



SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA MONITORING ASSOCIATION



"In God We Trust – All Others We Monitor"

VOLUME 24 ISSUE 1 JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2012 EDITOR Rick Di Fiore. LA-101 / WA6KFI

Serving The Scanner Monitoring Community Since 1988 – Formally RCMA West Los Angeles Chapter

HAPPY
NEW
YEAR!
2012



INSIDE THIS EDITION...

SCMA CLUB News ■ Pasadena Police Department Goes Digital! ■ Motorola Solutions Takes full Ownership of Vertex Standard ■ NYC Mayor Announces Completion of 911 Overhaul ■ FCC Tech, Police Nab Radio Pirate ■ D.C. Reporters Fight to Access Police Radio Changes ■ Arcadia Police Department Many Problems with Dodge Chargers ■ Rapper Denies Tweet That Tied Up L.A. Comm. Center ■ Forum NXDN Maximizes UHF Non-Standard Offset Frequencies Decision ■ Monthly Hot Sheet



The Monitoring Post

Official Newsletter of the S.C.M.A.



SCMA CLUB NEWS!

From: **Rick Di Fiore, LA-101**

Hello and Happy New Years,

Well as we start our new year the club is looking better than it has in a few years, thanks to many of you who care about the club. As I always say "what you put in the club...is what you'll get out of it!" I was talking to fellow club member and good friend of mine Ross Benson, LA-191, who is a fire photographer for Burbank Fire Department and he is setting up some club tours for Verdugo Fire Communications Center, Burbank Airport Fire Services and Burbank Fire Department for us this year. Also Lance Ordin, LA-115, is setting up tours of L.A.P.D. ASTRO Division (aka: Air Support) and Culver City Police Department for later this year. Just a reminder that many of you need to renew your club membership...it \$20.00 a year or \$150.00 for Lifetime, make sure to see Rich, LA-104, to get your membership stuff taken care of ASAP! A new type of ID Card will be showed off so and all members will receive them once your all paid up. Please remember to get your ID Card because no club ID Card no tour, all members must ID when on these tours. OK now, take care of business at the February meeting so you don't miss out on the action. Well that's it for now and I hope to see everyone at the next meeting. **February 8th, 2012** at the Grinder's Restaurant like always.

Best of Monitoring, 73's...Rick, LA-101/WA6KFI



PASADENA POLICE DEPARTMENT

PPD HAS GONE "DIGITAL"

From: [Code 2 High.com](http://Code2High.com)

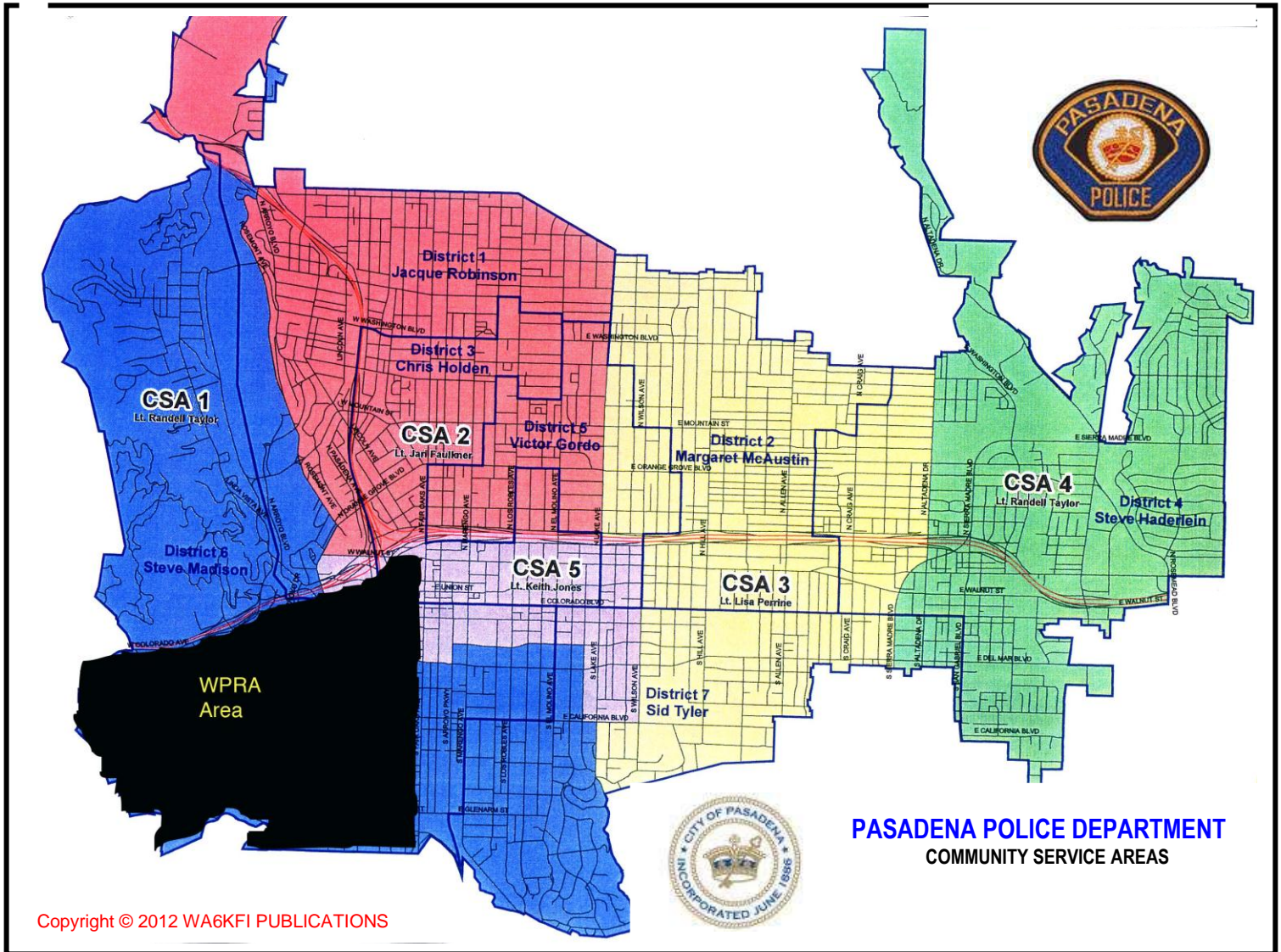
As of January 7th, 2012, the Pasadena Police Department's radio communications have switched from analog to digital, preventing media outlets and radio enthusiasts from monitoring police calls. The police department will make its \$7 million leap forward from analog to encrypted digital transmission of radio conversations is a move city officials insisted was not about security but safety. Aided by cell phone advances that in terms of technology – change every few months, criminals are monitoring police activity constantly. And while police seek privacy in switching to digital transmission of their conversations, doing so will hinder the work of journalists. Meanwhile, a digital revolution of sorts is underway in law enforcement, with agencies from Pomona to the Pacific Ocean adopting new radio technology. And as they do, many news agencies will be at least temporarily left in the dark. Pasadena City officials promised to come up with a plan to arm area media outlets with digitally equipped scanners. Pasadena officials said they will likely replicate the plan used in Orange County, where news outlets and law enforcement agencies enter into agreements to lease or receive the scanners on loan. While California requires government bodies to operate openly under the scrutiny of the press and the general public, police departments are not required to make the same concession when it comes to radio transmissions. The new digital radio system works much like a cell phone. A computer system assigns a frequency to a radio in the field and switches that frequency assignment as traffic on the entire system increases or as the officer moves across the coverage area. In short, more people can talk along a narrower spectrum of bandwidth. By April 1st, the Pasadena departments of Public Works, Water and Power and Code Enforcement will have adopted the new encrypted system. The Pasadena Fire Department will not adopt a fully encrypted system, as the department works closely with other agencies that have not gone digital. In the Bay Area, the new radio systems have been crippled by cell phone jamming equipment, proof that the system is not foolproof.





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Motorola Solutions Takes Full Ownership of Vertex Standard LMR

Motorola Solutions is taking full ownership of the Vertex Standard LMR business. The effective date for the reorganization will be Jan. 1, 2012. Motorola Solutions previously owned 80 percent of the company. "There is no change for Motorola Solutions customers and partners," said Tama McWhinney, corporate communications, Motorola Solutions. "Vertex Standard LMR products will continue to be available through the normal Vertex Standard channels." Jun Hasegawa, president and CEO of Vertex Standard, announced the corporate reorganization. "After four years of joint venture with Motorola, we have decided to transfer the Vertex Standard LMR business to Motorola and focus on Amateur, Marine and Air-band business," he said in a letter to customers. Vertex Standard will once again be Yaesu Musen; a name business partners have been familiar with for over 50 years, Hasegawa said.



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Forum: NXDN Maximizes UHF Nonstandard Offset Frequencies Decision

The chair of the NXDN Forum highlighted an FCC decision earlier this year that approved an industry-proposed change in narrowband licensing for non-standard offset frequencies in the UHF band. The FCC recently permitted the use of two, 6.25-kilohertz channels using 4-kilohertz emissions in a single 12.5-kilohertz channel for exclusive, trunked facilities, initially in the UHF band. NXDN technology provides this added spectrum efficiency, and the licensing regulations are now in place as well, the forum said. "This new decision, reached after 20 months of discussion and evaluation by the Land Mobile Communications Council (LMCC) and related parties, now allows the full potential for NXDN to provide extra capacity to trunked land mobile systems users going forward," said a forum statement. Discussions for the VHF band on a similar rulemaking are still ongoing. With less than a year until the 2013 deadline for end users to implement narrowbanding, NXDN is positioned to provide a number of total systems solutions for narrowbanding requirements, forum officials said.



ARCADIA POLICE DEPARTMENT Many Problems with New Dodge Chargers



The Arcadia Police Department has been experiencing many problems with the Dodge Charger patrol units. The patrol vehicles have had many engine problems that have resulted in engines being replaced prematurely. Additionally, other mechanical problems have had an impact on the vehicle maintenance budget. Therefore it is the recommendation of both the Police Chief and Public Works Services Director that the city move away from the Dodge Chargers and look into purchasing Chevy Caprice patrol vehicles. This will take place starting in fiscal year 2012–2013.

NYC MAYOR ANNOUNCES COMPLETION OF 911 OVERHALL

In a press conference yesterday **New York City** mayor **Michael Bloomberg** announced completion of major improvements to the city's 911 and public safety radio systems, and said the city is now at work on a back-up facility for the communications center to ensure total reliability. "We now have all of the City's emergency response agencies in one place and on the same system," Bloomberg told reporters, "with state-of-the-art technology that can handle the large number of calls we see during big emergencies," Bloomberg said. He appeared at the city's MetroTech Center public safety answering point (PSAP) to say that 911 calls are now answered within 10 seconds 98 percent of the time, and the VESTA telephone system has been tested to handle up to 50,000 calls per hour, about 40 times the normal volume. The city began the latest upgrade project in 2004 after reviewing operations during the September 11th terrorist attacks. The back-up center in the Bronx should be completed in 2015, Bloomberg said, and will be able to fully support dispatching functions.

FCC TECH, POLICE NAB RADIO PIRATE

A Federal Communications Commission (FCC) technician tracked down a man making pirate radio transmissions on a **Las Vegas** (Nev.) Metro Police frequency last February, and police confronted him with the radio still in his hand. Now, besides narcotics charges and a warrant, **Estevan Gutierrez** faces a \$25,000 fine from the FCC for broadcasting on 159.150 MHz without a license. In a "Notice of Apparent Liability" posted yesterday, the FCC says a San Diego (Calif.) FCC field agent assisted in finding Gutierrez, who police say made 400 transmissions in a single day. Gutierrez would threaten officers and dispatchers, make phony calls for help and otherwise interfered with transmissions so police had to use an alternate channel. On the first day the FCC tech used direction-finding gear in a vehicle to track Gutierrez as he moved around the city making harassing radio transmissions. The next day, the FCC tech determined Gutierrez was no longer moving, and narrowed his location to near University and 7th St. By driving the area, the tech was able to pinpoint a specific duplex, and police moved in. But Gutierrez fled police by climbing into the attic, and then breaking into the adjacent residence. Police used pepper spray to flush him out and take him into custody. The FCC says Gutierrez was using an Icom IC-F50 model portable radio programmed to transmit on 159.150 MHz to make the transmissions. [Download \(pdf\) the full FCC notice and read the story of Gutierrez's capture, how the FCC arrived at the \\$25,000 amount, and their commission's interpretation of "willful and malicious" when assessing Gutierrez's guilt.](#)



D.C. REPORTERS FIGHT TO ACCESS POLICE RADIO CHANNELS

By: J.C. Derrick

Members of the local Washington, D.C., news media say they are pushing back against the city police department's new policy to encrypt radio communications, which prevents them from learning about breaking news as it unfolds. On Wednesday, city officials met with members of the media, including news directors from local television and radio stations, the Associated Press and *The Washington Post* to discuss the encryption policy, which took effect Sept. 15. Under the new policy, the media will not be able to monitor police and dispatch chatter on radios, said police communications director Gwendolyn Crump. The media organizations were instead encouraged to sign up for a program wherein they are paged when "serious crimes" occur, she added.

Metropolitan Police Chief Cathy Lanier attributed the new policy to technology advancements. According to WAMU-FM, she has said the development of mobile phone applications allow criminals to easily listen to police communication, thus putting officers at risk. Lanier, Fire Chief Kenneth Ellerbe and members of Mayor Vincent Gray's staff were among those on hand Wednesday to hear the concerns. "Members of the media made it clear to the administration that we feel this is a public safety issue," said Mitchell Miller, the assistant news and program director for WTOP who attended the meeting. "When a radio station like WTOP is able to put over the air in real time what is happening on major downtown streets in the nation's capital, it benefits not only the people who are listening to our radio station, but arguably law enforcement as it tries to take care of the situation." Miller also pointed out that officers have always had the ability to encrypt certain channels to shield sensitive communication. The two sides are planning to meet again in two weeks. In the meantime, Miller said the news media will meet to discuss ideas that could lead to an agreement with the city.

Tom Sherwood of NBC4 said the media's complaints are for the benefit of the public, not only journalists. "It's not just accommodating business, but community leaders like to listen to what is going on in their neighborhoods, senior citizens like to listen to what's going on in their neighborhoods. It's about public access," Sherwood said. According to Lon Walls, spokesman for the D.C. Fire & EMS Department, the fire department is not currently encrypting its communication due to the less sensitive nature of its work. But "that could easily change," he said. "The security issue for the (Metropolitan Police Department) is much greater in terms of the whereabouts of the criminals and the bad guys." The news organizations would have appreciated the opportunity to have input before the decision to encrypt radio communication was made, Miller said. He used the example of a major Metro problem, or closed street as examples of the kind of up-to-the-minute information useful to responsible journalists.

"We never take information we get from a scanner and immediately throw it on the air," he said. "It's more of a guide to help us know what types of things we're going to need to follow up to report."

RAPPER DENIES TWEET THAT TIES UP L.A. COMM. CENTER

The **Los Angeles County (Calif.) Sheriff** has requested the district attorney consider criminal charges after one of its stations was flooded with telephone calls last Friday from fans of rapper **Game**, who sent a Tweet from his cellular phone urging fans to call several telephone numbers to apply for a music internship. One of those phone numbers was a non-emergency number for the Compton sheriff's station, which fields administrative phone calls for the district. Emergency calls are handled by a separate comm center and were not affected by the incident. In a press release, the LASO says it began receiving "hundreds" of phone calls at about 5:23 p.m. from some of Game's 580,000 Twitter followers. The callers either hung up or asked about the music internship. "There were so many phone calls that all of the many phone lines were overwhelmed," the press release said. "Delays in providing help included a missing person, a spousal assault, two robberies and a stolen car."

Capt. Mike Parker said it's unknown how many callers with actual emergencies might have called the station but were unable to reach someone. By questioning callers station personnel determined the source of the calls, and then immediately Tweeted Game to have him delete the sheriff's office phone number. Capt. Parker said there was no response to the request. "By about 8:00 p.m. the calls tapered off to the point that desk deputies and dispatchers could handle the call volume without impeding public safety," Parker said. In response to reporters's inquiries, Game said he did not send the Tweet. Instead, an associate used Game's phone to accidentally post the Tweet while Game was at a photo shoot. The sheriff's office is pursuing charges of making annoying or harassing phone calls via an electronic device—653m(b) PC, delaying or obstructing peace officers in the performance of their duties—148(a)(1) PC, and knowingly and maliciously disrupting or impeding communications over a public safety radio frequency—148(a)(2) PC.



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THE HOT SHEET

This edition we look at "Radio Codes" and "Slang" used by are local Law Enforcement agencies, I hope this helps some of you with your monitoring. Some of this is from the 2012 Code 3 Scanner Guide that will be coming out very soon!

Orange County Sheriffs Department (**OCSD**) California Highway Patrol (**CHP**) Los Angeles Police Department (**LAPD**)
 Los Angeles County Sheriffs Department (**LASO**) Riverside County Sheriffs Department (**RCSD**)
 San Bernardino County Sheriffs Department (**SBSD**) San Diego County Sheriffs Department (**SDSD**)

We need radio code information for San Bernardino County Sheriffs and Riverside County Sheriffs Department.

CODE	USAGE	OCSD	CHP	LAPD	LASO	RCSD	SCSD	SDCD
CODE - 1	Acknowledge this radio call.			■	■			
CODE - 1	Respond at your convenience.		■					
CODE - 1	Routine...take this call next.	■						
CODE - 1B	Clear your MDT buffer.				■			
CODE - 1M	Monitor your MDT.				■			
CODE - 2	Proceed at once...No siren.	■		■				
CODE - 3	Proceed with Red lights and Siren!	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
CODE - 4	No further assistance required.	■	■	■	■			■
CODE - 4A	No further assistance required, but suspect is not in custody.			■				
CODE - 4A	Situation is not secure; however, there are sufficient units at the location.				■			
CODE - 4A	No further Assistance needed...Suspect at large in the area.	■						
CODE - 4I	No further action needed, information only.				■			
CODE - 4N	No assistance needed. No evidence of crime at location.				■			
CODE - 5	Stake Out...Uniformed officers stay away.	■	■	■				■
CODE - 5	Stake Out...All units stay away unless in response to an emergency call.				■			
CODE - 5P	Information Only, an LASD vehicle pursuit is approaching or in the station area. Response is not requested nor authorized at this time.				■			
CODE - 6	On Investigation.	■	■	■	■			
CODE - 6	Remain clear of area (marked units).							■
CODE - 6A	On Investigation, assistance may be required.			■				
CODE - 6C	Subject is wanted and dangerous.			■				
CODE - 6G	Investigation gang activity.			■				
CODE - 6M	Investigation militant activity.			■				
CODE - 7	Out for Service for meal break.	■	■	■	■			■
CODE - 7B	Out for Service for meal break at home.		■					
CODE - 8	Fire Alarm.			■	■			
CODE - 8	Request Cover / Back-up.		■					
CODE - 8	Restroom break.							■
CODE - 9	Pre-Stop Coordination.				■			
CODE - 9	Jail Break!	■						
CODE - 9	Set up roadblock.		■					
CODE - 9	Summer uniform.							■
CODE - 10	Request clear frequency.			■				
CODE - 10	Bomb Threat.		■					
CODE - 10	Tactical Alert!							■
CODE - 11	Tactical Staging Location.							■



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CODE	USAGE	OCSO	CHP	LAPD	LASO	RCSD	SBSD	SDSD
CODE - 12	False Alarm.			■				
CODE - 12	Notify News Media.		■					
CODE - 12	High Risk Warrant Service.							■
CODE - 12	Patrol your assigned disaster and report extent of disaster damage.	■						
CODE - 13	Perform major disaster duties.	■						
CODE - 14	Resume normal operations.				■			
CODE - 14	Resume normal operations (used only in conjunction with codes 12 and 13).	■						
CODE - 14	Dive Team Call Out.							■
CODE - 20	Notify news media to respond.	■	■	■	■			
CODE - 20	Officer needs assistance.		■					
CODE - 20D	Request departmental photographer.	■						
CODE - 22	Restricted radio traffic.		■					
CODE - 30	Burglar Alarm.			■				
CODE - 30	Officer needs help...Emergency!		■					
CODE - 30A	Burglar Alarm...Voice heard.			■				
CODE - 30R	Burglar Alarm...Ringing Alarm.			■				
CODE - 30V	Burglar Alarm...Visual verification!			■				
CODE - 33	Clear Radio for Emergency Traffic!		■					
CODE - 37	Vehicle is reported stolen.			■				
CODE - 37M	Subject Wanted (Misdemeanor)							■
CODE - 37F	Subject Wanted (Felony)							■
CODE - 37T	Subject Wanted (Traffic)							■
CODE - 70	May remove tie if wearing a vest.		■					
CODE - 77	Possible ambush...Use caution.				■			
CODE - 77N	No answer at call back...Use caution.				■			
CODE - 83	Explosion at...		■					
CODE - 84	Hazardous Materials Incident.		■					
CODE - 96	No responsible party available.		■					
CODE - 99	Emergency situation...Emergency button on radio has been depressed. No voice contact.	■						
CODE - 100	In position to intercept.							
CODE - 999	Emergency...Officer needs Help!		■					

CODE "ALPHA"								
CODE "BLUE"	Bus / Taxi in Trouble.							■
CODE "ROBERT"	When an employee needs an Urban Police Rifle (UPR) or Shotgun Slug Ammunition (SSA), the officer shall broadcast the unit designation, location, and "Code Robert Slug".			■				
CODE "TOM"	When an officer needs a TASER, the officer shall broadcast the unit designation, location and "Code Tom".			■				