

February 5, 2009 – Radio Assessment, Conference Call.

At 1340 hours we had a conference call with Dirk Young, Paul Crow and Rebecca from MA/COM. Michael Jones, Matt Williamson and myself (Dan Berendt) we present in office.

Chief Jones and myself asked Paul Crow questions about the overall system wide issues with the Milwaukee Open Sky wireless net work. Paul stated that MA/COM had people on site and that he was coming to Milwaukee next week (Feb. 10 & 11). The on-site people had been working on the towers to “improve performance coverage” He said that this work should be completed by sometime next week. He said that they were working on the antennas on the towers. He said it was his understanding that the MPD would then go completely live with the Open Sky system in a 2 or 3 weeks. This Open Sky radio system would go live in the MPD Neighborhood Task Force (NTF); however he said that with the retirement of Sam Steffan he did not know if that was exactly how it was going to work. When asked more questions concerning the performance of the radio system Paul Crow made these statements. That they are required by contract to provide a radio system that has 95% coverage though out the system. He stated that a “Drive Test” was conducted and that the system passed this test. He said that a “Drive Test” consists of testing the system with specialized equipment. He said that when the radios were issued to the MPD (NTF) that they then had “two way performance issues”. When the radios were placed on the police officers hips, they did not pass.

We then questioned Dirk Young about the performance of the 25 test radios that we had received from the Police radio shop. We expressed our disappointment in the performance of these radios with respect to the following issues that we had operating the radios the previous day.

1. That there were still echo and feedback issues with these radios when utilizing a lapel microphone, and that Dirk had stated in November that these radios should not have that problem.
2. We explained that we felt the radios were breaking up during transmission and reception. Dirk said that the above two issues may not be able to be fully resolved until the fine tuning and performance issues related to the overall system were resolved.
3. We also questioned them about the low volume on radios without lapel microphones. Dirk stated that this could be changed in the “Base File”. I asked if this required us to take the radios back to the police radio shop or whether this could be accomplished over the air. Dirk and Paul said they weren’t exactly sure how this could or would be done.

Chief Jones then asked about New York State cancellation of their Open Sky contract and whether they would like to comment on that. Chief Jones also asked how that was going to effect there company and how that effected the City of Milwaukee. Dirk stated that it would have no impact and that Tyco Electronics was vigorously defending themselves concerning New York and he stated that MA/COM had met their obligations. When asked what other cities they were working with: Dirk stated that they were installing a system in Oakland County Michigan, and Las Vegas Metro Police Department. Rebecca stated that MA/COM installed a state-wide wireless system in Pennsylvania and that it is working.

Dirk then asked us if we would try the modified microphones that we had been issued late last year. We said we would. He then also stated that he would be here in Milwaukee next week (Feb. 10 & 11) the telephone conference then ended at approximately 1410 hours.