



NEWSLINE

Presidential Chat

The past year has been most challenging for us in many respects, especially in regards to the weather we have all experienced. It has brought us too much water or not enough; high temperatures and wind or cold with snow; sleet and often freezing rain.



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The question that goes along with all the differences in the weather patterns is – how have our communications systems held up? What challenges and opportunities have you had to face and how were you able to solve problems and continue to take care of business? Has your system lived up to your mission requirements or have you been found wanting?

What does the future hold in equipment needs for you to do your job? Have you started your migration to narrowband (deadline 1/1/2013)?

Come to Orlando, Florida from September 30- October 3, 2007 for the 58th FCCA National Conference and share your concerns with your peers. (Continued on Page 2)

Third Report and Order — 12.5/6.25 kHz Narrowbanding

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has adopted a Third Report and Order (Order) that declines, for now, to establish a fixed date for private land mobile radio (PLMR) systems in the 150-174 MHz and 421-512 MHz bands to transition to 6.25 kHz narrowband technology, but strongly urges licensees to consider migrating directly to 6.25 kHz technology rather than first adopting 12.5 kHz technology and later migrating to 6.25 kHz technology. The Order also revises the implementation date of the 6.25 kHz equipment certification rules from January 1, 2005 to January 1, 2011. There are no accepted industry standards for 6.25 kHz technology, which would be a bar to interoperability. Further, 6.25 kHz technology is not mature enough to warrant setting a migration schedule. The FCC reiterated, however, that it will expeditiously establish a schedule for transition to 6.25 kHz narrowband technology once the technology matures to the point that sufficient equipment is available for testing.

(Continued on Page 2)

Special points of interest:

- FCCA Annual Conference Sept. 29-Oct. 4, 2007 Orlando FL
- FCC releases Second Report Order Concerning 700 MHz
- Public Safety Spectrum Trust Corp. Formed

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See how others have dealt with their opportunities or the challenges they have faced so you don't have to find out the hard way at a cost of time and money to solve the same issues.

The Florida State Forester, Michael Long (Past President FCCA) will be the welcoming speaker at Monday's breakfast. Ira Jolly, Fire Supervisor of Florida, will speak on the large fires they've had over the past few years and the challenges and successes they have experienced with their communication systems.

One of the greatest benefits of our conference is the networking that goes on and

the training provided by our vendors and the FCCA. Mark your calendar and come to Orlando to build your network and expand your knowledge base.

P.S. The FCCA Frequency Coordinators are here to help – so please do not hesitate to give us a chance to do your radio frequency coordination. We think you will be most pleased with the services and experience of our team.

Paul



*One of the greatest benefits of our conference is the networking, and the training provided by our vendors.
~~~ Paul.*

## Third Report and Order—Narrowbanding from page one

The FCC also decided to change the date for the implementation of the 6.25 kHz equipment certification rules from January 1, 2005 to January 1, 2011, but strongly urges licensees to consider migrating directly to 6.25 kHz technology by January 1, 2013 rather than first adopting 12.5 kHz technology, deferring the implementation date permits manufacturers to develop and test

equipment after the expected finalization of 6.25 kHz standards in the near future.

Action by the Commission on March 22, 2007 For additional information, contact Scot Stone at (202) 418-0638 or

[http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs\\_public/attachmatch/DOC-271692A1.pdf](http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-271692A1.pdf)

## New Public Safety Bureau at FCC

The FCC's Public Safety & Homeland Security Bureau officially began operations on Monday, September 25, 2006.

This Bureau is responsible for developing, recommending, and administering the agency's policies pertaining to public safety communications issues. These policies include 911 and E911; **operability and interoperability of public safety communications**; communications infrastructure protection and disaster re-

sponse; and network security and reliability. The Bureau also serves as a clearinghouse for public safety communications information and takes the lead on emergency response issues.

The Bureau is organized into three divisions: Policy Division, Public Communications Outreach & Operations Division, and the Communications Systems Analysis Division.

## 700 MHz— 2nd Report and Order

In the 2nd Report and Order, the Federal Communications Commission establishes rules governing wireless licenses in the 698-806 MHz Band (the “700 MHz Band”), that is currently occupied by television broadcasters in TV Channels 52-69. This is available for wireless services as a result of the digital television (“DTV”) transition.



construct a network using its spectrum and spectrum licensed to a **nationwide public safety licensee in a public/private partnership**. The FCC will license the 700 MHz public safety broadband spectrum as a 10-megahertz block under a nationwide geographic area license assigned to the Public Safety Broadband Licensee.

The FCC took two notable actions. First, it created an “open access” requirement for the licensees of the largest blocks of 700 MHz commercial spectrum. The requirement obligates licensees to permit the use of any compatible devices and software on their wireless network. Second, the FCC will license spectrum to a private entity that will be obligated to con-

The Public Safety Broadband Licensee must be a non-profit and must be as broadly representative of the public safety radio user community as possible.

See FCCA Legal Counsel Russell Fox’s Analysis at <http://tinyurl.com/23ofll>

## Public Safety Spectrum Trust Corp. Formed

June 2007, the initial Board of Directors of the Public Safety Spectrum Trust Corporation met to adopt By-laws, elect Officers of the Corporation and voted to expand the Board to 6 additional directors. Nine Public Safety Organizations each designated a person to serve as Director. PSST, a nonprofit corporation hoping to be named the national public-safety licensee in the 700 MHz band will not name an agent/advisor until its board of directors can be reconstituted to meet FCC criteria included in the commission’s recent 700 MHz order. PSST is soliciting companies to serve as its agent and advisor. The FCC has not picked PSST as the trustee of the licenses yet, but PSST is po-

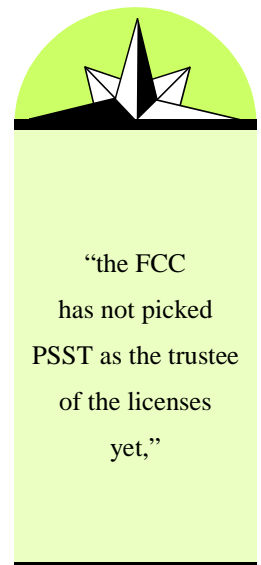
sitioning themselves to be ready if selected. But the commission’s order—approved on July 31 and released on Aug. 10—requires that the public-safety licensee have an 11-member board consisting of representatives from nine designated organizations and two at-large members chosen by FCC bureau chiefs. Of the FCC’s nine designated organizations, six already were represented on the PSST board but three others—the American Association of State Highways and Transportation Officials,

the Forestry Conservation Communications Association (FCCA) and the International Municipal Signal Association (IMSA)—were not included.

Instead, the FCC requires representatives from the International City/County Management Association (ICMA), the National Emergency Number Association (NENA) and the National Governors’ Association (NGA) on the board.. The FCC’s Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau (PSHSB) is required to establish the selection process for the national public-safety licensee by Sept. 10. So far, the PSST is the only organization that publicly has expressed interest in filling this licensee role.

At this time, it appears the FCCA will not have representation on the PSST, but if that changes the FCCA BOD has voted to have Paul Leary, FCCA President as the appointee to the PSST with Ralph Haller, Executive Director as alternate.

For more info see : <http://mrtmag.com>



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**FCCA**

EXCELLENCE IN  
PUBLIC SAFETY  
RADIO  
COMMUNICATIONS

**We're on the web**  
<http://www.fcca-usa.org>

**A Proud History of Excellence in Service**

The FCCA is a national organization that came into being during a meeting of State Foresters and their radio technicians in Washington, D.C. in 1944. For over four decades, we coordinated frequencies within the Forestry – Conservation spectrum. Today, over 50 years later, we continue to coordinate ALL public safety frequencies, including those in the 700 MHz and 800 MHz bands. We provide a full range of radio communications services for forestry and conservation agencies, police, fire EMS and local government.

We encourage our members to become ambassadors for the best use of the radio frequency spectrum. Through active participation, the FCCA will continue to represent public safety professionals to effect positive change!

**FCCA 2007 CONFERENCE SCHEDULE**

|       | Sat Sept 29                                | Sun Sept 30       | Mon Oct 1 | Tue Oct 2 | Wed Oct 3 |
|-------|--------------------------------------------|-------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 7:00  |                                            | 7:00              | 7:00      | 7:00      | 7:00      |
| 7:30  |                                            | 7:30              | 7:30      | 7:30      | 7:30      |
| 8:00  | Regional Coordinators Meeting              | 8:00              | 8:00      | 8:00      | 8:00      |
| 8:30  |                                            | 8:30              | 8:30      | 8:30      | 8:30      |
| 9:00  |                                            | 9:00              | 9:00      | 9:00      | 9:00      |
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| 12:00 |                                            | 12:00             | 12:00     | 12:00     | 12:00     |
| 12:30 | BoD Working Lunch                          | Lunch on your own |           | 12:30     | 12:30     |
| 1:00  |                                            | 1:00              | 1:00      | 1:00      | 1:00      |
| 1:30  |                                            | 1:30              | 1:30      | 1:30      | 1:30      |
| 2:00  |                                            | 2:00              | 2:00      | 2:00      | 2:00      |
| 2:30  | Regional Coordinators Meeting With BoD     | 2:30              | 2:30      | 2:30      | 2:30      |
| 3:00  |                                            | 3:00              | 3:00      | 3:00      | 3:00      |
| 3:30  |                                            | 3:30              | 3:30      | 3:30      | 3:30      |
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| 4:30  |                                            | 4:30              | 4:30      | 4:30      | 4:30      |
| 5:00  | Board & Regional Coordinators Joint Dinner | 5:00              | 5:00      | 5:00      | 5:00      |
| 5:30  |                                            | 5:30              | 5:30      | 5:30      | 5:30      |
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| 10:00 |                                            | 10:00             | 10:00     | 10:00     | 10:00     |