



San Diego County Fire Chiefs Association ***Communications Section***

November 25, 2008

Greetings all,

As some of you may know, I am working as the County Chief's Communications Section Liaison to RCS regarding the RCS 800MHz Fleetmap (Thanks Denny). As such, I would like to update you on the project's current status.

Programming Phases:

As you already know, the programming will occur in phases. I have attached a document identifying the phases as well as fleetmap/work product status.

Exact dates cannot be put to the phases until all fleetmap data is obtained. As of today, the anticipated program start for CAL FIRE is mid-December.

Due to the logistical and operational issues facing field user agencies involved in this project, a "best practice" scenario will be that a "ballpark" master schedule be developed. This schedule would assist agencies with advance planning notice, as programs, training, vehicle maintenance, etc., will all be subject to impact due to the programming process.

Please keep in mind that there are several different code-plug data sets that need to be created, and eventually programmed into approximately 800 radios in RCS alone. So, getting the fleetmaps in as soon as possible is an important step.

Fleetmaps

Bob Erickson has been busy building code-plug data. I know that Chuck and Barry Weibel are currently working to finalize the Zone maps under Heartland's control. Thanks for that guys!

There are several outstanding maps that need to be finalized and turned into [Bob Erickson at RCS/WSU](#) . See attachment for current status. If Bob and I have missed one please let me know. Bob is currently on vacation, and will return on 12/2/08.

Communications Centers

Please remember that we need fleetmaps for your back-up radios, including desktops and any portable radios in use. The console updates are done remotely. Guy, at RCS/WSU, is the coordinating console work. Consoles will be the first radios to be programmed in each phase.

One issue for Comm. Center Managers to explore is: can your CAD accommodate the Old and New Talkgroup identifiers within their respective data fields, for display purposes in consoles and on MDC's. Having both reflected, until all radios are touched, may benefit us in the area of ease of conversion, and safety. Charlie Knust at NorthComm has indicated that Tri-Tech data fields can accept both Talkgroup names. This issue is one for each Center Manager to determine.



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Training

Don Root and Scott Gillis at RCS graciously agreed to assist with the training efforts. This includes the creation of job aids for users to convert talkgroups, as well as PowerPoint files for both field and communication centers users. The conversion charts and the Field-User PowerPoint have been developed (attached). The Communications Center PowerPoint will be finalized very soon. Scott Gillis is working on the printing and lamination process for the charts.

These items will be mass produced and disseminated, one for each mobile radio, and several for each communications center. An RCS Instructor will be presenting information to County Training Officers. In addition, color hard copies of the charts, and a CD containing all necessary files will be made available. We have not yet finalized the distribution method for these materials. More information will be coming soon regarding distribution.

The material, which is attached to this email, will also soon be posted to the following web sites for download:

<https://www.rcs800mhz.org/web/>

<http://sdnorthzone.net/communications.htm>

In addition, Scott Gillis wanted me to pass along that RCS Instructors are available to assist agencies as necessary with any training needs.

Please contact myself, Scott Gillis, or Bob Erickson at RCS with any questions.

Thanks for your support and assistance with this project.

Dave

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