



# *The Monitoring Post*

The Newsletter of the Southern California Monitoring Association

In God We Trust – All Others We Monitor

*June - July, 2005*

**\$1.00**

## **Monitoring the News Media in Los Angeles**



### **Also in this Issue:**

*Military May Draft XM Satellite Radio*

*L. A. County Fire Department Battalion Changes*

*A Funny Thing Happened While Calling 911 – Cell Bounce and You*

**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.

**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 the N6CIZ 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, the L.A. City Fire Department Dispatch Center 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](http://www.SoCalScanner.com)

**Membership...**

Anyone interested in the Radio Monitoring hobby may apply for membership in the SCMA.

**Membership** is \$15 per year. Regular members receive this newsletter in electronic form via email in PDF format.

**Newsletter Subscription:** A printed newsletter is mailed to members who pay a subscription amount of \$10 per year, which is used to help cover printing and mailing costs.

To apply for membership, go to [www.SoCalScanner.com](http://www.SoCalScanner.com) and click on the "Membership" button. You can pay for your membership online. Or, send your name, address, phone number, email address, Amateur Radio call (if any) and your listening interests along with your dues to:

(Make checks payable to **Rich Sauer**)

**SCMA Membership  
P.O. Box 66701  
Los Angeles, CA 90066**

**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 ours 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 Board of Directors...**

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

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

**From the Editor...**

**Rich Sauer – SCMA-104**

On our cover this month is a photo of just PART of the media circus that covered the Michael Jackson trial. The police officer in the picture is writing a \$50 ticket for illegal parking. It's all about the media covering the news and how you can be informed about what is happening by covering the news media. Check out our list of L.A. area news media frequencies in this issue.

You'll notice that this is a combined June and July issue. While I wish the reason I didn't get the June newsletter out on time was because I was soaking up the sun while on summer vacation, the truth is much more boring. Work came along and spoiled my fun. Before I knew it, the deadline had come and gone. I hope you'll forgive me and I promise (with fingers crossed) that it won't happen again...

Members who have not been on a tour lately – take note! We are setting up a re-visit to LAPD Air Ops toward the end of July. This was a great tour last time we visited. Not only did we get the inside scoop and get shown around Hooper Heliport, a Deputy Chief happened by and gave us a good bit of his time answering questions and filling us in on how things "really" work. It's amazing how these officials will open up once they realize we're good guys!

If you'd like to be a part of this tour, contact Rick DiFiore at [cmdrick@earthlink.net](mailto:cmdrick@earthlink.net) and get your name on the list.

Until next month, keep those articles and frequency lists coming.

-- Rich

# L.A. News Media Frequencies

FREQ	PL	USE	CHANNEL
450.1625 R	127.3	ABC TV Network News Bureau Assignment Desk	"Primary"
450.5125 R		CBS TV Network News Bureau Assignment Desk	
450.7750 R	136.5	CNN Network News Desk / News Crews	
450.1875 R		NBC TV Los Angeles News Bureau Desk	
450.2875 S	71.9	KCBS TV 2 Assignment Desk / Chopper 2	Freq 1
450.5125 S	71.9	KCBS TV 2 Engineering "RF"	Freq 2
450.4125 S	71.9	KCBS TV 2 Network Production / Low Power	Freq 3
450.6125 S	71.9	KCBS TV 2 Cueing	Freq 4
450.8000 S	100.0	KCBS TV 2 IFB / News Production	Freq 5
161.7600 S	123.0	KNBC TV 4 Assignment Desk / Chopper 4	Freq 6
161.7300 S	88.5	KNBC TV 4 Helicopter Operations	Freq 4
450.1875 R	123.0	KNBC TV 4 Assignment Desk	Freq 1
450.3875 R	123.0	KNBC TV 4 Engineering	Freq 2
450.2500 R	162.2	KTLA 5 TV Assignment Desk / Sky Cam 5	Freq 1
450.3500 R	162.2	KTLA 5 TV Engineering	Freq 2
450.1375 R	123.0	KABC TV 7 News Desk / Chopper 7	Freq 1
450.3125 R	123.0	KABC TV 7 Engineering / Production	Freq 2
450.3125 R	85.4	KABC TV 7 Inland Empire Bureau	Freq 3
450.2125 R	91.5	KCAL TV 9 Assignment Desk / Sky 9 – Mt. Wilson	Freq 1
450.2125 R	100.0	KCAL TV 9 Assignment Desk / Sky 9 – Santiago Peak	Freq 2
450.2125 R	110.9	KCAL TV 9 Assignment Desk / Sky 9 – Oat Mountain	Freq 3
450.2125 R	74.4	KCAL TV 9 Assignment Desk / Sky 9 – Saddle Peak	Freq 4
450.2125 S	91.5	KCAL TV 9 Assignment Desk / Sky 9 – Simplex	Freq 5
455.0875 R	91.5	KCAL TV 9 Engineering	Freq 6
450.5875 R	88.5	KTTV TV 11 Assignment Desk / SkyFox Helicopter	
450.1500 S		KTTV TV 11 Engineering	
450.9500 S		KTTV TV 11 IFB	
450.0500	D365	KABC AM 790 / KLOS FM 95.5 Traffic Watch	
450.8250	110.9	KABC AM 790 / KLOS FM 95.5 Traffic Watch Base	
170.1500	67.0	KFI AM 640 News	
450.7250		KFI AM 640 IFB and Shadow Traffic	
450.8500	107.2	KFWB AM 980 News Production	
450.6500		KFWB AM 980 Cueing	
455.5125		KFWB AM 980 Traffic – Air 980	
450.9500	141.3	KIIS FM 102.7 Traffic Watch	
450.0875	71.9	KNX AM 1070 Assignment Desk Primary	
450.7000	71.9	KNX AM 1070 Assignment Desk Secondary	
450.8000	71.9	KNX AM 1070 Production	
455.9500	141.3	KNX AM 1070 Metro Traffic – Air 1070	
450.6500		Commander Chuck Street Traffic Reports	
450.9500		Commander Chuck Street Traffic Reports	
471.9375	225.7	California Fire Photographer's Assoc. – CFPA	Yellow
472.2125	225.7	California Fire Photographer's Assoc. – CFPA	Red (Alerts Only)
123.025		Helicopter Air-to-Air Primary	

## Air7HD Takes Flight Over Los Angeles



In the weeks since KABC-TV in Los Angeles has been airborne with its new HD newsgathering helicopter, the station has begun regular use of its Air7HD to deliver high-definition detail and clarity to the station's HD audience and images that are better than what was previously possible to its SD viewers.

In May, KABC-TV became the first station in the Los Angeles market to deliver HD news from a helicopter after taking delivering of Air7HD from Helinet Aviation Services.

Based on the Helinet Cineflex HiDEF system, the news helicopter delivers images that are three times more detailed SD. Even for viewers without HDTVs, Air7HD provides a clearer picture.

In addition to the Cineflex HiDEF camera system, Helinet is providing KABC with a helicopter, pilot and camera operator for a complete, HD aerial solution.

According to the Los Angeles station, the HD helicopter is the first piece in its transition to high-definition news production.

At the heart of Helinet Aviation Services' system is the Cineflex HiDEF camera platform. Mounted under the nose of the helicopter, the system provides 360-degree HD coverage. The HiDEF system uses a Sony HDC-950 camera.

While KABC's copter is the first in Los Angeles, it's the second hi-def copter in the nation. Helinet, the company that developed the specially equipped copters, leased the nation's first hi-def helicopter about a year ago to KUSA-TV, Gannett's NBC affiliate in Denver.

"You can almost read lips" from the copter's hi-def feed, said J.T. Alpaugh, chief technology officer for Helinet.

KABC sees the hi-def bird as a way to solidify its position in a geographically dispersed market known for congested freeways and lots of car chases.

"We are known for our breaking news and the helicopter is the single most important level of response for most stories. We expect it will help us do a better job of covering the news," said Cheryl Fair, news director for KABC, which three years ago was the first station in the market to put in a doppler radar system for weather.

## Military Might Draft XM Satellite Radio

Customers of XM Satellite Radio Inc. aren't the only ones who appreciate its digital quality and nationwide coverage. The U.S. military might draft XM's service for homeland security purposes.

XM and Raytheon Co. have jointly built a communications system that would use XM's satellites to relay information to soldiers and emergency responders during a crisis.

The Mobile Enhanced Situational Awareness Network, known as MESA, would get a dedicated channel on XM's satellites that would be accessible only on devices given to emergency personnel. The receivers would be the same as the portable ones available to consumers, with slight modifications to make them more rugged.

The military often leases transmission space on commercial satellites, but this collaboration between a massive defense contractor and a fun-loving radio network -- XM's first two satellites were dubbed "Rock" and "Roll," and its next two might be "Rhythm" and "Blues" -- is unusual.

It began last year when engineers with Waltham, Mass.-based Raytheon Co. were looking for an inexpensive system that would help emergency responders and soldiers coordinate their actions after a natural disaster or terrorist strike. Existing communications systems for such scenarios can be bulky and expensive.

Commercial satellite radio receivers, in contrast, are lightweight, battery-powered and cost as little as \$99. Their digital transmissions have enough bandwidth to carry maps and other imagery, which would be displayed on portable computers that plug into the satellite receivers. And the system can be programmed to relay information just to specific devices if need be, so individual users can get messages appropriate to their regions.

While XM's service only reaches North America, Raytheon has signed on with Worldspace Corp., a satellite radio provider in Africa, Asia and Europe, for global coverage. That system debuted in March during tsunami relief efforts in Asia, when Raytheon and Worldspace gave satellite receivers to aid agencies to coordinate their activities, said Mike Fleenor, the MESA program manager at Raytheon.

Even before that, MESA's domestic potential had attracted the interest of officials at U.S. Northern Command in Colorado Springs, Colo., which is responsible for homeland security missions. That got MESA included in this month's Coalition Warrior Interoperability Demonstration, an annual event in which technology vendors show their wares to U.S. and allied military brass around the world.

*CONTINUED ON PAGE 9*



SATELLITE  
RADIO

# NEWS BITS NEWS BITS NEWS BITS NEWS BITS

## Alhambra Fire Dept. to Join Verdugo Dispatch

By Tim Macias

The Alhambra Fire Department has decided to join the Verdugo Fire Dispatch System.

Transitioning to the Verdugo Fire Dispatch System will require the Fire Department to install mobile data computers on all emergency units and purchase all new radios to bring them into synchronization with all area "C" cities that utilize the UHF frequency band.

Using funds requested through the 2005 Homeland Security Grant funding of \$651,626 would enable the department to purchase the required radios, MDC's and fire station alerting equipment. The Fire Chief is being instructed to pick a commencement date between July 1st and December 31st, 2005. The 6-month window will allow for grant approval, purchasing, programming, installation, and testing of all related equipment.

On an annual basis, the cost would be approximately \$230,615.

## LAPD News Bits

From "Radio Lady" via the SoCalScan Yahoo! Group:

Starting in August, the old existing patrol car laptops will be replaced by Dell 610s. And, since most everyone "enjoys" listening to pursuits on their scanners or on Teamspeak (thank you, Bob Ricci), 500 patrol officers have now been trained in and certified to use the PIT maneuver under specified conditions; everybody in Patrol will eventually get the training. And every B&W patrol car will be getting Stop Sticks®

Harley-Davidson beat out BMW, Honda and others to win the bid to replace 110 of the almost 400 motorcycles with new ELECTRO GLIDES! Will be nice to see THEM on the street again.

The city council has authorized hiring 400 new officers in 2005-2006, in addition to replacing however many officers retire, die, resign (yes, or get fired).

From Sean Wolf, WD6FOX / SCMA-131:

FYI... LAPD is now testing EF Johnson Radios. The model looks similar to the Motorola XTS-5000 series. I have personally held the radio, and they are ok, but prefer the Motorola! I believe it was the 5100 series. From what I heard they don't want to spend the \$\$\$ for the Motorolas. We have 5 of them and we will see if we use those for new radios when the Astros break.

From Mike Peters:

While looking up some info on the EFJ 5100 series, I came across this NIFC website with a great interactive guide to the EFJ 5100, Thales 25, and the BK DPH <http://radios.nifc.gov/>

## El Segundo Frequencies

The City of El Segundo is finally going to get two UHF-T frequencies that they've been trying to dig up ever since dropping out of the South Bay Regional system.

The FCC granted the city's request for a waiver to use two frequencies normally in the Industrial/Business pool, for public safety: **471.3375** and **472.5375**. The FCC ruling is the culmination of a very long story.

In 2000 when the City of El Segundo implemented its own dispatch center and pulled out of the South Bay RCC system, it claimed the various VHF and UHF radio frequency licenses it had over the years when it entered the joint powers (RCC) system.

When El Segundo left, it claimed its freqs and there was a nasty court battle, and El Segundo was ruled to have lost the freqs because the joint powers authority (RCC) was ruled to have served a greater population and more services, so in the interest of public safety, RCC was ruled to have ownership, despite the fact that El Segundo was the FCC licensee.

The freqs are technically to be used for all South Bay agencies as tactical or operational channels, so while they still may not belong entirely to El Segundo, depending on various perspectives, El Segundo can still use them, as is the decision of the courts. They are just not "dedicated" per se.

Over the past several years, the Sheriff has loaned the 2 freqs El Segundo uses now for police and fire until it gets its own licenses. The 4 freqs in the 471/472 range in the FCC bulletin were issued (bought) by the City of El Segundo for about 2 million dollars, and there was a challenge by a business because the freqs were listed in another rated spectrum outside of Public Safety.

As you can see, the City won its argument in court and now has been issued authority to implement service on the 4 freqs, and soon will begin to provide dispatch and tactical use. Those pairs are now rated as public safety channels and belong to El Segundo.

When the new freqs are implemented, the old freqs in use since 2000 will revert back the LASD, and will be re-licensed back to LASD.

El Segundo will take some time to reprogram its repeaters and mobile radios, probably a year or so...since it won't be cheap to switch over.

**David Burns**  
Emergency Manager  
City of El Segundo



Photo Right:

EF Johnson 5100 series Radios. In designer colors, too!

# LACoFD Battalion Changes

By Tim Macias

To address growth issues and improve service delivery in the East Regional Operations Bureau, the Department will reorganize and realign battalion and division boundaries in two phases. The reorganization will enhance command support, the management of division responsibilities, and improve the span of control at the battalion levels.

Effective June 30, 2005, the Department will implement Phase I. Our Department will commence service to the City of La Habra, effective June 30, 2005, and will provide fire protection and emergency medical services to the City. The District will staff three City of La Habra fire stations to include 191, 192, and 193. The fourth station, 194, is tentatively scheduled to open as a temporary station in January 2006. The new stations will be in new Battalion 21, Division IV, with Station 49 as battalion headquarters.

Reorganization - Effective June 30, 2005:

STATION	EXISTING	NEW
FS 15	BN 8	BN 21
FS 20	BN 8	BN 21
FS 35	BN 9	BN 21
FS 49	BN 8	BN 21
FS 115	BN 8	BN 21
FS 191	New	BN 21
FS 192	New	BN 21
FS 193	New	BN 21
FS 194 *	New	BN 21

\*January 2006

STATION	EXISTING	NEW
FS 1	BN 3	BN 3
FS 3	BN 3	BN 3
FS 27	BN 3	BN 3
FS 39	BN 3	BN 3
FS 50	BN 3	BN 3
FS 163	BN 13	BN 3

Note: FS 163 is the only station affected in BN 13. All other stations will remain the same.

STATION	EXISTING	NEW
FS 17	BN 8	BN 8
FS 25	BN 3	BN 8
FS 28	BN 8	BN 8
FS 40	BN 3	BN 8
FS 59	BN 8	BN 8
FS 96	BN 8	BN 8
FS 103	BN 3	BN 8

Effective October 2005, Phase II will consist of implementing new Division IX to include Battalions 3, 8, and 10, with division headquarters at Station 4, and Battalion 10 headquarters at Station 166. In addition, there will be a reorganization of Division II to include Battalions 2 and 16, and Division IV to include Battalions 9 and 21. All other field divisions and battalions will remain in their current configuration.

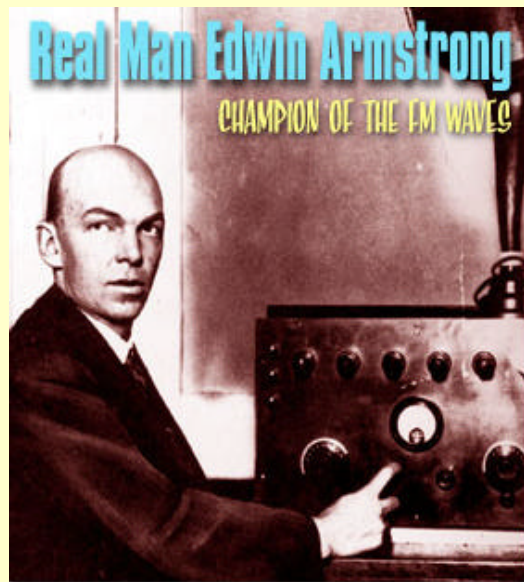
Departmental plans for equipment placement and staffing that will result from the reorganization are as follows: Effective June 30, 2005, EST 59 will be disbanded, and Engine 59 will be staffed with four personnel. Engine 15 will be relocated to new FS 194 upon completion, and Quint 49 will be relocated to Station 15.

## The 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of FM Technology

On June 16, 1935, Major Edwin Howard Armstrong conducted the first public demonstration of a radio broadcasting technology called frequency modulation - or, for short, FM.

Signals sent by FM didn't travel as far as those sent by the existing radio technology, AM. But they were much clearer.

Armstrong, a radio technology expert who developed several vital communications systems for the military during World War I, saw FM as a potentially huge commercial breakthrough.



Looking back today, of course, we can see he was right. FM has dominated broadcast technology for more than 30 years.

But FM didn't take off until the mid-'60s, and by then Armstrong was long gone.

Several major players had claimed credit for his FM technology and the outgunned Armstrong spent years in what he feared was a losing legal battle to retain what he had developed.

In 1954, he killed himself, meaning he didn't know that his widow would continue and win his legal fight.

Armstrong's is a fascinating story and a critically important figure in radio history. June marks the 70th anniversary of that first FM test.

# A Funny Thing Happened While Calling 911... An Inside Look at "Cellular Bounce" from an Email Thread on the SoCalScan Yahoo! Group

I came upon a traffic collision in Orange this morning, with a motorcyclist down. I called 911 from my cellphone, and gave the dispatcher the intersection cross streets.

She asks me what city that is, and I say Orange. She says "Orange...California, right?" I say yes, and say the collision is right next to UCI Medical Center.

She says "I don't know where that is...you've reached the Indio Communications Center!"

I tell her it's in Orange County.

She tells me the only number she has is for the Orange County CHP Communications Center, so I tell her to connect me there. She puts me on hold, then comes back and tells me OCCC already has the call and has police and medics enroute.

That was the weirdest experience I've had calling 911!

-- Paul (paulbentz@adelphia.net)

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Actually, that's NOT a "screw-up" by a wireless carrier, folks. THAT is an example of "cellular bounce."

When a cell sector is really busy (and it doesn't have to be busy with 9-1-1 calls, btw), calls will have to be captured by other sites. If there's a highly visible ANYTHING on a major route of travel, the cell sector(s) get busy fast. Calls bounce a lot. Finally, a sector is "free" enough to route the call, and THAT sector is programmed to call somewhere else.

And, if a particular cell site is an omni-directional site, then it doesn't matter what direction the call came from - it's gonna be routed to wherever that site is supposed to route calls.

Remember, "cellular" is wireless, which is radio. And the rule for radio signals is: Today, five miles, tomorrow 5 feet. <grin>

Oh, the clue was that the CHP Orange County Communications already had the call. Probably from lots and lots of callers. You know, those ones tying up the cell sites and contributing to the wireless 91-1 bouncing bit.

-- Happy to be here, proud to serve.

-- Linda Olmstead (gryeyes@redshift.com)

Public Safety Dispatch Supervisor  
~somewhere on the Central CA coast~

<http://www.gryeyes.com>

[not presumed to be a statement of my employing agency]

\*\*\*\*\*

That's weird considering you weren't near a border area where the cell coverage can overlap between two different CHP areas. It's not at all uncommon for that sort of thing to happen in the overlap areas though. When it does, they usually just generate a log and send it via CAD to the appropriate comm center.

-- Chuck Rowe (raydeehchuck@hotmail.com)

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They do, do they?

Let's see, there are 24 CHP Comm Centers, all using the same brand of CAD software and hardware, but not all connected to each other in the same CAD system. Only Comm Centers using the same Stratus server can use each others' CAD logs, dynamically.



Otherwise it's just a static message akin to any other informational message such as a BOL routed via CLETS. Basically a display of something, not an actual, dynamic, usable CAD incident log.

LACC is not connected to Inland, Inland is not connected to Orange County, GGCC is not connected to Sacramento, and all the smaller comm centers in between are only connected to the Stratus server running CAD for that group. (For example, Monterey and San Luis Obispo share the same CAD server and can use each other's CAD logs. Ventura is on its own CAD server. Barstow is a remote user of Inland Comm's CAD server.) It's not one big CAD system with a single server supporting all the Comm Centers, networked together in a dynamic sense.

Also, the GEO file for each Comm Center resides in the CAD system server. Locations will not verify for other Comm Centers not using the same CAD server. I may know that WB 22 at NB 405 exists, but the GEO file at any Comm Center other than at the CHP Orange County will not verify it. If I don't know the area "over there" and a bounced wireless 9-1-1 call was made by a person who tells me there's an accident at Trask and I-5, would I want to risk creating CAD log with a forced location (one "my" CAD doesn't believe exists where I am working) and sending a simple message to OCCC about that crash? It's a bad location. That message won't help anybody very quickly. As such, any call-taker/dispatcher at OCCC could have handled the call much more efficiently. A non-dynamic display of some other Comm Center's CAD log has to be recreated as a workable CAD log in that server. If there isn't a whole lot of duplicate calls already, with sufficient information, the OCCC dispatcher has to call the documented phone number in that message to get good info.

"They" should be transferring the caller to the correct Comm Center. Chances are better that the people working there can process that information more efficiently. In the original scenario posed by the initial post of this thread, Inland Comm transferred the caller to OCCC, and relayed the information back to the caller that OCCC already had that info. In other words, by then, no need for them to talk to yet another reporting party about it.

As already stated, Inland CC and OCCC's CAD systems are not interconnected.

-- Happy to be here, proud to serve.

-- Linda Olmstead (gryeyes@redshift.com)

Public Safety Dispatch Supervisor  
~somewhere on the Central CA coast~

<http://www.gryeyes.com>

[not presumed to be a statement of my employing agency]

# Security Concerns Silence Cells in NYC

By Robert MacMillan  
washingtonpost.com

If you see suspicious activity on your commute into Manhattan from New Jersey, don't call the police. It can wait until you get out of the tunnel.

Or at least that's the early line on a rather confusing post-London bombings story. Here's the recap, based on what we know to be true right now:

New York's Metropolitan Transportation Authority and the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey cut cell-phone service last Thursday in the tunnels that link Manhattan with New Jersey, Brooklyn and Queens.

Security was the reason. The MTA runs the Brooklyn-Battery and Queens Midtown tunnels. The Port Authority supervises the Lincoln and Holland tunnels. We're talking a lot of vehicles and plenty of opportunities for terrorist mayhem.

Not only that, mass transportation systems are working under an "Orange" alert after Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff raised the threat level last week after the London attacks.

The New York Post and the Daily News ran stories on the cell-phone-tunnel matter Monday. USA Today followed up with a national report quoting an official at Verizon Wireless, the sole provider of cell service in the N.Y.-area transit tunnels:

"Verizon Wireless spokesman Jim Gerace says his company assumes it was to avoid a repeat of the London attacks, in which terrorists may have used phones to coordinate or detonate bombs. Gerace says the Port Authority has been mum about when, or even if, it plans to restore power. The agency has only told the company that power will stay off 'until further notice,' Gerace says."

The article said that the tunnels have been wired for cellular service for about a decade. The service has never been shut down before, including after Sept. 11, 2001.

Here's where things get funny: MTA spokesman Brian Dolan told me late Monday that his agency restored cell service to its tunnels. The decision to shut it off last Thursday was the result of a "miscommunication" between the authority and the New York Police Department. An NYPD spokesman confirmed that it never asked anyone to cancel service in any tunnel.

## *Fuhgeddaboutit.*

Or not... the Port Authority's Lou Martinez told me that the outage will continue, either for as long as the Orange Level endures or until the authority decides otherwise. "We feel it is the proper decision" for security's sake, he said.

What about the MTA and the other tunnels? Was the Port Authority aware of the original miscommunication that prompted the wireless phone service to be shut down? Yes, Martinez said, and as far as the Port Authority is concerned, the MTA can do whatever it wants; the Authority's tunnels will remain cell-free zones.

Driver reaction was mixed, as the Daily News reported:

\* "I would feel safer if I could use my phone," said Shelley Moore, 36, who wore her phone headset in the Midtown Tunnel [Sunday]. "What if there's an accident?"

\* "Driver Deuce Martinez, 38, of Newark said cutting cell service to prevent bombings seemed like a fair tradeoff. 'If this betters the system in order to stop terrorist attacks, then I don't mind it,' Martinez said [Sunday] on Ninth Ave. as he crept toward the Lincoln Tunnel. 'I have no problem. It's just a couple of minutes.'"

A Verizon Wireless spokesman said the company is eager to work with public safety authorities against terrorism. Still, the overwhelming undertone that I detected from this person and others runs just this side of skeptical.

I discovered no other transportation agencies with similar plans to cut cell-phone service in tunnels or on bridges. The Maryland Transportation Authority has no plans to shut off access inside the Fort McHenry and Baltimore Harbor tunnels, said spokeswoman Teri Moss.

Neal Belitzsky, general manager of the company that runs the tunnel connecting Detroit and Windsor, Ontario, didn't say whether service would be cut, but noted that Homeland Security officials have issued no such advisory. Homeland Security spokesman Brian Doyle said that there was little chance that one would be forthcoming.

The Chesapeake Bay & Bridge-Tunnel is a 17-mile span that connects Virginia's eastern shore with southeastern Virginia and the Norfolk Naval Shipyard. It's one more high-risk target that probably isn't planning on cutting service. In fact, Paul Burnette, the head of maintenance operations for the bridge, was unaware of the New York situation when I called him Monday morning. I called a few more times to get an update, but I don't have one yet.

Finally, the Eisenhower Memorial Tunnel in Colorado that carries I-70 through the Continental Divide at more than 11,000 feet, also will continue to carry wireless service, Senior Supervisor Rod Henderson told me.

Oh, if you're an Amtrak customer, cell-phone service is spotty in the tunnels to begin with, but spokeswoman Tracy Connell said there will be no intentional shutdowns.

And the N.Y. Post explained why it's probably useless to turn off phone service: "A police source said disabling cellphones in the tunnels is a good security measure, but not a foolproof one. Last year's deadly Madrid terror blasts were detonated by cellphones. But in that case, the blasting caps were connected to phones with alarms. The timers were set so that when the alarms went off, the power ignited the blasting caps, detonating the bombs. 'You didn't have to call in to that phone,' the source said. The source noted that if terrorists use timers, cutting off cellphone service in the tunnels would not help. 'Even if you were to shut power, [the bomb] would still go off,' the source said."

The N.Y. Post also offered a history of using cell phones to trigger bombs: "The tactic apparently was first used by the Irish Republican Army, and has since been embraced by Islamist terrorists. Virtually every terror group has used mobile phone detonators, experts say. Other explosions reportedly triggered by cellphones included the July 2002 cafeteria bombing at Hebrew University in Jerusalem, which killed seven; the Bali bombings in October 2002, which killed 202; and a car bombing that killed 12 at a Jakarta, Indonesia, hotel in August 2003."

## Home Covered With Sheet Metal

*Residents Claim Neighbors Bombarding Them With Radiation*

A home in Sacramento's south Natomas neighborhood is surrounded by sheet metal, and neighbors are calling it an eyesore.

The D'Souza family lives in the home on Timberwood Court, and claims the aluminum pieces are necessary to protect them from unknown neighbors who have been bombarding them with radio waves and making them sick.

"(It's) a shield to protect against radiation, because microwave radiation is reflected off of aluminum, so it's a protective measure," resident Sarah D'Souza said.

The D'Souzias said the bombardment began after the first anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, and that the radio waves have caused them health problems ranging from headaches to lupus.

Sacramento Code Enforcement officials have gotten involved and ordered the family to remove the metal by Monday or face a misdemeanor citation.

"Eleven years in Sacramento and few other years in Southern California and this is the first time I've ever seen (anything like this). The inside of the house is also covered with foil and the beds are covered with a foil-like material as well," Sacramento Code Enforcement spokesman Josh Pino said.

The D'Souzias said they will comply with the order and remove the sheet metal, but they also plan to gather evidence to show city officials what they believe is a problem with radiation.



### Frequencies from Our Members...

- 451.825 Dodger Stadium Security
- 158.790 California State OES
- 153.770 Long Beach Lifeguards (L.B. Fire 4)
- 506.375 D205 Palos Verdes Police
- 172.375 Angeles National Forest Fire Dispatch
- 138.225 USAF Homeland Security Flights (AM)
- 151.805 Six Flags Magic Mountain – Security – Tactical
- 155.220 Mercy Air Ambulance Flights
- 431.675 Beverly Center Mall – Security
- 464.425 Del Amo Fashion Mall – Security
- 471.9375 California Fire Photographers Assoc. (CFPA)
- 860.7875 Bel Air Security Patrol – West LA Area

## North Carolina Law Targets Illegal CB'ers

C-B operators in North Carolina have something new to worry about. This as state law bans the use of illegal 11 meter radio gear such as frequency sliders and high power amps.

The law makes it a Class 3 misdemeanor for a person to use Citizens radio equipment that is not specifically authorized by the FCC. Gear such as export only and CB sets easily modifiable for out of band operation would be two categories the law covers in addition to external power amps.

The measure known as North Carolina Article 15, Section 62-328 is very narrowly crafted so as to target only the users of illegal 11 meter gear. It exempts anyone who operates two way radios under the authority of Title 47, Section 302a of the United States Code of Federal Regulations, which is just about anyone other than an 11 meter operator.

Now, here's the kicker. The law has been on the books since December of 2004 but it only became known in the ham radio community very recently. This was when its text was published in the latest issue of Repeater Journal magazine. (Repeater Journal)

Source: Amateur Radio Newslite Report 1452

## Military Might Draft XM Satellite Radio

*Continued from Page 4*

During test runs at the event, images, data and audio were sent to an "injection point" at Washington, D.C.-based XM. The transmissions were relayed to space and then sent back to the portable devices that would be carried by personnel in the field.

Official assessments of MESA and other technologies shown at the demo will take months, and procurement decisions will likely come next year. But early reviews of MESA were favorable, said Christopher Lambert, Northern Command's deputy program manager for the demonstration.

Lambert said he could envision the system being useful not only for disasters but also for everyday police uses. For example, an undercover cop could have the system in his car, masked as a regular XM radio most of the time, but ready to receive messages from headquarters with the flip of a switch.

Though XM's selling point is its 130 nearly commercial-free channels of music, sports, news, talk, traffic and weather, it has waded into public service before.

XM and rival Sirius Satellite Radio Holdings Inc. each have a channel reserved for emergency broadcasts and carry Amber Alerts for missing children. After hurricanes ravaged Florida last year, XM and Sirius donated free receivers so people could get weather updates.

XM spokesman Chance Patterson said it's too early to say how much revenue MESA could bring the company, which has nearly 4 million subscribers but has struggled to become profitable. XM lost \$642 million last year.

"It would easily pay for itself," he said.

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**"Having more money does not insure happiness. People with ten million dollars are no happier than people with nine million dollars."**

**-- Hobart Brown**

## **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](mailto:SCMA@SoCalScanner.com)

All the membership will thank you.

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

**TO:**