of local meetings, frequency profiles and other topics of interest. Dues are \$10 and include 12 issues (back issues cost \$1 each). Kindly make checks payable to Alan Henney. Membership will be prorated accordingly in the event of a postage increase.

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<http://henney.com/chm/>

Join the NCR Public Safety Zello Notification Channel:

<http://zello.com/scandc>

CHM HAS GONE PAPERLESS!

The *Capitol Hill Monitor* newsletter is converting to electronic distribution. "Snail mail" distribution will continue for the time being at the current cost of \$10 for 12 issues (**please do not send more than \$10!**). Since the newsletter is provided at cost, the online version is available for free. To receive the online version, please send an e-mail to alan@henney.com. When the next issue is available, you will receive an e-mail with a link and list of topics for that issue. We welcome your input, suggestions and article submissions.
