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MORE CHANGES FOR P.G. FIRE/ EMS COMMUNICATIONS!

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It was just a few months ago when we listed a new channel plan for Prince George's County fire/EMS radios, with a slight variation among fire, EMS and command radios. Now it's getting more complicated.

Montgomery County has promised to give Prince George's County the two channels used by the Silver Spring police district (494.9125 and 495.4125) when Montgomery County PD's transition to the 800 MHz system is completed in coming weeks. These frequencies simulcast the trunked version of the Silver Spring police talkgroup, but are destined to become channels 9 and 10 in the P.G. fire/EMS radios once Montgomery County police abandon the UHF radios.

Prince George's County reportedly plans to use the two channels with single-site repeaters to interface with trunked talkgroups used by surrounding jurisdictions. The county has licensed 494.9125 at the WSSC high-rise office complex in Laurel, and 495.4125 at the WSSC water tank in Adelphi.

Several hundred of the former Montgomery County police Motorola Saber 1E portable radios will be given to Montgomery County fire stations, Cos. 1, 2, 12, 15, 16, 19 and 24. These stations often respond with P.G. County. These radios will be programmed for use with P.G. fire, but will include two 490 MHz simplex/tac channels, 490.5875 and 490.7125, which are currently only licensed to Montgomery County.

The 453/458 MHz simplex/tac channels programmed in P.G. fire's HT1000 radios are not within the frequency range of the Saber 1E. As of this writing, we do not know if P.G. County intends to reprogram its HT1000s with 490.5875 and 490.7125, to replace the 453/458 MHz channels, and match the Montgomery County channel plan. P.G. County will also receive some of the Saber radios from Montgomery County.

Here is the new P.G. County fire/EMS channel plan, at least the way it will appear in the Montgomery County fire/EMS radios. Note that the Saber 1E has an R/D switch to allow the user to select between repeater or direct (talkaround) for each channel.

495.0125r Ch. 1 [127.3] Dispatch/Local Alarms
494.8375r Ch. 2 [127.3] EMS Ops North
494.7875r Ch. 3 [127.3] Fireground South
495.0625r Ch. 4 [127.3] Fireground North
494.7875s Ch. 5 [127.3] Talkaround for Ch. 3
495.0625s Ch. 6 [127.3] Talkaround for Ch. 4
494.6625r Ch. 7 [127.3] EMS Ops South
494.8875r Ch. 8 [127.3] Command Ch. (PGPD Ch.6)
494.9125r Ch. 9 [210.7] Mutual Aid Patch (Laurel)
495.4125r Ch. 10 [210.7] Mutual Aid Patch (Adelphi)
490.5875s Ch. 11 [210.7] Tac 11
490.7125s Ch. 12 [210.7] Tac 12

These are the tac channels currently programmed in the P.G. fire/EMS radios followed by the Med channels programmed in EMS radios. EMS radios differ starting at Ch. 13.

453.1125s Ch. 9 [210.7] Tac 9
453.4125s Ch. 10 [210.7] Tac 10
453.6125s Ch. 11 [210.7] Tac 11
458.1125s Ch. 12 [210.7] Tac 12
458.4125s Ch. 13 [210.7] Tac 13
458.6125s Ch. 14 [210.7] Tac 14

462.9750d Ch.13 [192.8] Call 2 (467.975 mobile tx)
463.0000d Ch.14 [192.8] Med Ch. 1 (468.000 mobile tx)
463.0250d Ch.15 [192.8] Med Ch. 2 (468.025 mobile tx)
463.1000d Ch.16 [192.8] Med Ch. 5 (468.100 mobile tx)

In the near future, P.G. County has plans to move fire/EMS communication to a 10-channel digital conventional 800 MHz system. These 10 channels are currently part of a lightly used EDACS trunked radio system used by PGPD narcotics and special ops (aviation) officers, as well as recycling, sanitation and a few other county agencies. Five channels are used on the south side, 866.1875, 866.7875, 868.2375, 868.4875, 868.7625, and the other five are used on the north side, 866.1, 866.6, 867.0875, 868.4625 and 868.9625.

The county will purchase M/A-Com (Ericsson/GE) mobiles but Motorola XTS5000 portable radios. The XTS5000's will allow firefighters to talk directly to all of the county's neighboring departments -- all of which have (or soon will) Motorola trunked systems.

Eventually P.G. County police intend to absorb the 490 MHz channels used by fire/EMS. The logic is that police agencies do not inter-operate as frequently or on such a wide scale, unlike the fire departments. P.G. police may eventually build a trunk system using the UHF T-band channels.

# # #

NEWS CHOPPERS FOR ALL D.C. TV NEWS STATIONS!

As of this writing, WUSA has a contract pending with Metro Traffic for helicopter services. Metro Traffic will supposedly staff and manage Chopper 9 (or whatever it will be called). Gannett policy prohibits its employees from flying in helicopters without permission. Chopper 9 will likely provide video for WUSA and traffic reports for WTOP. The Metro Traffic studio may be responsible for directing the helicopter as well as feeding its video to WUSA.

For the first time in Washington history, all TV news operations will have helicopters. Let's review the frequencies.

WRC (NBC4) generally uses its 153.05 desk channel with Chopper 4. However, at least one of the station's two UHF channels, 450.45 and 455.15, have also been heard used in conjunction with helicopter reporting.

WTTG (Fox 5) uses 161.73 with Sky Fox. But 161.76 has been a rarely used alternate in years past, at least with crews on the ground.

WJLA (ABC7) has two new repeater channels. Ch.1 is 450.1125, which will be the desk channel. Ch.2 is 450.2625 for engineering. Chopper 7 is reportedly being used on a trial basis and could be discontinued or changed to another contractor. WJLA runs NewsChannel8 out of the same studio.

WUSA recently erected a repeater on the old Gannett frequency, 450.1875. This frequency is shared with CNN. WUSA tentatively designated this as Ch.4, replacing the old CBS channel, 450.5125, in its radios. Ch.3, 450.0875, remains in use as a simplex channel. The original channels, 450.75 and 450.2125, Chs. 1 and 2, are still in the radio but are infrequently used. Chopper 9 could end up doing all of its communication on the Metro Traffic repeater, 455.9125.

Metro Traffic now has a competitor in town, Traffic.Com, which leases space on the Champion trunked system for use with its airplane. The home channel is 496.6625/499.6625. One may find that 499.6625 is easier to receive, plus it eliminates much of the chatter heard from the other users on 496.6625. So far, Traffic.Com has contracts with WJZW (Smooth Jazz 105.9) and WRQX (Q-107).

With the exception of Chopper 9, all of these aircraft are housed at Tipton Field (Fort Meade). Hopefully these aircraft will find a need to communicate with each other on the aircraft radio as they once had in years past. But so far, 122.75, 123.025, 123.05, 123.45, 123.475 and 124.975, which are good candidates, are lightly used by them.

The traffic war may be just beginning. Clear Channel, which owns eight radio stations in the D.C. area, may be starting a traffic and news service for its stations in the coming year.

# # #

MPD GOES TRUNKED!

The skeptics are still in a state of disbelief that D.C. police finally switched to a trunked radio system. The 2nd District became the first D.C. police district to switch to the city's trunked radio system at 2 a.m. on September 29. The early morning switch-over went surprisingly well and on schedule. The other police districts followed later that week.

The switch is part of a larger project known as the *D.C. Public Safety Radio Network*. The network includes digital trunked radio systems in the 460 MHz and 800 MHz bands. The police use the 460 MHz system, and the improved 800 MHz system is primarily used by fire/EMS/EMA and other city agencies. This link has more details: http://henney.com/chm/dcpsrn/

The primary and secondary zones for the new police radios appear below. The hand-held radios, mostly Motorola XTS3000s and some Astro Sabers, have a total of 16 zones, and many radios have encryption on selected groups such as Citywide-Secure, Citywide 2-Secure and Office of Professional Responsibility (OPR).

The control channels are: 460.025, 460.1, 460.15 and 460.2. The remaining nine channels are used for voice (460.25, 460.275, 460.325, 460.35, 460.4, 460.425, 460.45, 460.475 and 460.5).

Eventually the trunked system may include the former public works channels, 453.45, 453.75 and 453.875. But until that happens, trunk trackers can be programmed with a single range using 458.775 as channel 380 and a step of 12.5 KHz. Leave the second and third ranges blank for now, but you will need them when the 453's are added into the system. If you use the Win96 software to program a Pro-96, make certain you checkmark the custom-table box. If you need help programming your radio, contact Alan, or post a note on the Scan-DC e-mail list.

Some of the police talkgroups are enabled on the 800 MHz system. However, a radio must affiliate on the talkgroup to activate it. If no radio affiliates with the 800 MHz network, the patch for that group will disappear. Same goes for talkgroups normally heard on the 800 MHz system coming through on the 460 MHz system.

Zone 1

01	401	16400	1D
02	403	16432	2D
03	405	16464	3D
04	407	16496	4D
05	409	16528	5D
06	40B	16560	6D
07	40D	16592	7D
08	531	21264	CW-SEC (citywide secure)
09	52F	21232	CW-2
10	533	21296	CW2-SC (CW2 secure)
11	DFD	57296	DC-WM1 (WMATA talkgroup)
12	4D1	19728	US-CAP (US Cap PD patch)
13	4B1	19216	MIRS (mob interop radio sys)
14	537	21360	CMMND (Command)
15	411	16656	SD1EVT (the new SOD)
16	40F	16624	CW-1 (like the old 460.325)

Zone 2

01	419	16784	1D-TAC
02	41B	16816	2D-TAC
03	41D	16848	3D-TAC
04	41F	16880	4D-TAC
05	421	16912	5D-TAC
06	423	16944	6D-TAC
07	425	16976	7D-TAC
08	529	21136	TAC-1
09	52B	21168	TAC-2
10	52D	21200	TAC-3
11	0A2	02592	DC-FIRE
12	4D3	19760	US-SS1 (Sec Svc patch)
13	4B3	19248	PMARS (PD mutual aid)
14	45B	17840	OPR (Prof Responsibility)
15	477	18288	SE-1 (alternate for SD1EVT)
16	40F	16624	CW-1

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ANNE ARUNDEL GOING DIGITAL!

Anne Arundel County fire/EMS and police along with a selected set of county and non-county agencies are switching to digital. Cut-over to the new system was targeted for Dec. 10. The county negotiated a staggered channel swap with Nextel consisting of 14 854-857 MHz channels. The rest of the county's agencies should follow in coming months.

The old all-analog system will remain in operation until the county completes the transition. The county can build out a more robust network using the new channels, expanding from four transmit sites to eventually 10. The current frequencies could not be built out to the county's geographical borders because of potential interference to other users on the same channels. The swap will also hopefully reduce Nextel interference by creating a wider separation between Nextel frequencies and the county's new system.

Like D.C. Fire/EMS, Anne Arundel County plans to use vehicle repeater systems (VRS). 100 of the units have been purchased. The VRS will patch a conventional channel into a trunked talkgroup for use on firegrounds to help better penetrate into buildings.

The four new control channels are 854.3375, 854.4125, 854.8125 and 855.1625. The remaining voice channels are: 854.1875, 854.5125, 854.7125, 855.5375, 856.0125, 856.0875, 856.1125, 856.1625, 856.5125 and 856.6375. The county may retain some of its lower old trunked channels, particularly 856.3625, 856.3875 and 856.4125.

Eventually the county plans to build new towers in the Waugh Chapel area, Maryland City, at police headquarters in Millersville, and at the Eastern and Northern district police stations. The county will also use an existing tower at Greenbury Point near the Naval Academy. The four current towers for the 800 MHz system are at Foremans Corner, Jessup, Sudley/Lothian and outside Annapolis.

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MONTGOMERY COUNTY TALKGROUP FLEETMAPS

It wasn't long ago that Montgomery County had five or so channels in its fire radios, and the police had just eight! A scanner listener could easily monitor the entire county without convoluted scanner programming, and still have room to spare for other jurisdictions.

Times have changed. The fire/EMS and police radios now have access to several hundred channels (or "talkgroups" in trunk speak) distributed across more than a dozen zones.

Here's a talkgroup-by-talkgroup analysis of both the county's fire/EMS and police hand-held 800 MHz radios. These are the primary radios issued to each agency, and may not include talkgroups used by specialty units.

Zones for other jurisdictions often have not been programmed with the latest talkgroup plan for that jurisdiction. They appear below as they do in the Montgomery County radios.

Keep in mind that mutual aid communication can be implemented using different techniques. Radios can be programmed to transmit/receive on the other system directly on the target talkgroups. Alternatively, radios can switch to other talkgroups (or frequencies) within the Montgomery County or the other agency's system. which are then patched or monitored by the other jurisdiction.

Montgomery County's four control channels are: 868.6875, 868.8625, 868.8875 and 868.9375. The remaining 16 voice channels: 866.2125, 866.275, 866.3375, 866.4875, 866.65, 867.8375, 867.8875, 867.9125, 868.1125, 868.1625, 868.275, 868.3625, 868.3875, 868.4375, 868.6125 and 868.6375.

FIRE/RESCUE/EMS FLEETMAP

Zone 0 (D.C. Fire/EMS)

A	01616	065	DC01
B	01632	066	DC02
C	01648	067	DC03
D	01664	068	DC04
E	01680	069	DC05
F	01696	06A	DC06 (ATG)
G	01712	06B	DC07
H	01728	06C	DC08
I	01744	06D	DC09
J	01760	06E	DC010 (ATG)
K	01904	077	DC011
L	01920	078	DC012
M	01936	079	DC013
N	01952	07A	DC014
O	-----	Cnv	DC016 868.0125s 156.7 [ITAC4]
P	02576	0A1	DC015

These talkgroups are on the D.C. 800 MHz system. In the D.C. fire radio, the first working incident requiring a battalion chief is assigned to talkgroups DC0-3 through DC0-6. A message transmitted on DC0-6 would simultaneously be received by radios monitoring DC0-3 through DC0-6. In Motorola speak, DC0-6 is known as an announcement talkgroup (ATG), a feature that is not supported by Uniden nor Radio Shack trunk trackers. DC0-7 through DC0-10 operate in the same manner but for the second incident.

Zone 1 (Arlington County)

A	34384	865	ADISP
B	34416	867	OPS2
C	34448	869	OPS3
D	34480	86B	OPS4
E	34512	86D	OPS5
F	34544	86F	SPOPS
G	34576	871	CALL
H	34592	872	ADMIN
I	34640	875	FPREV
J	34672	877	SPEVT
K	34096	853	MMST
L	-----	Cnv	T/A 867.0125s 156.7 [ITAC2]
M	-----	Cnv	FMETRO 856.4875r/s 156.7
N	32976	80D	ARL H
O	33040	811	NVCH
P	34384	865	ADISP

These talkgroups are on Arlington County's system. Some of the lesser-known talkgroups include the special ops, special events (used during the Marine Corps Marathon) and Metropolitan Medical Strike Team, which is actually overseen by the U.S. Government. Arlington and Northern Virginia Community hospitals are also included. Conventional "talkaround" and metro subway tunnel talkgroups are in this zone as well.

Zone 3 (Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority)

A	01648	067	F1DSP (National)
B	01632	066	F2DSP (Dulles)
C	01600	064	TAC1
D	01616	065	TAC2
E	02288	08F	TAC3

These talkgroups are on the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority's system. One may find this to be a difficult system to receive since it has spotty coverage in much of the D.C. area.

Zone 4 (Fairfax County)

A	17616	44D	FDISP
B	17648	44F	RESP
C	17680	451	INC1
D	17712	453	INC2
E	17744	455	INC3
F	17776	457	INC4
G	17808	459	INC5
H	17840	45B	INC6
I	17872	45D	INC7
J	17904	45F	INC8
K	17936	461	INC9
L	17968	463	INC10
M	-----	---	BLANK
N	-----	Cnv	FDTA1 866.8625s 94.8 [COG5]
O	-----	Cnv	FDTA2 867.7625s 94.8 [COG6]
P	17616	44D	FDISP

These talkgroups are on Fairfax County's system.

Zone 5 (Prince George's County)

A	05872	16F	PGEMS
B	05840	16D	PGFIR
C	05904	171	PG4/6

These talkgroups are on Montgomery County's system and are intended as patch channels with Prince George's County if necessary. These patches are not routinely enabled since most apparatus along the P.G. County border already have dedicated radios for P.G. fire/EMS.

Zone 6 (Loudoun County)

A	03216	0C9	LDISP
B	03248	0CB	RESP
C	03280	0CD	INC1
D	03312	0CF	INC2
E	03344	0D1	INC3
F	03376	0D3	INC4
G	03408	0D5	ANNC (ATG)
H	03472	0D9	CMND
I	03504	0DB	DIV1
J	03536	0DD	DIV2
K	03568	0DF	DIV3
L	03440	0D7	DIV4
M	03600	0E1	LHC1
N	03616	0E2	LHC2
O	-----	---	BLANK
P	03216	0C9	LDISP

These talkgroups are on Loudoun County's system. The announcement talkgroup is enabled on the command and four division talkgroups.

Zone 7 (fire primary) "A"

A	03344	0D1	DISP
B	03376	0D3	OPS
C	03408	0D5	INC10
D	03440	0D7	INC11
E	03472	0D9	INC12
F	03504	0DB	ANN10 (ATG)
G	03536	0DD	INC20
H	03568	0DF	INC21
I	03600	0E1	INC22
J	03632	0E3	ANN20 (ATG)
K	03664	0E5	INC30
L	03696	0E7	INC31
M	03728	0E9	INC32
N	03760	0EB	ANN30 (ATG)
O	-----	Cnv	FDTA Cnv 867.2375s 156.7 [COG3]
P	03376	0D3	OPS

Zone 7 is the primary Montgomery County fire zone. This zone is automatically accessible using position "A" of the A-B-C switch on top of the portable radios. Zone 7, along with zones 8 and 9, also makes use of announcement talkgroups. The first working incident is actually assigned to INC20-INC22, with ANN20 designated as the announcement talkgroup (ATG).

The next working incident is assigned to the INC3x groups. Although intended for use by the first incident, the INC1x groups are mostly used for administrative chitchat since zone 9, the zone intended for EMS units, has medical talkgroups in place of the INC1x talkgroups. OPS is used for routine fire/rescue operations, mostly for single-apparatus or EMS responses.

Zone 8 (fire secondary) "B"

A	03344	0D1	DISP
B	03376	0D3	OPS
C	03792	0ED	INC40
D	03824	0EF	INC41
E	03856	0F1	INC42
F	03888	0F3	ANN40 (ATG)
G	03920	0F5	INC50
H	03952	0F7	INC51
I	03984	0F9	INC52
J	04016	OFB	ANN50 (ATG)
K	04048	0FD	INC60
L	04080	0FF	INC61
M	04112	101	INC62
N	04144	103	ANN60 (ATG)
O	-----	Cnv	FDTA 867.2375s 156.7 [COG3]
P	03376	0D3	OPS

Zone 8, accessible using position "B" of the A-B-C switch, is the secondary zone intended for use when zone 7 has already been assigned to working incidents.

Zone 9 (EMS primary) "C"

A	03344	0D1	DISP
B	03376	0D3	OPS
C	04176	105	CALL
D	04208	107	CNSL1
E	04240	109	CNSL2
F	-----	---	BLANK
G	03536	0DD	INC20
H	03568	0DF	INC21
I	03600	0E1	INC22
J	03632	0E3	ANN20 (ATG)
K	03664	0E5	INC30
L	03696	0E7	INC31
M	03728	0E9	INC32
N	03760	0EB	ANN30 (ATG)
O	-----	Cnv	FDTA 867.2375s 156.7 [COG3]
P	03376	0D3	OPS

This zone, position "C", is intended for Montgomery County EMS units. Note that 9G through 9P are the same as 7G through 7P. The CALL and CNSLx talkgroups are analogous to the former 463 MHz Med channels. EMS units use them for priority 1 consultations and when requesting physician's orders. EMS workers use CALL to contact the EMRC (Emergency Medical Resources Center) dispatcher in Baltimore. That dispatcher patches one or more medical facilities into 9D or 9E and the conversation with the EMS unit is recorded. The hospital talkgroups in zone 10, by contrast, are intended solely for non-priority 1 patients and notifications that do not seek medical advice.

Zone 10 (medical facilities)

A	04272	10B	HCH [Holy Cross Hospital]
B	04304	10D	MGH [Montgomery General Hospital]
C	04336	10F	NVYMED [National Naval Medical Ctr]
D	04368	111	SGAH [Shady Grove Adventist Hospital]
E	04400	113	SUB [Suburban Hospital]
F	04432	115	WAH [Washington Adventist Hospital]
G	05200	145	HOSP [hospital common]
H	03280	0CD	HANNC (ATG)
I	02320	091	MEDST [MedSTAR]
J	02288	08F	CHILD [Children's National Medical Ctr]
K	02448	099	SIBLY [Sibley Hospital]
L	02368	094	GEORG [Georgetown Univ Medical Ctr]
M	02384	095	GWH [George Washington Univ Med Ctr]
N	34384	865	INOVA [Inova Fairfax Hospital]
O	-----	---	BLANK
P	11312	2C3	HCGH [Howard County General Hospital]

Talkgroups in this zone are presumed not to be recorded and are intended for notification purposes. Requests for physician orders must be given over 9D and 9E. The first eight talkgroups are on Montgomery County's system. HOSP is a shared talkgroup for all hospitals in Montgomery County. HANNC is another announcement talkgroup that simulcasts across all Montgomery County hospital talkgroups (the first eight).

Talkgroups 10-I through 10-M are on the D.C. 800 MHz system, 10-N is from Fairfax County's system, and 10-P is on the Howard County system.

Zo**ne Name 11 (major incidents)**

A	04464	117	CMD
B	04496	119	SAFTY
C	04528	11B	LIAS
D	04560	11D	PIO
E	04592	11F	MOPS
F	04624	121	PLANS
G	04656	123	LOG
H	04688	125	FIN
I	04720	127	HAZMT
J	04752	129	WRSCU
K	04784	12B	US&R
L	04816	12D	CONF

This zone is intended for major incidents, although one may sometimes hear it used for training exercises. It includes a talkgroup for incident command, safety officers, various agency liaisons, public information officers, operations, planning, logistics, finance, hazmat, water rescue, Urban Search & Rescue, and an encrypted conference talkgroup for confidential incident communications. The county police department has a similar major incident zone but with other talkgroups.

Zone 12 (coordination)

A	06256	187	911
B	01616	065	PS#1
C	01648	067	PS#2
D	01680	069	PS#3
E	-----	---	BLANK
F	-----	Cnv	MCDR1 868.5125s 156.7 [COG1]
G	-----	Cnv	MCDR2 866.8375s 156.7 [COG2]
H	03216	0C9	FED
I	06160	181	LGEM1
J	06192	183	LGEM2
K	06224	185	LGEM3
L	17808	459	BLANK [not used]
M	01744	06D	S EV1
N	01776	06F	S EV2
O	01808	071	S EV3

Non-public safety users may report emergencies using the "911" talkgroup, which is monitored by the police communications supervisor. The three public safety coordination talkgroups are available in all police, sheriff, corrections and fire/EMS radios. The two Montgomery County direct channels are simplex frequencies available in all county 800 MHz radios, but note that MCDR1 in the fire/EMS radios differs from the MCDR1 in the police radios.

The FED talkgroup is intended for coordination between federal facilities and county agencies. The three local government emergency talkgroups are available in all radios. The last three talkgroups in this zone are intended for special events, such as the county fair and Booz Allen Open (formerly the Kemper Open), and are also programmed in all 800 MHz radios.

Zone 13 (COG/National Interagency)

A	-----	Cnv	COG1 868.5125r/s 156.7
B	-----	Cnv	COG2 866.8375r/s 156.7
C	-----	Cnv	COG3 867.2375r/s 156.7
D	-----	Cnv	COG4 867.4875r/s 156.7
E	-----	Cnv	COG5 866.8625r/s 156.7
F	-----	Cnv	COG6 867.7625r/s 156.7
G	-----	Cnv	ICALL 866.0125r/s 156.7
H	-----	Cnv	ITAC1 866.5125r/s 156.7
I	-----	Cnv	ITAC2 867.0125r/s 156.7
J	-----	Cnv	ITAC3 867.5125r/s 156.7
K	-----	Cnv	ITAC4 868.0125r/s 156.7

These are the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) and national inter-agency conventional channels. In many cases some input frequencies have been incorrectly programmed into the fire/EMS radios. The radios are programmed to use these channels as either repeater or simplex.

Zone 14 (Howard County)

A	11216	2BD	HC A1
B	11248	2BF	HC A2
C	11280	2C1	HC A3
D	11344	2C5	HC B1
E	11376	2C7	HC B2
F	11408	2C9	HC B3
G	11440	2CB	HC B4
H	11472	2CD	HC B5
I	11504	2CF	HC B6
J	11568	2D3	HC C1
K	11600	2D5	HC C2
L	11632	2D7	HC C3
M	11664	2D9	HC C4
N	11696	2DB	HC C5
O	-----	Cnv	HCA15 868.5125s 156.7 [COG1]
P	11216	2BD	HC A1

These talkgroups are on the Howard County trunked system. Howard County has made several changes to its fire talkgroup lineups. Most recently, the county switched to digital talkgroups using the same trunked system. Eventually this may be reflected in the Montgomery County radios. But this is the lineup that Montgomery County has programmed for Howard County's analog system. Announcement talkgroups are 11536 (for B1 to B6) and 11760 (for C1 to C5).

Zone Name 15 (Frederick County)

A	16048	3EB	FCA1
B	16912	421	FCA2
C	16848	41D	FCA3
D	16944	423	FCC2
E	16080	3ED	FCA4
F	16112	3EF	FCA5
G	16144	3F1	FCA6
H	16272	3F9	FCA10
I	16304	3FB	FCA11
J	16336	3FD	FCA12
K	16464	405	FCC4
L	16496	407	FCC5
M	16528	409	FCC6
N	16656	411	FCC10
O	-----	Cnv	FCA16 868.0125s 156.7 [ITAC4]
P	16048	3EB	FCA1

These talkgroups are on the Frederick County trunked system. Announcement talkgroups are 16240 (for A4 to A6), 16432 (for A10 to A12), 16624 (for C4 to C6) and 16816 for (C10).

Zone 16 (Carroll County)

A	01616	065	CC 1
B	01648	067	CC 2
C	01744	06D	CC 5
D	01776	06F	CC 6
E	01872	075	CC 10
F	01904	077	CC 11
G	01936	079	CC 12
H	02192	089	CC 15
I	02224	08B	CC 16
J	02256	08D	CC 17
K	02032	07F	CC 20
L	02064	081	CC 21
M	02096	083	CC 22
N	02352	093	CC 25
O	02384	095	CC 26
P	02416	097	CC 27

These talkgroups are on the Carroll County trunked system. Announcement groups are 02000 (for 10 to 12), 02320 (for 15 to 17), 02160 (for 20 to 22) and 02480 (for 25 to 27).

Zone Name 17 (fire administration)

A	04816	12D	SRSTF
B	03312	0CF	OPADM
C	04848	12F	IA
D	04976	137	INVEST
E	05008	139	INSPC
F	05456	155	PRGSP
G	05488	157	PSTA1
H	05520	159	PSTA2
I	05552	15B	PSTA3
J	05584	15D	PSTA4
K	05776	169	LFRD1
L	05808	16B	LFRD2
M	03248	0CB	CISM
N	17872	45D	HDSK1
O	17904	45F	HDSK2
P	17616	44D	RADIO

This zone on the Montgomery County system includes talkgroups for fire department senior staff (encrypted), Bureau of Operations (administration), internal affairs (encrypted), fire investigators (encrypted), inspections (code enforcement), Program Support Services Bureau, Public Service Training Academy, the local fire/rescue departments, critical incident stress management (encrypted), help desk (computer support) and radio shop.

Zone Name 18 (police monitor)

A	14736	399	DIS 1
B	14832	39F	DIS 2
C	14928	3A5	DIS 3
D	15024	3AB	DIS 4
E	15120	3B1	DIS 5
F	15216	3B7	DIS 6
G	16240	3F7	TP 1
H	16624	40F	RCPD1
I	16432	403	GPDCM
J	17104	42D	CCVP1
K	16976	425	PKPD

These are monitor-only talkgroups to allow fire/EMS personnel to monitor the primary police dispatch talkgroups for the six districts, Takoma Park, Gaithersburg, Chevy Chase Village and Maryland Park.

POLICE FLEETMAP

This is the standard lineup in the Montgomery County police hand-held patrol radio. The police zones use letters as opposed to the numbers used by the fire/EMS radios. Some specialized units have a few talkgroups not programmed in radios assigned to patrol officers. In most cases, those talkgroups missing from the patrol radio are encrypted.

Zone A (main)

01	14736	399	DIS 1 [Rockville]
02	14832	39F	DIS 2 [Bethesda]
03	14928	3A5	DIS 3 [Silver Spring]
04	15024	3AB	DIS 4 [Wheaton]
05	15120	3B1	DIS 5 [Germantown]
06	15216	3B7	DIS 6 [Gaithersburg]
07	13136	335	TAC A
08	32656	7F9	DESK
09	32464	7ED	MSPR1 [State PD-Rockville]
10	14736	399	DIS 1 [Rockville]
11	17104	42D	CCVP1 [Chevy Chase Village]
12	16240	3F7	TP 1 [Takoma Park]
13	16464	405	GPDTL [Gaithersburg]
14	01616	065	PS #1
15	06160	181	LGEM1
16	-----	Cnv	PDIR1 867.4875s Ntwk ID 293 [COG4]

The main police zone includes the primary police dispatch talkgroups for the six districts, Maryland State Police-Rockville (39.32 patch), Chevy Chase Village, Takoma Park and Gaithersburg. Note that the Rockville City dispatch (position 10) has been replaced by the county's Rockville talkgroup. Rockville City is no longer in the primary zone. Tac A is a countywide talkgroup that was used during the sniper investigation. The public safety coordination and local government emergency talkgroups are available in all county radios.

Police Direct 1 is a digital simplex frequency, actually COG4. Digital APCO-25 conventional channels use "network IDs" rather than coded-squelch tones to partition multiple users on the same frequency. The default is 293.

Zone B (ops)

01	14800	39D	OPS 1
02	14896	3A3	OPS 2
03	14992	3A9	OPS 3
04	15088	3AF	OPS 4
05	15184	3B5	OPS 5
06	15280	3BB	OPS 6
07	13168	337	TAC B
08	32688	7FB	MRC
09	32496	7EF	MSPR2
10	16624	40F	RCPD1
11	17136	42F	CCVP2
12	16272	3F9	TP 2
13	16496	407	GPDTC
14	01648	067	PS #2
15	06192	183	LGEM2
16	16976	425	PKPD

The operations zone consists mostly of secondary equivalent talkgroups for those that exist in the main zone.

Zone C (Special Assignment Team)

01	14768	39B	SAT 1
02	14864	3A1	SAT 2
03	14960	3A7	SAT 3
04	15056	3AD	SAT 4
05	15152	3B3	SAT 5
06	15248	3B9	SAT 6
07	13264	33D	TAC C
08	14192	377	CAT
09	13872	363	WARNT
10	16656	411	RCPD2
11	-----	---	BLANK
12	-----	---	BLANK
13	16432	403	GPDCM
14	01680	069	PS #3
15	06224	185	LGEM3
16	-----	Cnv	MCDR1 866.5125s 67.0 [ITAC1]

The third zone is mostly intended for the SAT teams, but includes some tertiary talkgroups for those in the first two zones. Note that the CTCSS and frequency for MCDR1 differs from that in the fire radios.

Zone D (other police groups)

01	14096	371	ISBOP
02	14128	373	CIDAD
03	14160	375	CIDOP
04	15504	3C9	ANIML
05	13776	35D	ACAD1
06	13808	35F	ACAD2
07	13840	361	ACAD3
08	13904	365	MGADM
09	13936	367	MGSUP
10	14000	36B	TCHDV
11	13968	369	ECC
12	-----	---	BLANK
13	-----	---	BLANK
14	-----	---	BLANK
15	-----	---	BLANK
16	-----	---	BLANK

Investigative Services Bureau, Criminal Investigations Division, Animal Services Division, training academy, Technology Division and Emergency Communications Center all have talkgroups in this zone. Internal affairs has a talkgroup (14608) which is programmed in selected radios.

Zone E (Special Operations Division)

01	14736	399	DIS 1
02	14832	39F	DIS 2
03	14928	3A5	DIS 3
04	15024	3AB	DIS 4
05	15120	3B1	DIS 5
06	15216	3B7	DIS 6
07	13136	335	TAC A
08	13168	337	TAC B
09	13456	349	SODAD
10	13488	34B	SOD 1
11	13520	34D	SOD 2
12	12720	31B	SL-1
13	12528	30F	MCCF1
14	-----	---	BLANK
15	-----	---	BLANK
16	-----	---	BLANK

In addition to the SOD talkgroups, this zone includes the primary dispatch and corrections talkgroups for the detention center (Seven Locks Road) and the correctional facility. SOD 1 and 2 are sometimes used for alcohol enforcement.

Zone F (Special Investigations Division)

01	-----	---	BLANK
02	-----	---	BLANK
03	-----	---	BLANK
04	-----	---	BLANK
05	-----	---	BLANK
06	-----	---	BLANK
07	-----	---	BLANK (SID 7)
08	13136	335	TAC A
09	13168	337	TAC B
10	13264	33D	TAC C
11	-----	---	BLANK (MAJCR)
12	-----	---	BLANK
13	14096	371	ISBOP
14	-----	Cnv	PDIR1 867.4875s Ntwk ID 293 [COG4]
15	-----	---	BLANK
16	-----	---	BLANK

The Special Investigations Division and Major Crimes Division talkgroups are normally encrypted, and are not available in the patrol radios.

Zone G (major incident)

01	32112	7D7	PINC1
02	32144	7D9	PINC2
03	32176	7DB	PINC3
04	32208	7DD	PINC4
05	32240	7DF	PINC5
06	32272	7E1	PINC6
07	01744	06D	SEV 1
08	01776	06F	SEV 2
09	01808	071	SEV 3
10	-----	Cnv	PDIR1 867.4875s Ntwk ID 293 [COG4]
11	-----	Cnv	MCDR1 866.5125s 67.0 [ITAC1]
12	-----	Cnv	MCDR2 866.8375s 156.7 [COG2]
13	-----	Cnv	XP-1 866.8625r/s 210.7 [COG5]
14	-----	Cnv	XP-2 867.7625r/s 210.7 [COG6]
15	-----	---	BLANK
16	-----	---	BLANK

Each district has a police incident group for special incidents. The three special events talkgroups are standard in all county 800 MHz radios (they are the same as 12-M, 12-N, 12-O in the fire/EMS radio). The two Montgomery County direct channels are simplex frequencies available in all county 800 MHz radios. But note that MCDR1 in the fire/EMS radios differs from the MCDR1 in the police radios. The receive frequency for XP-2 in some radios appears to have been mis-entered as 867.8625.

Zone H (help/hospitals)

01	17872	45D	HDSK1
02	17904	45F	HDSK2
03	17616	44D	RADIO
04	04272	10B	HCH
05	04304	10D	MGH
06	04336	10F	NVYMED
07	04368	111	SGAH
08	04400	113	SUB
09	04432	115	WAH
10	03344	0D1	FDISP
11	03376	0D3	FOPS
12	-----	---	BLANK
13	-----	---	BLANK
14	-----	---	BLANK
15	-----	---	BLANK
16	-----	---	BLANK

This zone includes talkgroups for the help desk (computer support), each of the county's medical facilities, and fire/EMS 7-A and 7-B.

Zone S (Sheriff's Office)

01	15888	3E1	SHFUG
02	15824	3DD	SHDV
03	15792	3DB	CIVIL
04	15760	3D9	SHCSU
05	12720	31B	SL-1
06	12528	30F	MCCF1
07	-----	---	BLANK
08	-----	---	BLANK
09	16016	3E9	JCS
10	15600	3CF	CIRCT
11	15664	3D3	RDC
12	15632	3D1	SSDC
13	-----	---	BLANK
14	-----	---	BLANK
15	-----	---	BLANK
16	-----	---	BLANK

The sheriff talkgroups are the only ones in the police radio to use an announcement talkgroup which is 15536. This zone includes talkgroups for the sheriff's various functions -- fugitive, domestic violence, civil and child support. It also includes talkgroups used at the detention center (Seven Locks Road) and the correctional facility, as well as the courts -- juvenile, circuit, Rockville District and Silver Spring District.

Zone W (municipalities)

01	16432	403	GPDCM
02	16464	405	GPDTL
03	16496	407	GPDTC
04	16528	409	GPDTC2
05	16560	40B	GAIT1
06	16592	40D	GAIT2
07	16240	3F7	TP 1
08	16272	3F9	TP 2
09	16336	3FD	TPTC1
10	16400	401	TPTC2
11	16688	413	RCLG1
12	16720	415	RCLG2
13	16752	417	RCLG3
14	-----	---	BLANK
15	-----	---	BLANK
16	-----	---	BLANK

This zone has talkgroups designated for used by the county's municipalities, but not all of them. Included in Zone W are Gaithersburg police, city maintenance, tac; Takoma Park police dispatch, alternate, and tacs; and Rockville City local government.

Zone X (other agency coordination)

01	32528	7F1	DCTYW
02	32560	7F3	NIHXP
03	32592	7F5	WMATA
04	-----	Cnv	COG1 868.5125r/s 156.7
05	-----	Cnv	COG2 866.8375r/s 156.7
06	-----	Cnv	COG3 867.2375r/s 156.7
07	-----	Cnv	COG4 867.4875r/s 156.7
08	-----	Cnv	COG5 866.8625r/s 156.7
09	-----	Cnv	PMARS 866.3625r/s 156.7
10	-----	Cnv	ICALL 866.0125r/s 156.7
11	-----	Cnv	ITAC1 866.5125r/s 156.7
12	-----	Cnv	ITAC2 867.0125r/s 156.7
13	-----	Cnv	ITAC3 867.5125r/s 156.7
14	-----	Cnv	ITAC4 868.0125r/s 156.7
15	03216	0C9	FED
16	-----	---	BLANK

The first three talkgroups are intended as patches on Montgomery County's system with those of D.C. Citywide, NIH police and WMATA. The COG and inter-agency channels are the same as those found in the fire/EMS radio with the addition of police mutual aid. The FED talkgroup is intended for coordination between federal facilities and county agencies.

Zone Y (Virginia police)

01	17232	435	FX3D
02	17264	437	FX3T1
03	16016	3E9	FXHQD
04	01616	065	LC-E
05	01712	06B	LCTAC
06	33232	81D	ARL1A
07	33744	83D	ARL1B
08	58384	E41	ALXP1
09	58416	E43	ALXP2
10	02256	08D	AIR-N
11	02272	08E	AIR-D
12	-----	---	BLANK
13	-----	---	BLANK
14	-----	---	BLANK
15	-----	---	BLANK
16	-----	---	BLANK

Talkgroups in this zone are the actual police talkgroups on the respective system (not a patch) for Fairfax, Loudoun and Arlington Counties, Alexandria, and National and Dulles airports.

Zone Z (Maryland police)

01	17616	44D	HCNDP
02	17680	451	HCSDP
03	17648	44F	HCIOP
04	17744	455	HCI16
05	03024	0BD	CCMSP
06	03120	0C3	CCTC3
07	02672	0A7	CCSO
08	32016	7D1	FCMA1
09	32048	7D3	FCMA2
10	15408	3C3	PG1
11	15440	3C5	PG10
12	15472	3C7	PG8
13	32304	7E3	PGCRD
14	-----	---	BLANK
15	-----	---	BLANK
16	-----	---	BLANK

The police talkgroups for Howard, Carroll and Frederick Counties are actual talkgroups on those respective systems. The Prince George's County talkgroups, however, are patch talkgroups on Montgomery County's system. Howard County police now use digital talkgroups, but these analog talkgroups remain programmed in the Montgomery County radios.

# # #

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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INSIDE THIS EDITION:

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- Scanning D.C.'s news choppers.
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- Anne Arundel County going digital.
- Inside Montgomery County public safety, talkgroup by talkgroup.