



The Monitoring Post

The Newsletter of the Southern California Monitoring Association

In God We Trust – All Others We Monitor

October, 2004

Public Service Interoperability

The Los Angeles Regional Tactical Communications System



Los Angeles Sheriff Department's Communications Interoperability Unit (CIU)

Photo Courtesy LASD

Also in this Issue:

WNET Tests a TV Broadcast Based Emergency Response System for FDNY

WA6KFI's Annual 2005 Rose Parade and Rose Bowl Frequency List

Clearing Channels: Congress Gets Ready to Reassign UHF TV Channels to Make Way for a New Public Safety 700 MHz Band

The Southern California Monitoring Association (SCMA) is an organization for persons interested in listening to all kinds of radio communications including Police, Fire, Aircraft, Business, Shortwave and Public Safety. Members of the West L.A. Chapter of the nationwide Radio Communications Monitoring Association (RCMA) founded the SCMA after the RCMA's demise in 1996.

The Goals of the SCMA...

1. To share information and help others in the radio monitoring community.
2. To conduct and encourage the organization of meetings and tours for its members.
3. To encourage and facilitate contact and interaction among its members.
4. To publish a club newsletter devoted to the monitoring hobby in Southern California.
5. To be a "clearing house" of knowledge about two-way radio systems and communications radios.
6. To offer suggestions and recommendations to the manufacturers of monitor receivers and other equipment related to the hobby.

SCMA Meetings...

Meetings are on the 2nd Wednesday night of each month at the Grinder's Restaurant in Westchester at the corner of Sepulveda Blvd. and Manchester Blvd. about 1 mile north of LAX. SCMA members and nonmembers alike are invited to attend. Meetings include a free exchange of information, handouts and updates of local frequencies, programs or guest speakers, and door prizes. Members are encouraged to arrive at 7:00 PM for dinner and before-meeting discussion. The official meeting starts at 8:00 PM.

The SCMA holds a weekly radio net on N6CIZ's private Amateur Radio repeater. Licensed Amateur Radio (Ham) Operators are encouraged to check in. Everyone is encouraged to listen for the latest club news. The nets are every Tuesday night at 7:30 PM. The frequency is 446.260 MHz with a PL of 131.8 Hz.

Other SCMA Activities...

SCMA uses its contacts to set up and conduct member-only tours of sites of interest to radio monitors. Past tours have visited the new LAPD Police Dispatch Center, the LACoFD Dispatch center, an FAA Air Traffic Control Center, the U. S. Coast Guard Air Rescue Squadron, and several broadcast radio and television stations. Tours are conducted by people who work at the facility who usually give us the *real* inside story.

The SCMA maintains an active home page on the World Wide Web at: www.SoCalScanner.com

SCMA Board of Directors...

A Board of Directors selected from Association members manage and direct the SCMA. The current members of the Board of Directors are:

Rick DiFiore, SCMA-101
Hugh Stegman, SCMA-102
Rich Sauer, SCMA-104
Michael Suchar, SCMA-106
Dennis Field, SCMA-110
Khalil Ladjevardi, SCMA-118

Membership...

Anyone interested in Radio Monitoring may apply for membership in the SCMA. Dues are \$15 per year. Please see the membership application on our web site for more information.

Happy Halloween

How LASD Solves Interoperability Problems

LASD and the Raytheon First Responder

The 4,000 square miles that is Los Angeles County is home to more than 100 police/fire/EMS agencies, and nearly as many incompatible public safety radio systems. "Historically, everyone built their own systems without any concern for interoperability," Captain Robert Sedita explained. He's commander of the Communications and Fleet Management Bureau for Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (LASD). "The reason is that none of the agencies ever thought that their borders would merge together, resulting in multiagency responses becoming an almost daily occurrence."

"Our Mutual Aid agreements ensure that we have sufficient public safety personnel to respond to any man-made or natural incident," Captain Sedita added. "Unfortunately, we have not had the ability to communicate between agencies." Hence the reason why the LASD has advocated interoperable radio for years- even before 9/11-and why this department was the first law enforcement agency to buy a Raytheon "First Responder." It is a mobile interoperable radio platform and command center, all housed inside a Chevy Suburban SUV.



The First Responder: Nuts and Bolts

The First Responder is built around Raytheon JPS Communications' ACU-I000 Modular Interconnect System. The ACU-I000 works like an interoperable telephone switch: just plug in 10 different radios and two cell phones, and the ACU-I000 will automatically switch conversations back and forth between them. Result: instant interoperability!

Besides the ACU-I000, the First Responder comes with a fold-down satellite antenna and INMARSAT-B two-way satellite system capable of handling, voice data and streaming video, plus a separate GlobalStar handset for satellite calls when the fold-down antenna is, well, folded down. The First Responder also carries a transceiver preset to popular police and fire frequencies, a built-in Wi-Fi network that is connected to the onboard satellite system, and Wi-Fi-equipped laptop computers and video cameras that can be used away from the truck.

With capabilities like these, it is not surprising that three First Responders are serving in Iraq, while another helped with the Columbia recovery effort in Texas in February, 2003. However, the LASD decided to buy the First Responder before any of these deployments took place.

"A few years ago, we were thinking of buying some ACU-I000s and putting them in a fixed location, as the Alexandria (VA) Police Department has," Capt. Sedita said. "At the time, Raytheon asked if we thought there was merit in mounting the ACU-I000 in some kind of mobile platform. We agreed, and the project went forth from there." The LASD's First Responder was priced at \$284,000, although similar models would likely cost over \$300,000 today.



What the First Responder Offers to the LASD

First and foremost, the LASD's First Responder is an interoperable radio bridge on wheels. A case in point: on September 20, 2003, a doctor was shot and seriously wounded at the Kaiser Permanente Baldwin Park Medical Center. In response, "about 15 different law enforcement agencies turned up at the scene," Capt. Sedita said.

"To ensure that they could all talk to each other- especially in such a volatile, uncertain situation - we dispatched the First Responder. In a short period of time, everyone was able to communicate easily, even though they were using incompatible radio systems."

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Scared Smart: WNET Tests Emergency Response System for FDNY

Broadcasting & Cable, May 24, 2004

New York is reliving its worst tragedy. The 9/11 Commission confronted a painful reality: Some 121 firefighters could have been saved if they had evacuated the South Tower when the first tower collapsed. The reason they didn't? The New York City Fire Department radio system. The doomed men did not hear the evacuation call.

While the commission blasted city officials for communication failures and departmental rivalries, WNET New York and the FDNY swung into action. They are testing a novel pilot program to ensure reliable communication for emergency responders.

If successful, the Smart Dissemination Networks (Smart Nets) system could be implemented late in the fourth quarter of 2004 or in early 2005.

How will it work?

It will use WNET's Instructional Television Fixed Service (ITFS) transmitter at the Empire State Building to digitally broadcast directives between a PC-based electronic command board, located at the FDNY command center, to fire trucks throughout the city.

The FDNY can use the board to store and display maps and multiple building plans. Smart Nets relay vital information to every responder who needs critical, up-to-the-minute instructions. The board enables fire chiefs to look at structural characteristics of high-rises and zoom into specific floors or areas.

If the system is effective, fire battalions will be outfitted with an electronic command board, housed in a ruggedized case. In the future, information from the command board could be forwarded to PDAs or laptops.

"With Smart Nets, we won't be risking firemen's lives at a scene," says Milton Fischberger, FDNY deputy fire commissioner of support services. "It will give an overview of what's going on to senior FDNY personnel who may not be at the location."

The first phase of the Smart Nets test involves one-way communication. The second phase includes two-way communication that could add video. Smart Nets has about 3 Mbps of bandwidth of the ITFS's 19.39-Mbps channel.

"Believe me, if these tests are successful, we'll be letting the whole country know about it," says Dr. William Baker, president and CEO of WNET. "It will be pretty clear this is something special."

The goal of Smart Nets is to "get the support to build a more regional model to stretch beyond the New York metropolitan area," adds Stephen Carroll-Cahnmann, WNET director of digital convergence, who initiated and coordinates the visionary program. "We want this to be held up as the baseline."

One caveat: Smart Nets won't replace radio communications. It will be used to provide more in-depth information in the field. In addition, it will fill in any transmission gaps.

Current communications technologies, such as cellular telephone service, have proved tragically unreliable in what the FDNY calls "fireground" communications.

"Last August, when we had the blackout, all cellular service went down because they don't use backup generators," says Fischberger. Plus, cellular technologies are subject to busy signals, dropouts, and service dead spots, says Don Stanton, FDNY assistant commissioner for technology.

The beauty of Smart Nets is that ITFS licensees are located nationwide, providing a natural breeding ground for the service. Moreover, all digital broadcasters in the U.S. could potentially get involved because they have the infrastructure--tower, antenna, transmitter--in place.

"Broadcasters can continue to operate their normal business and some of the spectrum for public-safety purposes," says Carroll-Cahnmann. "In the process, they'll save taxpayers literally billions of dollars in infrastructure costs." WNET's outlay for the receiver and transmission gear is about \$150,000.

WNET's participation is helping FDNY fulfill its mandate: deploying electronic command boards at the operation center where senior staffers can direct key personnel.

Unlike magnetic wipe boards, which were destroyed when the WTC collapsed, the Smart Net information will be safely stored at the operations center. (Users of magnetic wipe boards draw the fireground area with markers and place magnets representing personnel around the board.) The cost of the electronic-command-board system for FDNY is an estimated \$500,000 to \$1 million.

One additional ITFS advantage is the ability to tap into more-robust transmission methods, such as COFDM, which is better for mobility and high-multipath areas like Manhattan.

Smart Nets could also expand beyond the Fire Department. The New York Police Department may use it to distribute All Points Bulletins. Currently, APBs are voice-only; Smart Nets would add photos or even video to the APB mix. The system can also be used to transmit information instantly from one car to other cars.

2005 Rose Parade and Rose Bowl Frequencies

This is the "Original" Pasadena Tournament of Roses Parade and Rose Bowl Game frequency list. This list compiled by *Rick Di Fiore, WA6KFI* who has been doing it since 1988. NOTE: Much communications takes place via Cellular and NexTel phones and even use of FRS and GMRS radio channels. Don't forget that even Studio Rental radios are used too. There is a lot out there to monitor!

FLOAT AREAS

463.2125 S			Floats
463.475 R	123.0	Channel 1	Tournament of Roses Float Building and Staging area. (Wide Coverage)
463.5125 R	123.0	Channel 4	Tournament of Roses Float Building and Staging area. (Float Construction area)
463.7375 S			Flower Tent / Float Decorations.
463.825 S			Flower Tent / Float Decorations.
464.0375 R	123.0	Channel 2	Tournament of Roses Float Building and Staging area. (Float Construction area)
464.0625 R	123.0	Channel 3	Tournament of Roses Float Building and Staging area. (Float Staging area)
464.625 S			Flower Tent / Float Decorations.
464.825 S			Float Operations.
467.8125 S			Flower Tent / Float Decorations.
467.875 S			Flower Tent / Float Decorations.

FLOAT OPERATIONS

507.0625 R	110.9	Dispatch	Arcadia Police Department	(Routine Use and Float Convoy Traffic)
506.5625 R	110.9	Secondary	Arcadia Police Department	(Routine Use and Float Convoy Traffic)
470.2125 R	107.2	RED - 1	Arcadia Fire Department - Dispatch	(Routine Use and Float Convoy Traffic)
484.275 S	156.7	RED - 8	Arcadia Fire Department - Tactical	(Routine Use and Float Convoy Traffic)
460.475 R	Digital	Dispatch	San Marino Police Department	(Routine Use and Float Convoy Traffic)
470.2125 R	107.2	RED - 1	San Marino Fire Department	(Routine Use and Float Convoy Traffic)
460.5875 R	107.2	RED - 7	San Marino Fire Department	(Routine Use and Float Convoy Traffic)
153.845 R	131.8	Freq. 1	Sierra Madre Police Department	(Routine Use and Float Convoy Traffic)
470.2125 R	107.2	RED - 1	Sierra Madre Fire Department	(Routine Use and Float Convoy Traffic)
470.9875 R		Dispatch	South Pasadena Police Department	(Routine Use and Float Convoy Traffic)
470.2125 R	107.2	RED - 1	South Pasadena Fire Department	(Routine Use and Float Convoy Traffic)

PARADE OPERATIONS

Possible NexTel's			Tournament White Suiter's	(All Areas of the Parade Route)
39.420 S		Ch. LIME - 2	California Highway Patrol - TAC-2	(Rose Parade Operations TAC - 2)
42.080 S		Ch. SILVER	California Highway Patrol - Fresno Office	(Rose Parade Command Post)
42.340 S		Ch. BLUE	California Highway Patrol - Secondary	(Rose Parade Traffic Control)
42.920 S		Ch. LIME - 5	California Highway Patrol - TAC-5	(Rose Parade Operations TAC - 5)
45.020 S		Ch. LIME - 1	California Highway Patrol - TAC-1	(Rose Parade Operations TAC - 1)
154.905 S		VEH. EXTR.	California Highway Patrol - Veh. Extender	(Unit - to - Unit Communications)
452.525 R			Automobile Club of Southern California	(Towing - Rose Parade Floats)
482.4375 R	94.8	Channel 2	Pasadena Police Department - Secondary	(Rose Parade Command Post)
482.5375 R	151.4	Channel 3	Pasadena Police Department - Tactical	(Rose Parade Operations)
482.6375 R	118.8	Channel 4	Pasadena Police Department - Detectives	(Rose Parade Operations)
470.2125 R	107.2	RED - 1	Pasadena Fire Department - Dispatch	(Routine Use and Float Convoy Traffic)
470.0875 R	151.4	RED - 2	Pasadena Fire Department - Tactical	(Routine Use and Float Convoy Traffic)
506.200 R			Pasadena Local Government	(Float and Trailer Operations)
460.050 R			Pasadena Unified School District	(Rose Parade Operations)
482.8125 R		Freq. 15	L.A. County Sheriff's Department	(Transportation - LASO Prisoner Van)
482.8375 R		Freq. 16	L.A. County Sheriff's Department	(Rose Parade Operations)
483.0625 R		Freq. 17	L.A. County Sheriff's Department	(Rose Parade Command Post)
483.0875 R		Freq. 18	L.A. County Sheriff's Department	("RED Units" Escorts and Missing Persons)
483.1625 R		Freq. 19	L.A. County Sheriff's Department	(Rose Parade Operations)
483.1875 R		Freq. 53	L.A. County Sheriff's Department	(Parade Parking & Traffic Control)
483.0125 R		Freq. 20	L.A. County Sheriff's Department	("GREEN Units" Parade Operations)
483.6375 R		Freq. 55	L.A. County Sheriff's Department	(Parade Route Control "Helicopter")
483.7875 R		Freq. 46	L.A. County Sheriff's Department	(Rose Parade Operations)
484.0625 R		Freq. 48	L.A. County Sheriff's Department	(BLUE Units - VIP Seating)
484.1125 R		Freq. 21	L.A. County Sheriff's Department	(Rose Parade Operations)
484.1375 R		Freq. 47	L.A. County Sheriff's Department	("BROWN Units" Command Post)
484.0625 R		Freq. 48	L.A. County Sheriff's Department	("BLUE Units" VIP Seating)
483.1875 R		Freq. 53	L.A. County Sheriff's Department	(Parade Parking & Traffic Control)
464.5375 R			Rental Radios	(Rose Parade Operations)
468.7875 S			Rental Radios	(Rose Parade Operations)

2005 Rose Parade and Rose Bowl Frequencies

AMATEUR RADIO OPERATIONS

145.300	R	CSQ.	Freq. 1	K6CPT / Amateur Radio Operations	(T.O.R.R.A. Information Net)
147.765	R	131.8	Freq. 2	W6QFK / Amateur Radio Operations	(Transportation Net. – Buses)
145.200	R	103.5	Freq. 3	N6BWE / Amateur Radio Operations	(Rose Parade Parking & Post Parade)
147.705	R	131.8	Freq. 4	N6RDA / Amateur Radio Operations	(Rose Parade Parking Control)
147.270	R	CSQ.	Freq. 6	WA6ZTR / Amateur Radio Operations	(Rose Parade Operations / Control)
145.540	S		Freq. 7	SIMPLEX / Amateur Radio Operations	(Rose Parade – Unknown Use)
145.180	R	131.8	Freq. 8	W6MPH / Amateur Radio Operations	(ATV Intercom to all ATV Cameras)
224.440	R	100.0	Freq. 9	WA6IWB / Amateur Radio Operations	(Rose Parade Operation)
146.025	R	136.5	Freq. 10	WB6ZTY / Amateur Radio Operations	(Used In Past Rose Parades)
224.080	R	156.7	Freq. 11	W6VIO / Amateur Radio Operations	(ATV Control – Cameras)
147.150	R	131.8	Freq. 12	W6VIO / Amateur Radio Operations	(ATV Intercom)

Radio and Television Stations

450.1625	R	127.3		ABC Television Network	(Rose Parade and Rose Bowl)
161.640	S			ABC Television Network	(Production Trucks and Crews)
450.6125	R		Freq. 1	CBS Television Network	(Rose Parade)
450.4125	S		Freq. 2	CBS Television Network	(Operations / Productions)
450.1875	R	127.3		NBC Television Network	(Rose Parade)
161.640	S		Channel 1	Goodyear Blimp	(Rose Bowl Game Coverage)
161.700	S		Channel 2	Goodyear Blimp	(Rose Bowl Game Coverage)
450.1125	R			KMEX – TV Channel 34	(Rose Parade and Bowl Game)
450.250	R	162.2	Channel 1	KTLA – TV Channel 5	(Rose Parade)
450.5875	R			KTTV – TV Channel 11	(Rose Parade)
450.725	R			KFI – AM 640	(IFB / In-Field-Broadcast, News / Traffic)
450.850	R			KFWB – AM 980	(Live – News and Traffic Reports)

MISCELLANEOUS SERVICES

46.040	S			AMR – Ambulance Company	(Routine Use and Rose Parade / Bowl Game)
47.620	S			Bowers Ambulance Company	(Rose Parade Use)
155.160	S			Emergency Ambulance Service	(Rose Parade Use)
155.205	S			AMR – Ambulance Company	(Routine Use and Rose Parade / Bowl Game)
155.220	S			AMR – Ambulance Company	(Routine Use and Rose Parade / Bowl Game)
852.8875	R			Risher Ambulance	(Rose Parade Use)
855.5875	R			AMR – Ambulance Company	(Routine Use and Rose Parade / Bowl Game)
150.920	S			Automobile Club of Southern California	(Towing – Routine Use)
150.960	S			Automobile Club of Southern California	(Towing – Routine Use)
452.525	R			Automobile Club of Southern California	(Towing – Rose Parade Floats)
151.625	S			RED DOT Channel	(Floats / Construction / Family Use, etc...)
151.955	S			PURPLE DOT Channel	(Floats / Construction / Family Use, etc...)
154.570	S			BLUE DOT Channel	(Floats / Construction / Family Use, etc...)
154.690	S			GREEN DOT Channel	(Floats / Construction / Family Use, etc...)
462.575	S			WHITE DOT Channel	(Floats / Construction / Family Use, etc...)
462.625	S			BLACK DOT Channel	(Floats / Construction / Family Use, etc...)
462.675	S			ORANGE DOT Channel	(Floats / Construction / Family Use, etc...)
464.500	S			BROWN DOT Channel	(Floats / Construction / Family Use, etc...)
464.550	S			YELLOW DOT Channel	(Floats / Construction / Family Use, etc...)
462.5625	S		FRS – 1	Family Radio Service Channel 1	(Floats / Construction / Family Use, etc...)
462.5875	S		FRS – 2	Family Radio Service Channel 2	(Floats / Construction / Family Use, etc...)
462.6125	S		FRS – 3	Family Radio Service Channel 3	(Floats / Construction / Family Use, etc...)
462.6375	S		FRS – 4	Family Radio Service Channel 4	(Floats / Construction / Family Use, etc...)
462.6625	S		FRS – 5	Family Radio Service Channel 5	(Floats / Construction / Family Use, etc...)
462.6875	S		FRS – 6	Family Radio Service Channel 6	(Floats / Construction / Family Use, etc...)
462.7125	S		FRS – 7	Family Radio Service Channel 7	(Floats / Construction / Family Use, etc...)
467.5625	S		FRS – 8	Family Radio Service Channel 8	(Floats / Construction / Family Use, etc...)
467.5875	S		FRS – 9	Family Radio Service Channel 9	(Floats / Construction / Family Use, etc...)
467.6125	S		FRS – 10	Family Radio Service Channel 10	(Floats / Construction / Family Use, etc...)
467.6375	S		FRS – 11	Family Radio Service Channel 11	(Floats / Construction / Family Use, etc...)
467.6625	S		FRS – 12	Family Radio Service Channel 12	(Floats / Construction / Family Use, etc...)
467.6875	S		FRS – 13	Family Radio Service Channel 13	(Floats / Construction / Family Use, etc...)
467.7125	S		FRS – 14	Family Radio Service Channel 14	(Floats / Construction / Family Use, etc...)

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Clearing Channels

New Digital-TV Bill Would Reclaim UHF-TV Spectrum for Public Safety Use



Todd Shields
Mediaweek, September 27, 2004

Some firefighters who climbed the World Trade Center in New York City on Sept. 11, 2001, never heard the order to evacuate the doomed North Tower. Three years later, that tragedy, blamed in part on poor radio communications, is reverberating through Congress, where a bill to bolster emergency communications at the expense of TV broadcasters made surprising progress last week. However, Spanish-language, religious and other smaller broadcasters high on the dial may have the most to lose from that progress.

The Senate Commerce Committee on Sept. 22 overruled its chairman, Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.), deciding broadcasters on channels 63, 64, 68 and 69 must give up their spectrum for use by first responders by 2008. It remained unclear whether the legislation could pass the full Senate and the House, if only because time is short and the agenda crowded as Congress looks to adjourn in October.

But broadcast lobbyists consider the spectrum legislation a real threat. The measure responds directly to the 9/11 Commission, which asked Congress to quickly assign more radio spectrum for public safety. That call could have particular resonance for lawmakers soon to face voters anxious about terror attacks. McCain secured backing from fire and police chiefs for a bill to vacate all analog TV spectrum by 2009, forcing TV to go digital nationwide.

Faced with that, the National Association of Broadcasters and others pushed for the less-sweeping alternative advanced by Sen. Conrad Burns (R-Mont.). McCain was acerbic. "We find ourselves confronted with public safety vs. the National Association of Broadcasters," he said. Burns said that if McCain's version passed, "You're going to turn off 73 million television sets" that are not digitally capable.

The Burns' measure, passed 13-to-9, would put 75 stations in peril of shutting down or being shifted off their frequency. "It unfortunately affects family viewers, Spanish viewers," said Dean Goodman, president/COO of Paxson Communications Corp. His 61-station group has six stations in the potentially affected channels. "I thought the idea of the [NAB] was to protect all broadcasters...and here they elected to throw a few under the bus," Goodman said.

The NAB did not respond directly to such criticism, instead issuing a statement that said the Burns bill balances public-safety needs while limiting disruption to TV service. Public safety lobbyists said they were concerned with language that could let regulators delay spectrum reassignments "to avoid consumer disruption." Giant Spanish broadcaster Univision, which could have as many as 10 stations affected, declined to comment.

Not all broadcasters were alarmed. At Sinclair Broadcast Group, where five of 62 stations could be affected, vp/new technology Nat Ostroff said the transition from analog to digital has long been pending and has to come some time. "We're prepared to do whatever is necessary," Ostroff said. "I don't think it does any good to go kicking and screaming to where we're going to go anyhow."

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LASD's First Responder Bridges Radio Systems

Article Continued from Page 3

Second, the First Responder is a mobile communications center: one that coordinates multi-agency response teams, while leaving the LASD's regular Dispatch to mind the rest of the county.

"When we have a situation going down, we still have to maintain 'business as usual' everywhere else that we're responsible for," Capt. Sedita explained. "The First Responder allows us to task emergency communications directly to the specific incident scene. Meanwhile, Dispatch can keep the rest of the county covered. The result is that we get effective communications in both areas, without compromises."

Third, the First Responder can serve as the hub of a field command center. Not only does it have the communications equipment to do the job, but the First Responder's laptop computers are loaded with incident tracking and management software.

The LASD's Wish List: Send More First Responders!

As with any new equipment, the LASD had a few teething pains with the First Responder initially. However, none were major, and all were quickly addressed by Raytheon. "Whatever problems we found, Raytheon was extremely responsive in solving them," Capt. Sedita noted. "As a result, we can safely say that this vehicle has met and is meeting our expectations."

In fact, the only downside that Capt. Sedita can find with the LASD's First Responder is that his department only owns one of them. "During the 1994 Northridge earthquake, there was only one surface road left that allowed us to circumvent the damage, and to move personnel around the county," Capt. Sedita said. "Even then it was very tough to get around; so much so, that we had to airlift in people using National Guard helicopters. It would be nice if we had a few First Responders strategically located around the county. This way, if we're blocked from driving to a trouble area, there will be other First Responders available to get there."

Given tight budgets in California, it is unlikely that the LASD will be able to buy another First Responder anytime soon. However, the good news is that "the Los Angeles Police Department is buying one, as is the Los Angeles County Fire Department." Capt. Sedita said. "As a result, we will eventually have extra interoperable capability in the county. Better yet, we'll be able to network these trucks together at major incidents, to provide 36 channels and multiple two-way satellite links."

The Value of Instant Interoperability

In a region where police are challenged by everything from earthquakes to riots, interoperable radio communication is a lifesaver. Moreover, providing such communications using existing systems and the First Responder is an option that the county can afford.

In contrast, Capt. Sedita estimated that putting all 100-plus agencies on a new, common radio system would cost "nearly \$1 billion." That's money that simply doesn't exist in California, or indeed anywhere in the United States. And besides, where would such a "mega-system" find the bandwidth? "When it comes to 800 MHz, a lot of local agencies missed their chance to stake out the spectrum," he said. "Meanwhile, many of them have requested space on the 700 MHz band when the broadcasters give it back. But given the slow rollout of digital television and the broadcasters' heel-dragging, this isn't likely to occur before 2010, if then."

The bottom line: by buying a First Responder, the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department has deployed the most affordable, most reasonable interoperability solution available to it today. It's a decision all police departments should study closely, and consider well.

SPUTNIK LAUNCHED 47 YEARS AGO

History changed on October 4, 1957 when the Soviet Union successfully launched Sputnik I, the world's first artificial satellite. It was about the size of a basketball, weighed 183 pounds, and took about 98 minutes to orbit the Earth on its elliptical path. That launch ushered in new political, military, technological, and scientific developments.

Sputnik started the space age and the U.S.-U.S.S.R space race. More history and a WAV File of Sputnik I telemetry is at:

<http://www.hq.nasa.gov/office/pao/History/sputnik/>

The Los Angeles Regional Tactical Communications System (LARTCS)

Listen in on certain frequencies in the Los Angeles area on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 9 AM and you will hear quite a roll call of Public Safety organizations. The amazing part is that these agencies are talking to each other on different frequencies and even on different bands, yet they can hear each other "loud and clear."

This radio interoperability is made possible by using a radio interconnect system made by Raytheon JPS Communications. With this magic box, the Los Angeles Sheriff Department's Sheriff Communications Center (SCC) links together such diverse agencies as LAPD, the Coast Guard, Los Angeles City and County Fire Departments, California State OES, Ventura County, the U.S. Secret Service, Culver City Police, Postal Inspectors, and more. Many more!

Although public safety agencies have a history of working together through earthquakes, wildfires, civil disorder or floods, one weakness that continually plagued responders was the inability to directly communicate among the various agencies. Typically, multi-agency communication responses were accomplished by trading portable radios or assigning officers from different agencies to the incident commander to facilitate communications.

Since the events of September 11, 2001, new energy was directed toward an interoperable communications goal. In October, 2001 a consortium of public safety agencies created the Los Angeles Regional Tactical Communications System (LARTCS). Representatives from federal, state and local law enforcement agencies and fire departments, as well as the military, meet twice monthly with the sole goal of establishing the highest level of communications interoperability. This relationship has allowed for the sharing of equipment and frequencies at a level never before realized.

Agencies (there are more than 60 participating and more joining every week) are able to access and use the interoperability system with their existing equipment and at no additional cost. Installed at the Sheriff's Communications Center, the equipment allows for the immediate connection of field units and/or dispatch centers from one agency to those of another. This is the system that makes the twice-weekly roll calls possible.

In addition, in 2003 the Sheriff Department purchased a mobile unit that contains a variety of specialized equipment, automated incident management systems, satellite and cellular telephone systems, live video downstreaming and many other functions. This vehicle, called the Communications Interoperability Unit (CIU) is explained in depth in another article in this newsletter.

As stated above, the LARTCS tests system interoperability twice a week on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 9 AM. SCC conducts a roll call of participating agencies and others are encouraged to check in after that. All frequencies are "patched" together and can be heard throughout the Los Angeles area. Give a listen!

Activity has been heard on several frequencies, including the following:

155.475	(156.7)	NLEMARS
155.340	(No PL)	LACoFD Tac 18
406.800	(103.5)	Military
483.7875		LASD Mutual Aid 3
484.0625		LASD Mutual Aid 5
868.5125	(156.7)	I-Tac 1

Other frequencies have also been heard or may be part of the system, including old LAPD dispatch frequencies. Keep an ear tuned to:

159.150	
158.910	
159.180	(LARTCS activity heard here)
159.030	(LARTCS activity heard here)
158.865	

More information is available on the Internet. The OES website has a large PowerPoint file that takes a while to download (about 2.5 MB) that can be reached at <http://tinyurl.com/28vdb>

LASD has a PDF report at <http://www.lasd.org/sites/yir2003web/TSD.pdf>

Information on the ACU-1000 radio interconnect can be found at <http://www.jps.com/index.asp?node=88>

Detectives Nab Fire Radio Thief

Fallbrook Detectives Will Altenhof and Bill Kaw made an arrest September 10 that has led to the recovery of eight fire radios, out of 18 reported stolen throughout the summer. Ten of the radios were stolen from North County Fire Protection District stations. Arrested was Brian McNeal, 25, of Temecula, who was caught entering his residence with one of the stolen radios.

"It appears that McNeal was stealing the radios and then selling them on eBay to people who didn't know they were stolen," Altenhof reported. "He was very brazen about it." Altenhof said when McNeal made contacts over the Internet, he would tell buyers he 'had more radios available.'

Fallbrook Substation Lt. Clyde Kodadek commended Altenhof and Kaw on the arrest.

"This was a good example of outstanding detective work," Kodadek said. Altenhof said they were able to arrest McNeal after 'putting all the cases together' and doing a substantial amount of surveillance work.

"Brian McNeal evidently chose to steal radios because he appears very knowledgeable about communication equipment," Altenhof noted. "He has a military background that includes being dishonorably discharged from the Army."

Initially, McNeal was charged with two counts of first-degree burglary and one count of possession of stolen property. In addition, Altenhof seeks to charge McNeal with three additional counts of burglary and one count of impersonating a fireman. The Sheriff's Department said McNeal has been convicted of a similar crime in the past.

In addition to the losses from North County Fire Protection District stations, radios were stolen from California Dept. of Forestry, Pala, Escondido and Rancho Santa Fe.

Although McNeal remains in custody, Altenhof said the investigation continues. Anyone with information pertinent to the case is asked to call (760) 451-3111.

From The Village News Network.com

Helicopter Awareness Day

Sunday, October 24, 2004 9 AM to 4 PM
Los Alamitos Army Air Field



Looking for a weekend mission with the Right Stuff? Then make plans now to buckle up for action and land your family at Helicopter Awareness Day at Los Alamitos Army Air Field where you can introduce your family to the local Heroes of Airborne Public Service.

Be on scene when the Professional Helicopter Pilots Association (PHPA) in conjunction with the Los Alamitos Chamber of Commerce hosts many of the top airborne teams from law enforcement, fire safety and the military at the annual Helicopter Awareness Day (HAD).

For over ten years, the PHPA's HAD event has offered the public a rare opportunity to explore one of the West Coast's largest display of helicopters from law enforcement, fire safety, emergency response, military and the news media.

The event is also a special opportunity to see helicopters and meet with air rescue crews while learning about the equipment and tactics used in their vital roles of Search and Rescue, homeland security and national defense.

In addition to a special visit from the U.S. Coast Guard Air Station Los Angeles with their HH-65 "Dolphin" rescue helicopter, the Department of Homeland Security will present their HH-60 Blackhawk used for pursuit, interdiction and surveillance to maintain boarder security.

As a special treat, PHPA invites families to get a bird's eye view of the action and climb aboard special helicopter rides that will be offered all day.

Admission and parking are free but be prepared to show photo ID at the gate.

From the President

By: Rick, WA6KFI / SCMA-101

Hello, to one and all! I would like to say first of all how happy I was to see all of our members along with the four new visitors who made it to the September 8th, meeting. Let me say, that there is no better group of people that I would like to be with for an evening then those who show up to an S.C.M.A. meeting.

At the last club meeting we had our great newsletter along with frequency hand – outs...and more frequencies and information on what's happening in the world of scanning.

I would like for all S.C.M.A. members to start thinking of where you guys would like to have our Christmas Party for this year. Do you want it at the Grinders or Chinese like last year? We need to know some time during the month of October, so give us a call or send us an e-mail telling us what you think.

One last thing, we are working on lining up some more tours for the members and all of us will have a great time as the year comes to a close.

Oh, I almost forgot, when it comes to the club tours and or a change in meeting locations it is up to you the member to remember these events not us! After all we send out club e-mail messages, a newsletter, phone calls and don't forget to look at your club's web site for special notices. I think we do are best to inform all of you of you about what's going on so, please take the steps to remind your self's of what's going on!

73's and Best of Monitoring! Rick, SCMA-101

Welcome Our Newest Members:

Richard Duran, SCMA- 702, from Goleta

Scanning Interests are Police, Fire, Medical, Business, Utility, Military, Federal, Aircraft, ACARS, and Internet Receiver Control

Sean Fox, SCMA- 131, from Burbank

Scanning interests are LAPD, LAFD, Burbank and Glendale PD

San Fernando Valley Frequency Guide

SCMA Supporter Wayne Smith has assembled a few frequencies that may assist individuals who are interested in monitoring the radio systems in and around the San Fernando Valley. This guide is available at:

<http://www.n6lhv.net/valleyscan.html>

Wayne says: "I have learned a good deal from the SCMA group and I hope to learn even more over time. I welcome your constructive comments and suggestions for improvement of this guide."

Your Articles Wanted!

The SCMA wants to publish this newsletter every month but, to make that a reality, we need information to share with other members. If you have anything you think other members would find interesting, please share it with us. You can send your information in ANY format and we'll "pretty it up" to put in the newsletter. Send your submissions to:

SCMA, PO Box 66701, Los Angeles, CA 90066

or via email to SCMA@SoCalScanner.com

All the membership will thank you.

**Southern California Monitoring Association
P.O. Box 66701
Los Angeles, CA 90066**

TO: