

**MINUTES OF THE EIGHTEENTH MEETING OF THE
PUBLIC SAFETY NATIONAL COORDINATION COMMITTEE**

Date/Time: Friday, November 22, 2002; Meeting commenced approximately 9:45 A.M.

Address: Fire Department of New York City Headquarters
9 MetroTech Center
Brooklyn, New York 11201

Attendees: See attached list

Convening of Meeting. Michael Wilhelm, Designated Federal Officer for the National Coordination Committee (NCC), called to order the eighteenth meeting of the NCC. He explained that he would preside at the meeting at the request of Kathleen Wallman, NCC Chairperson, who had a conflicting obligation and could not attend the meeting.

Presentation by Stephen Souder. Stephen Souder, Director of Montgomery County, Maryland, Emergency Communications, gave a presentation on interoperability issues in Maryland, Virginia, and the District of Columbia regarding the recent sniper incidents. He said there was an unprecedented cooperative law-enforcement effort spanning 22 days. Montgomery County was assisted by other county police and sheriff departments, the FBI, ATF, the U.S. Marshal Service, Department of Defense, and the U.S. Secret Service. He termed the sniper manhunt a “ghost hunt” because it was not known if the sniper suspects were male or female, old or young, *etc.* The Montgomery County police department operates a 490 MHz communications system, and the county is on the brink of moving to a new 800 MHz radio system, designed with “97-95” coverage, *i.e.*, satisfactory coverage at 97 percent of locations in the county, 95 percent of the time. Mr. Souder said that, because many federal agencies do not operate at 800 MHz, whereas most local Washington, DC-area law enforcement agencies do, the challenge for an effective sniper task force use was interoperable communications. He said the county patched its new 800 MHz radio system -- used only in test-mode by Montgomery County -- to its 490 MHz police radio system for the dispatcher to communicate on both 490 MHz and 800 MHz. Also, while the county was not yet ready to activate the 800 MHz system, the patch nevertheless was made with prompt vendor support within several days, and about 250 county 800 MHz portable radios were distributed to allied agencies. This was the second time the radios were distributed before a Montgomery County officer ever operated on them, because these same radios had been distributed by Montgomery County to Arlington County, Virginia, after the September 11th Pentagon attack. He stated communication with allied agencies was achieved by assigning them two of the county’s talk groups and making them immediately monitorable at task force headquarters, established at the Montgomery County Police Department headquarters. A control set was placed at task force headquarters, to which federal agencies communicated if they were not talking among themselves. Because the federal agencies received the 800 MHz radios, they could communicate both among themselves and through the patch to county personnel at the command post. Mr. Souder said some lessons learned were the need to establish an independent telephone tip center for callers to call rather than the regular police telephone number. He also emphasized that agencies must have the ability to quickly enter tip data into a database that will be more manageable than that which is created by Computer Aided Dispatch.

At the conclusion of Mr. Souder’s presentation, he responded to questions from Steve Proctor and John Powell by saying about 7,000 tips came into the tip line and that about 1,700 were very credible. Unlike the response to the Pentagon attack, there were fewer instances of unneeded agencies arriving and causing interoperability difficulties.

Introduction of Steering Committee Members. Mr. Wilhelm introduced the following NCC Steering Committee members present: Bob Lee, Chuck Jackson, Marilyn Ward, Tim Loewenstein, Harlin McEwen, Steve Proctor, and Ernie Hofmeister. Mr. Wilhelm also introduced Don Speights, representing NTIA, which is an NCC sponsor, and Wayne Leland, as alternate for Mr. Jackson.

Presentation by Kathleen O'Brien-Ham. Kathleen O'Brien-Ham, Deputy Chief of the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, FCC, gave a PowerPoint presentation entitled *Public Safety Communications – A Wireless Telecommunications Bureau Perspective*. Her presentation was divided into the following eight areas:

- **Public Safety Spectrum.** A list showing public safety frequency bands (totaling over 90 MHz of spectrum).
- **Interoperability Efforts.** The NCC was established in 1998 by the Commission because it strongly believed there was an opportunity to develop interoperability in the 700 MHz band. The FCC set aside channels in the 800 MHz band and the refarming bands below 512 MHz for interoperable use.
- **Public Safety at 700 MHz.** Two recent decisions impacting on transition to digital TV: Congress in June, 2002, passed the Auction Reform Act of 2002, curtailing the Commission's ability to grant waivers in spectrum adjacent to the public safety channels (*i.e.*, FCC ability to allow band clearing could be curtailed in many cases); and in August, 2002, the FCC mandated digital tuners in new television sets by 2007.
- **800 MHz Rule Making Proceeding.** In April 2000, the FCC initiated an industry/public safety/FCC task force regarding interference problems in the 800 MHz band. A *Best Practices Guide* was developed to respond to some of these cases. *Project 39*, an initiative developed by APCO, also has made efforts in this area. In November 2001, Nextel filed a "White Paper" with the FCC proposing reconfiguration of the 800 MHz band. The Commission then issued a notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM) in March, 2002; in connection with a comprehensive review of the 800 MHz interference problems to public safety systems. The initial pleading cycle closed in August, 2002. Ms. O'Brien-Ham showed a depiction of the 800 MHz band and said some interference issues relate to interleaved spectrum used by public safety and some Nextel operations. A "Consensus Plan" by 17 parties proposing 800 MHz re-banding was filed on August 7, 2002, and put on public notice. The "Consensus parties" promised a supplemental filing before Thanksgiving. A depiction of the Consensus Plan was shown.
- **4.9 GHz Rule Making Proceeding.** The FCC designated 50 MHz of spectrum at 4.9 GHz in February, 2002, for use in support of public safety and released a NPRM on license and service rules. Motorola and others want to develop equipment in the band, which is adjacent to U.S. Navy operations.
- **Intelligent Transportation Systems Rule Making Proceeding.** On November 15, 2002, the Commission released a NPRM involving 75 MHz of spectrum in the 5.9 GHz band, and tentatively concluded that the primary use of this spectrum should be for public safety. The band is dedicated for short-range communications. Ms. Ham showed the band plan proposal, recommended by the Department of Transportation.
- **Balanced Budget Act Rule Making Proceeding.** This proceeding deals with, among other matters, the question of how to achieve more efficiency in the spectrum below 512 MHz, *i.e.*, how to migrate to 12.5 and 6.25 kHz technology with respect to the FCC's Part 90 licensees, including public safety. A Report & Order is expected very shortly.
- **"For More Information"**. A FCC website list for the Homeland Security Policy Council, the Spectrum Policy Task Force, the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, the Audit of Spectrum Below 512 MHz, and *Best Practices Guide*.

At the conclusion of Ms. O'Brien-Ham's presentation, Robert Schlieman, New York State, said the FCC apparently has not heeded the concerns of NPSTC, TIA, and others regarding potential interference in the public safety 700 MHz band by CMRS licensees. Ms. O'Brien-Ham responded that FCC experts believe that, based on the band configuration and technical rules, public safety systems will be protected. Steve Devine, State of Missouri, commented that the public safety community wants the traditional "public safety" definition used in the rules for the 4.9 GHz spectrum. Marilyn Ward, as a follow-up to Mr. Schlieman, said that if the Commission does not re-visit the 700 MHz interference issue, appeals probably will be made to Congressional representatives.

Presentation by John Oblak. John Oblak, Chief Engineer at E.F. Johnson, Chairman of the Telecommunications Industries Association (TIA) TR-8.1 Subcommittee on Measurements, and Chairman of the TR-8 Engineering Committee for Private Radio, and representing TIA at the meeting, gave a PowerPoint presentation titled *TIA Wideband Data Standards Status Update* for the 700 MHz band. Since the last meeting, three documents critical to the interoperability standards and crucial in the wideband common air interface have been completed and published by TIA: the Wideband Data MAC/RLA Layer standard, the Wideband Data SAM Radio Channel Coding, and the Wideband Data Logical Link Control. He also said two documents, the Wideband Data Transceiver Measurement Methods and the Wideband Data Performance Recommendations for

Transceivers, have just gone into the ballot phase, and he anticipated they are ready to close ballot within the next week or so. Mr. Oblak stated there have been some disappointments: the schedule for three documents has slipped. Specifically, the Wideband Data Mobility Management Layer and the Packet Data Specification Plan documents probably will not be balloted until the next TIA meetings in January, and will not be approved until the April, 2003, meeting. Likewise, the Text Messaging Service Proposal Plan, which is in the drafting phases, is targeted for ballot in the April, 2003, meeting. Mr. Oblak believed the entire wideband data standard could be completed by April, 2003.

At the conclusion of Mr. Oblak's presentation, there were comments by Ernie Hofmeister, Glen Nash as Chairman of the NCC's Technology Subcommittee, Wayne Leland of Motorola and TIA, and Michael Wilhelm involving aggregating 50 kHz channels to form 100 kHz and 150 kHz wideband interoperability channels. Mr. Oblak said that standards for the 100 kHz and 150 kHz channels would have to await the development of user requirements for those channels.

Nicholas Scoppetta. Mr. Wilhelm said Nicholas Scoppetta, Fire Commissioner of the City of New York, was scheduled to speak to the NCC, but his staff earlier this morning said he was called away on urgent business and sent his regrets.

Presentation by SmartLink. Colin McWay, President of Smartlink Development Network, Inc. (SmartLink), gave an overview of the company. SmartLink about ten years ago began developing a frequency and protocol transparent real-time networking device. Bob Stone, SmartLink's Chief Architect of Technology, said SmartLink provides a solution for public safety, providing both *ad hoc* and pre-determined interoperability among various radio channels and formats. It can accept communications from a variety of trunking and conventional radios on the full spectrum of frequencies and network them into a larger template to communicate with radios on other bands, thereby providing interoperability. He said SmartLink also accommodates other resources, such as dispatch and telephone circuits. He added that the SmartLink system is a star network, relying on a centralized switching center and providing a smaller switching system at each site, which then connects the individual radio channels. He stated that the system is fully digital; although it can work with analog transmissions, digital operation is preferred for a number of reasons. Bob Fey, SmartLink's Director of Field Operations, said that by being frequency-transparent and protocol-agile, SmartLink can accommodate public safety's legacy systems today and provide the foundation for migration to newer technologies as either technology moves forward or funding becomes available.

At the conclusion of SmartLink's presentation, there were questions and comments from Harlin McEwen, Glen Nash, and John Powell; Messrs. Fey and Stone responded.

Richard Sheirer. Mr. Wilhelm said Richard Scheirer, of Giuliani Partners and former Director of the Mayor's Office of Emergency Management, New York City, was scheduled to address the NCC today but had to fly to Los Angeles at the Mayor's request and could not be at the meeting.

(A break was taken at approximately 12:05 p.m., with the meeting resuming at approximately 12:20 p.m.)

Subcommittee Reports. Mr. Wilhelm indicated readiness for the subcommittee reports.

Report of the Interoperability Subcommittee. John Powell, Subcommittee Chair, reported on the previous day's Subcommittee meeting. He said new information was presented which led to Subcommittee support for two corrections to prior Subcommittee recommendations made to the Steering Committee. The Subcommittee recommended:

- That the Network Access Code (NAC) for the Project 25 standard on the public safety interoperability channels be changed from NAC code \$61 to \$293, because \$293 is the default code that is shipped with equipment from the factory when no other code is specified.
- That the six channels restricted to 50 kHz operation be changed such that they fall within both TV

channels 63, 64, 68, and 69. Thus, wideband public safety channels 46, 47, 48, 73, 74, and 75 would be restricted nationwide to 50 kHz operation without aggregation. Additionally, two channels in each sub-band (channels 46, 48, 73, and 75) should be identified in the FCC's Table of Allocations as 50 kHz Nationwide Common interoperability channels. Aggregation up to 150 kHz would be allowed on the remaining wideband interoperability channel sets.

Mr. Powell also proffered the following Subcommittee recommendations for consideration:

- That the Commission consider converting one additional low-band interoperability frequency for interoperability use by the fire service so that there is a pair of channels in low band, one each for fire and one for police.
- That channel names for each of the nearly 100 associated interoperability channels be designated per the recommended nomenclature convention submitted by the Subcommittee.

The Steering Committee members present, having received from Mr. Powell documents setting forth the recommendations, reached consensus that all of the above recommendations from the Interoperability Subcommittee should be forwarded to the Commission as NCC recommendations.

Technology Subcommittee. Glen Nash, Subcommittee Chair, reported on the previous day's Subcommittee meeting. He presented a document pertaining to public safety system signal levels for both urban and rural/suburban environments. The recommendation for urban areas was a five-mile buffer, and the recommendation for rural/suburban areas was a three-mile buffer. Included was a recommendation that the Regional Planning Committees (RPCs) should determine whether an area falls within the rural/suburban or the urban designation. He stated that the document required some language and format changes and that he would submit the final document to the Steering Committee for review. Mr. Nash also reported that TIA is in the process of modifying the TIA 102 (Project 25) standard relative to automatic frequency control. The change was deemed necessary to comply with Commission standards for frequency tolerance in mobile and portable radios.

The Steering Committee members present reached a consensus that the document presented by Mr. Nash be approved and Mr. Nash was given editorial privileges. The Steering Committee also reached a consensus that the NCC should recommend that the revised TIA 102 standard should be incorporated into the Rules at such time as the revised standard is published by TIA.

Mr. Nash also mentioned that the Subcommittee continues to look for a loading standard for the wideband data channels and that Sean O'Hara from New York has volunteered to try to deal with this matter. According to Mr. Nash, the problem is to determine the quantity of data that must be sent and at what speed.

Implementation Subcommittee. Ted Dempsey, Subcommittee Chair, reported on the previous day's Subcommittee meeting. He said Tom Tolman had provided Version Two of the guide book prepared by NPSTC to assist RPCs in developing their 700 MHz Regional Plans, and that these guide books would be distributed to the RPCs. Mr. Dempsey indicated there was discussion concerning distributing additional sets of documents to the State Interoperability Executive Committees (SIECs). Saying there was significant discussion at yesterday's Subcommittee meeting regarding Commission inaction on the Region 5 700 MHz Regional Plan, Mr. Dempsey presented a draft letter from the NCC Chair to the Chairman of the FCC, requesting expedited review and approval of the Region 5 700 MHz Regional Plan.

Steering Committee members Timothy Loewenstein and Marilyn Ward recommended that the letter be sent. Mr. Wilhelm indicated that, in his capacity as acting NCC Chair, he recommended that the NCC not send such a letter unless 30 days elapsed without the FCC taking action on the Region 5 plan. The Steering Committee agreed with this recommendation. Mr. McEwen emphasized that the relevant issue was that the FCC Chairman should direct FCC staff to deal with the matter in a timely matter. Mr. Wilhelm said the Steering Committee would be kept informed about the matter by the list server.

Other Matters. Marilyn Ward expressed concern that low-power television stations in Florida are being authorized on 700 MHz public safety spectrum, contrary to the public safety community's understanding about clearing broadcasters from this spectrum. John Powell, as Chair of the Interoperability Subcommittee, and Glen Nash, representing the State of California, also expressed their concerns that, even though such TV stations are secondary, viewer complaints would arise if the then-entrenched low-power stations were ordered off the air when public safety operations began. Curt Knight, State of Arizona, also agreed with this concern. Mr. Wilhelm indicated that the FCC staff would investigate the matter and report the results to the NCC via the list server.

Public Participation/Discussion. Mr. Wilhelm explained that, due to time constraints, the public participation segment of the meeting would be omitted if there were no objection from the audience. There was no objection.

Future NCC Meetings. Mr. Wilhelm pointed out that there is a meeting scheduled on February 20 and 21, 2003, in Washington, D.C. There was consensus that setting a subsequent meeting date should be deferred. In turn, Mr. Wilhelm indicated that future meeting information would be posted on the list server and discussed at the February 20 and 21st meeting.

Close of Meeting. Mr. Wilhelm thanked everyone for attending and the meeting ended at approximately 1:00 p.m.

Prepared by: Bert Weintraub
Attorney Advisor
Public Safety & Private Wireless Division
Wireless Telecommunications Bureau
Federal Communications Commission

Certified as to accuracy:

Michael Wilhelm

Date: _____

NCC ATTENDANCE ROSTER FOR November 22, 2002

<i>Last Name</i>	<i>First Name</i>	<i>Meeting Date</i>
Ahlbaum	M.	November 22, 2002
Ashley	Don	November 22, 2002
Breuninger	Rich	November 22, 2002
Brown	Michael	November 22, 2002
Cabe	Tanessa	November 22, 2002
Calderon	Alex	November 22, 2002
Caldwell	Alan	November 22, 2002
Dempsey	Edward J.	November 22, 2002
Devine	Stephen	November 22, 2002
Eierman	David	November 22, 2002
Funk	David	November 22, 2002
Gallelli	Joe	November 22, 2002
Gerbush	Monty H.	November 22, 2002
Griffin	Fred	November 22, 2002
Hanna	Joe	November 22, 2002
Haraseth	Ron	November 22, 2002
Harte	Steve	November 22, 2002
Hofmeister Dr.	Ernest	November 22, 2002
Ittner	Al	November 22, 2002

Monday, December 09, 2002

Page 1 of 4

<i>Last Name</i>	<i>First Name</i>	<i>Meeting Date</i>
Jackson	Charles	November 22, 2002
Jaliba	Jean-Pierre	November 22, 2002
Jouannelle	Guy	November 22, 2002
Knight	Curt	November 22, 2002
Kuatz	Jack	November 22, 2002
Lee, Jr	Robert E.	November 22, 2002
Leland	Wayne	November 22, 2002
Link, Jr.	Kenneth	November 22, 2002
Loewenstein	Timothy	November 22, 2002
Logan	John	November 22, 2002
Madden	Roger	November 22, 2002
Martinez	Maribel	November 22, 2002
McCoy	Ray	November 22, 2002
McEwen	Harlin	November 22, 2002
Melendez	Felix	November 22, 2002
Melia	Anthony	November 22, 2002
Nash	Glen	November 22, 2002
Oblak	John	November 22, 2002
O'Brien	Tom	November 22, 2002

Monday, December 09, 2002

Page 2 of 4

<i>Last Name</i>	<i>First Name</i>	<i>Meeting Date</i>
O'Brien Ham	Kathleen	November 22, 2002
O'Hara	Sean T.	November 22, 2002
Pickeral, J.D.	David	November 22, 2002
Powell	John	November 22, 2002
Proctor	Steven	November 22, 2002
Rinehart	Bette	November 22, 2002
Rollender	Douglas	November 22, 2002
Ross	Joe	November 22, 2002
Roy	Adam	November 22, 2002
Schlieman	Robert F.	November 22, 2002
Smith	Raymond R.	November 22, 2002
Souder	Steve	November 22, 2002
Speidel Esq.	Robert	November 22, 2002
Speights	Don	November 22, 2002
Stone	R.	November 22, 2002
Tolman	Tom	November 22, 2002
Vogel	Emil	November 22, 2002
Ward	Marilyn	November 22, 2002
Yurman	Joseph	November 22, 2002

Monday, December 09, 2002

Page 3 of 4

Last Name

First Name

Meeting Date

Total for Attendance Roster: 57