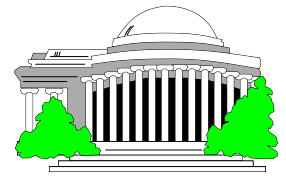


# The Capitol Hill Monitor



Volume 27 Issue 1 (2024)

January 2024

## ANNE ARUNDEL PD TO ENCRYPT SOON!

A "Scantorial" by [Capt. Jon Conner](#)

During November, I was updating my radio programming and discovered that all of the police dispatch talkgroups on the new [Anne Arundel County P25 phase 2 system](#) are encrypted!



As a storm disaster service operator, I found this extremely appalling as this would sever critical and vital situational awareness.

Aside from my need to monitor for a broad range of safety and informational purposes, public service radio is funded by the public and we all have a right to monitor for a plethora of safety and awareness reasons.

I started [this petition](#) to combat the misapplication of, and the prolific invasive use of, public service radio encryption that has infected so many areas of Maryland and impedes the public's right to safety and awareness.

Public service radio is public! It is for everyone's safety and information whether it be the private individual to have awareness in the community, a news media company, a volunteer firefighter from a neighboring county, a public works crew, etc.

We must fight to maintain our awareness. Public service radio encryption is a cancer that is killing off transparency and citizen oversight. Encrypted radio is ultimately for matters of national security and military, with extremely little need in public service radio, with the narrow and occasional use for SWAT, narcotics, and investigative channels.

Many volunteers, media, and participating citizens are the community's support in disasters and during catastrophic events and various other emergencies.

Encrypting public service radio shuts out the community as a whole. Open public service radio is empirical to a community's safety and awareness.

We are not here to "ask" those elected in office, we are here to remind them that we pay for the service and we

fund via taxes the public service radio systems. We pay their salaries. We fund everything. We have a right to monitor in real un-delayed time what we fund!

If we don't stand to keep an open system for police, sheriff and fire/EMS, we will lose it all through more-less rapid encroachment. We will lose our ability to have live, real-time safety and awareness information. Make the stand and let's all fight to keep our communities safe!

*Info from Anne Arundel County has been limited. Justin Mulcahy, director of police external affairs, told us via email that "our agency is planning to encrypt radios in the near future. Once we have additional info, I will be happy to provide more specific details at that time."*

## METRO (WMATA) IS STILL STRUGGLING TO MIGRATE TO P25 TRUNKED NETWORK

Officials from the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority had expected to have its radio users on WMATA's 700 MHz network three years ago! But that still has not happened, and we have not been told when it will.



Responsibilities for the project have changed hands through several re-organizations, so things mostly are at a standstill, says one source familiar with the situation. Metro public affairs has yet to comment.

Work still is being completed to install radios in railcars and update antenna systems in the underground tunnels. Once done, they will move on to testing. Installation of antenna cabling in the tunnels has been taking place during the recent shutdowns.

WMATA's existing UHF equipment is being held together with "band-aids and duct tape" as many key components are no longer available for purchase, new or used. Users frequently complain of radio problems.

Metro's radio network will be unique and one of the largest in the D.C. region since it must cover the operating area of both the rail and the bus system.

The P25 network is on the air with [system ID 49C](#) but is

lightly used. The system's primary control channel has been on 774.71875 with voice mostly on 769.53125. The other licensed freqs are: 770.10625, 770.38125, 770.88125, 771.41875, 771.83125, 772.11875, 772.16875, 772.56875, 772.95625, 773.26875, 773.51875, 773.76875, 773.99375 and 774.36875. 851.7375 is licensed for testing using portable radios.

### EXAMINING THE ODDBALL DC GOVERNMENT FCC LICENSES

by [Alan Henney](#)

While most of the city's radios operate on the District's P25 network, the city continues to license a slew of frequencies for various purposes. Here is what we found.

D.C. has a license (WQOQ613) at temporary locations on 1650 KHz, a highway advisory AM radio station.

The city has licenses (WQNX569/WQNX570) for the national search-and-rescue aircraft freqs: 122.9 and 123.1.

The city's juvenile detention center east of Laurel has a DMR license (WQPY558) on 151.22 (154.04 in).

153.98, which had been used in years past by the armory, the University of the District of Columbia, and city libraries, has been renewed under KO4563, a mobile-only authorization. When it expired years ago, the city requested an [STA](#) to keep it active.

155.16 is a freq licensed (KP6955) for mobile-only use at the old D.C. General Hospital complex as well as by the Dept. of Human Services.

155.715, the old D.C. General Hospital freq., remains licensed (KNCM812) and perhaps used by city agencies remaining at that location.

The District holds multiple licenses for the marine channels. Those that show specific freqs are for the Woodrow Wilson (KEB311) and Frederick Douglass (KEB316) bridges on chs. 9, 12, 13, 16 and 17.

In addition, these marine channels are licensed (WQOA370/WQOK867) by D.C. for use throughout the continental US: Chs. 1, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 16, 17, 18, 19 and 63.

173.075 is the city's LoJack license (WPED308) which actually has its transmitter in the Bethesda area.

458.45 and 458.75 were inputs to the city's old public works repeaters. Oddly, these two continue to be licensed (KDD54) for fixed use at the city's Fort Reno salt dome, presumably the antenna tower there.

Likewise, one license (KL5540) remains current for the inputs of 458.225 and 458.875 (the old recreation and DPW parking/motor pool chs.) for mobile use.

The city licensed three sets of robot freqs. The 453 MHz is for remote control, the 458 MHz is for digital voice and the 2 GHz freq is the digital video link.

453.5250/458.5250 WQJV696 / 2462.5 WQJR617  
453.7500/458.7500 WQKJ645 / 2452.5 WQKH777  
453.8375/458.8375 WQLC419 / 2478.0 WQLA561

The D.C. Courts-Capital Projects & Facilities Management Division at 500 Indiana Ave NW is licensed (WRCJ208) for DMR repeaters on 460.3 and 460.425 and portables on 453.0375/458.0375, 453.0875/458.0875 and 465.5375.

D.C. Corrections holds a license (WQYR460) for 460.025/465.025 and 460.1/465.1, although the jail and treatment facility both appear to have migrated to the city's trunked system.



One freq that the city continues to use although the license expired (WQAV791) in 2014 is 460.2625. This one is used throughout the city at public schools with CTCSS, DCS and DMR. The other 15 freqs on that license appear to be inactive.

D.C. Water is licensed (WRVY443/WRVY924) on 462.325 at its Bryant Street facility and at the Blue Plains treatment plant. Blue Plains had been licensed (WPAS248) on 451.6875/456.6875 and 456.5125.

The license (WNXS886) for the Walter E. Washington Convention Center appears to have expired. Its freqs are: 453.1125/458.1125, 453.1375/458.1375, 453.7875/458.7875, 453.8875/458.8875, 453.9125/458.9125, 453.9625/458.9625, 453.9875/458.9875 and 460.5625/465.5625.

The Washington Convention & Sports Authority has licensed (WQPI780) repeaters on 463.3625, 463.7875 and 464.375 and portables on 451.4375, 451.7375, 452.1875, 456.4375 and 457.1875 at the armory and at the Entertainment & Sports Arena.

Worth noting is that the city has licensed (WRKE449) [these](#) 700 MHz interoperability channels and agreed to establish base stations on the seven in the left column.

- |                   |                  |
|-------------------|------------------|
| 769.14375 7TAC51  |                  |
| 769.49375 7MED66  | 773.10625 7TAC71 |
| 769.64375 7TAC52  | 773.60625 7TAC72 |
| 770.14375 7TAC53  | 773.75625 7TAC75 |
| 770.49375 7LAW62  | 774.10625 7TAC73 |
| 770.99375 7GTAC57 | 774.25625 7TAC76 |
| 773.85625 7FIRE84 | 774.60625 7TAC74 |

Although not technically part of the city government, these are worth mentioning.

D.C. Health Care Assn has repeaters licensed (WQKZ864) on 452.3625, 461.7625 and 462.1375 with mobile/fixed solely on 456.7375, 456.975, 457.7625, 457.8375 and 457.8625.

Likewise, the D.C. Hospital Assn (WNKP893) is still licensing 462.4, which was known as H-MARS. It has likely migrated to the city's P25 network.

See [David Schoenberger's website](#) for specifics on many of these radio freqs.

## JUSTICE INTEGRATED WIRELESS NETWORK

During the past few years, the [Justice Integrated Wireless Network](#) (JIWN) has reconfigured and appears to have assumed sites from the Integrated [Wireless Network](#) (IWN). It is a massive network offering coverage on both the East and West Coast and appears now to be more compliant with the [NTIA band plans](#).

We need help trying to pin down site locations and any missing voice freqs. While the primary control channel (which is underlined) and site ID shown in [RadioReference](#) are typically correct, the geographical listed location varies along with some voice channel changes.



Interesting JIWN info is in this [2012 audit report](#) and this article in [Wired Magazine](#).

Sites we have been able to confirm are shown here. Site numbers and freqs shown in RadioReference but unverified are marked with an "\*". If the input is known, it is indicated after the "/".

#24, 170.925, 171.4375, Fairfax? \*  
 #60, 168.2625/164.85, 169.6625/166.0, 173.55/166.65, DC ATF HQ  
 #83, 168.875/165.2, 173.85/167.075, unk site in DC  
 #84, 172.2125, USCG-Alexandria, 7323 Telegraph Rd.  
 #85, 170.3875, 170.9125, 171.6125, Bull Run? \*  
 #86, 171.6875/166.8875, 172.0125/167.2375, 172.2875/167.3875, 172.6375/165.2875, MPD 4D  
 #87, 168.9750, 171.4375, Crystal City? \*  
 #88, 168.2875, 168.6875, 170.8125, 171.5375, Fx Co Animal Shelter, 4500 West Ox Rd., Fair Lakes \*  
 #89, 168.8875/167.6875, 168.975/165.6, 169.1875/164.1875, 170.725/166.0625, DC DOJ HQ  
 #90, 170.6375, 170.8625, 173.9, E. Gude Dr, Rockville \*  
 #91, 170.675/167.4625, 171.275/164.6875, 6300 blk Ivy Lane, Greenbelt

#92, 170.875, 171.275, 172.625, Independent Hill? \*  
 #93, 173.725, Jessup? \*  
 #94, 173.9, LaPlata? \*  
 #95, 168.7625, 168.975, 169.675, 171.4375, WV? \*  
 #96, 168.4875, 170.3875, 170.9125, 171.6125, Paris Mountain? \*  
 #97, 171.4625/166.4625, 171.75/166.75, 171.9875/167.2125, 172.1125/165.175, Smithsonian Museum Support Ctr, 4220 Silver Hill Rd, Suitland  
 #98, 167.5875, 167.9625, 168.2625, 168.825 \*, 7799 Leesburg Pike office tower near Tysons.  
 #99, 170.8125/165.8125, 171.5375/167.3375, 172.6125/167.85, Upper Marlboro?

So far, all talkgroup IDs are in the 15000 range with the most active users being building security.

## DC AREA GETS NEW REACT CHAPTER!

by [Mick Lemish](#)

The idea of using Citizens Band (CB) radio in an organized way for emergency communications was born in a Chicago snowstorm.

Henry B. "Pete" Kreer will tell you that one day he was driving home on the Eden Expressway in a blinding snowstorm when he saw a car along the side of the road with its hood up, and flashers flashing.

Kreer stopped to see if he could be of any help and found a young couple with a sick child. Kreer didn't know what to do. So he called for help on the CB radio and someone answered him! About 10 minutes later, a state trooper arrived and took the baby to the hospital.

Following that incident, Kreer spent several days thinking, wouldn't it be great if there were some organized scheme for civilians to talk to each other strictly to help people in trouble? It was a great idea that he was able to transform into reality.

He persuaded the [Hallicrafters Company](#), a CB radio manufacturer, that it would be good public relations for Hallicrafters to sponsor an organization to promote and facilitate volunteer emergency communications using Citizens Band radio.

The final decision for this was made on January 23, 1962, when Hallicrafters agreed to sponsor the REACT (Radio Emergency Associated Communication Teams) program if Kreer would be the national director.

REACT is a CB radio emergency channel 9 monitoring organization across the United States, Canada and worldwide. The primary role of REACT volunteers was to stand watch on channel 9 to help motorists.

Later, duties grew to include radio communications after disasters (such as tornadoes and floods), and before disasters (storm spotting). REACT safety communications for parades, runs/walks, and other community events also became prominent. As technology has changed, REACT teams added FRS, GMRS, Multi-Use Radio Service (MURS), trunked radio systems, and business band radio (LMR) to their public service capabilities.



Most REACT teams use their radio communications to provide services such as parking control, search-and-rescue support, assistance with large public events, safety breaks along highways, and support of local emergency management offices and law enforcement.

Some teams participate in the Skywarn program of storm spotters. All of these roles require the radio communications that REACT teams offer. Some of the objectives of local teams include:

- (a) To develop the use of personal radio as an additional source of communications for emergencies, disasters, and as an emergency aid to individuals;
- (b) To establish 24-hour volunteer monitoring of emergency calls, particularly over officially designated emergency frequencies, from personal radio service operators, and report such calls to appropriate emergency authorities;
- (c) To promote transportation safety by developing programs that provide information and communications assistance to motorists;
- (d) To coordinate efforts with, and provide communications support to, other groups, (e.g., Red Cross, emergency management, local, state, and federal authorities) during emergencies and disasters;
- (e) To develop, administer, and promote public information projects demonstrating and publicizing the potential benefits and the proper use of the personal radio service to individuals, organizations, industry, and government;
- (f) To participate in citizen crime prevention programs where established by law enforcement.

REACT International, Inc. is a non-profit registered 501 (c)3 organization. REACT is a network of committed professionals with a desire to assist their communities in times of emergency or disaster.

Mid-Atlantic REACT is a chartered member of REACT International, Team #6282. Our members provide their expertise when disasters strike and assist with augmenting local resources to accelerate relief efforts.

It is amazing to see the various programs and relationships that have developed between REACT teams and their local governments and emergency services.

Teams may: provide first-aid and communications at a multitude of publicly attended events, directly assist local police with traffic control, provide specialized equipment such as scene lighting, and the list goes on.

These initiatives come from local teams recognizing the needs in their communities which, with planning and creative thinking, their organizations can fulfill.

Although REACT's roots are in communications, most successful teams have gone way beyond this role in their communities. Given the incredible advances in personal communications, successful teams have honed in on an expanded role to ensure their long-term viability in providing a multitude of services.

Keep in mind that communication technology is only one of the tools teams can utilize to solidify their position within their communities. We are constantly working on improving our services and expanding our reach.

Mid-Atlantic REACT is sponsored by National Capitol Communications, LLC and is supported by charitable donations. We differ ourselves from other communications hobbyists. Our team is comprised of emergency and land mobile radio (LMR) professionals who focus on communications as their professional careers.

Our members have years of trunked radio experience and interoperability expertise. This translates into reliable two-way communication and educated problem-solving using professional theory, commercial-grade equipment and subject matter expertise second to none.

The volunteers who make up NCC are specialists in Motorola, Harris, EF Johnson, Vertex, and Kenwood along with common and proprietary protocols.

Mid-Atlantic REACT and National Capitol Communications rely on our own commercial infrastructure along with GMRS as our primary two-way communications.

Citizens Band (CB) radio as well as amateur (ham) bands are available as secondary sources of communication, if and when needed. In Mid-Atlantic REACT's current available assets are UAVs, as well as manned aircraft equipped with repeater capabilities, which can provide close air-to-ground communications. We have several cross-band and tactical repeaters that can be deployed anywhere, anytime, for any purpose.

The mission of Mid-Atlantic REACT is to ensure that our community stays connected during times of crisis and emergency. We work with local authorities and organizations to provide communication solutions that help save lives and protect property.

Mid-Atlantic REACT offers a range of emergency communication services to the Washington area. Our team of experts provides communication solutions that are tailored to meet the needs of our communities.

We believe that communication is key to building strong communities. National Capitol Communications, DBA Mid-Atlantic REACT, is committed to educating the public about emergency communication and preparedness. We work with organizations and schools to provide training and resources.

When disaster strikes, every second counts. That's why Mid-Atlantic REACT offers 24/7 emergency response services. Our team of experts is always on-call and ready to respond to any emergency. We work with local authorities and organizations to provide communication solutions that help save lives and protect property.

Several CHM followers are Mid-Atlantic REACT members. Jack Ramberg is the founder and president. Mid-Atlantic REACT is looking for volunteers! If you like helping others and want to be involved in community emergency preparedness, consider joining our team!

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**PLEASE JOIN US AT  
LEDO'S COLLEGE PARK  
THIS SUNDAY, FEB. 4, 2024!**

Everyone is welcome to join us at our annual winter get-together. We will be at Ledo's at 4509 Knox Road in College Park on Sunday, February 4 from 2 to 4 p.m.

That is where you will find a good diverse group of people from the D.C. area who are interested in monitoring radio communication. All are welcome!

Our guest speaker this year is [Steven Herman](#), an international broadcast journalist with a huge social media following and fellow amateur radio operator, W7VOA. He's led an incredible career in journalism. So bring your questions!

Herman is the chief national correspondent for the Voice of America. From 2017 to 2021, he was senior White House correspondent and subsequently VOA's White House bureau chief.

He spent more than a quarter of a century in Asia, including years of reporting from Tokyo and subsequently as a VOA correspondent and bureau chief in India, South Korea and Thailand.

He also served in 2016 as VOA's senior diplomatic correspondent, based at the State Department and traveling to numerous countries with then-Secretary of State John Kerry.

During the Trump administration, Herman was the designated radio reporter on dozens of Air Force One domestic and international trips, including the 45th president's final flight to Florida. He continued as VOA's White House bureau chief during the first eight months of the Biden administration.

Herman's latest book, [Behind the White House Curtain: A Senior Journalist's Story of Covering the President — and Why It Matters](#), will be published in June by Kent State University Press.

He has been a ham radio operator since his youth and is a life member of the [Quarter Century Wireless Association](#) (QCWA) and can be found on the shortwave bands chasing 'DX.'

Herman lives in Stafford County, south of Quantico.



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**This is the 2024 CHM Winter Edition!**  
**CHM GET-TOGETHER SCHEDULED**  
**SUNDAY, Feb. 4, 2024.**

**Inside this issue:**

- Anne Arundel Co. PD encrypting
- WMATA still not using P25 trunk
- Oddball DC government FCC licenses
- Justice Integrated Wireless Network
- New DC area REACT chapter
- Ledo's guest speaker: Steven Herman



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The *Capitol Hill Monitor* is the non-profit newsletter of the Capitol Hill Monitors. We welcome your input, suggestions and article submissions. All submissions are subject to editing for style and content.

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<http://henney.com/chm/>
- \* **Scan-DC; local email discussion group:**  
<http://mailman.qth.net/mailman/listinfo/scan-dc>
- \* **CHM Facebook:**  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/CapitolHillMonitors/>
- \* **The NCR Public Safety Zello Notification Channel:**  
<http://zello.com/scandc>

**CHM HAS GONE PAPERLESS!**

The *Capitol Hill Monitor* newsletter has converted to electronic distribution. But “snail mail” distribution will continue for the time being for those who paid for it.

The online version is identical and is available for free. Please subscribe on the [CHM website](http://henney.com/chm/). When the next issue is available, you will receive an email with a link and a list of topics for that issue.

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