

AWIN the Arkansas Wireless Information Network



Arkansas Attorney General to kickoff upcoming Interoperability Conference

The 2011 Arkansas Interoperability Conference is scheduled for October 12 - 14, and we are thrilled to have so many wonderful speakers again this year. Arkansas Attorney General Dustin McDaniel will kickoff the conference on Wednesday. Louis Sigalos with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) will provide a brief update on the narrowbanding project. Linda

Chesterfield, chair of the Senate Transportation, Technology and Legislative Affairs Committee and Joint Advanced Communications and Information Technology Committee, will speak on interoperability from a legislator's perspective.

Prior to the official kickoff of this year's conference, a grant resources workshop will be conducted by Lee Connor. Connor is the grant funding program manager for Harris Corporation. The workshop will be held from 8:30 - 11:30 a.m., Wednesday, October 12.

The conference will be held at the Little Rock Crowne Plaza. The registration deadline is October 7 with a cost of \$25, which includes the cost of some meals. You may register at the door, but registration forms have been sent to various agencies. If you have not received a form and would like to register prior to the conference, please contact Brenda Roberts at brenda.roberts@arkansas.gov or 501.683.5339.

Rebanding project on schedule

Site rebanding is currently on schedule and will continue through October 18, 2011. Technicians have performed the rebanding process on more than 40 sites. The AWIN operations team continues to send daily alerts for specific sites that will be rebanded that day.

During the normal rebanding process, a site will be taken down twice, for a period of a few minutes each time. AWIN will closely monitor the system along with the site completion information to identify any issues that might arise with the new frequencies.



If you have any radios that still need to be reprogrammed, or for other issues related to

rebanding, contact David Baker in AWIN Operations at david.baker@arkansas.gov or 501.682.1185.



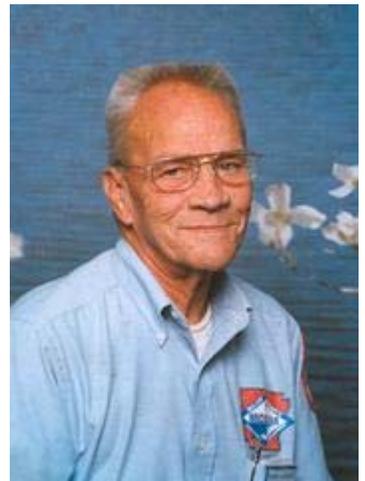
Reports soon available for participation in exercise

In efforts to measure Arkansas's endeavors to reach goal 2 of the National Emergency Communications Plan (NECP), the state recently participated in a National Level Exercise. Goal 2 of the NECP states that by 2011, 75 percent of non-Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) jurisdictions will be able to demonstrate response-level emergency communications within one hour for routine events involving multiple jurisdictions and agencies.

Prior to the exercise, each of the state's 75 counties was to complete a report that would outline the county's capabilities and be included in the Arkansas report on the state's capabilities. After the exercise was conducted, the counties were asked to submit a performance report to include how the county responded during the exercise and lessons learned. At this time, 82 percent of counties have submitted a capabilities report and 72 percent of counties have submitted a performance report. Unfortunately, at the time of the exercise, several counties were dealing with major disasters in their area including flooding and other storms, and were unable to participate in the exercise. The statewide results from the exercise and reports will be available at the Arkansas Interoperability Conference.

Remembering a colleague

Derrell Gene Reynolds, 73, of Texarkana, AR, died Tuesday, July 12, 2011, in a Texarkana, TX, hospital. He was born August 17, 1937, in Amarillo, TX. He was a veteran of the National Guard, Deputy Director of the Miller County Department of Emergency Management and was a member of the Salvation Army. AWIN would like to express its condolences to the friends and family of Mr. Reynolds.



AWIN assisting counties with narrowbanding efforts

In 2004, the FCC announced that all non-federal radio licenses operating 25 kHz systems in the 150-174 and 421-512 MHz band (VHF and UHF) must migrate to more efficient 12.5 kHz, or narrowband, channels by January 1, 2013. The FCC rule applies to both conventional and trunked radio systems and affects all FCC-licensed state and local emergency response radio networks.

Recently, AWIN was asked to provide a report to Governor Beebe's office regarding the status of counties working towards narrowbanding. After compiling information for the report, the team was asked to begin contacting each county to get the status of their narrowbanding efforts and to help them move forward with the project. AWIN support personnel has already begun to collect data to assist all counties to be complaint by the deadline. Each county will soon receive a copy of an FCC booklet that will be helpful with narrowbanding efforts.

The deadline for the narrowbanding effort has been pushed back several times, and it is not expected for the deadline to be extended again. The FCC has said that it will take any non-

compliant systems off of the air after the deadline or assess federal penalties to include fines. Also, the commission will begin refarming the new 12.5 kHz channels created by narrowbanding, which could result in interference with any operating wideband channels. If you have any questions regarding the narrowbanding project, please contact Penny Rubow at penny.rubow@arkansas.gov or 501.682.5358.

Group scheduled to begin work on field operations guide

The Public Safety Broadband Working Group is scheduled to meet for an on-site workshop, Tuesday, October 11, to continue developing a new Arkansas Field Operations Guide. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security Office of Emergency Communications is providing assistance to Arkansas that will allow for the development of the guide.

The Arkansas Field Operations Guide will be modeled after the National Interoperability Field Operations Guide (NIFOG) which is a pocket-sized technical reference for technicians responsible for radios used in a disaster response. The Arkansas guide will include rules and regulations for the use of interoperability channels and frequencies in a compact format.

The guide will contain a listing of land mobile radio (LMR) frequencies often used in disasters or other incidents where radio interoperability is required, as well as other useful information for emergency responders. The Space and Naval Warfare Systems Command (SPAWAR) group in San Diego, California is leading the effort to create the guide.



Get to know the AWIN Team

Timothy Bales is a network support analyst with AWIN and has been a member of the team for four years. In his role, Bales not only serves as a support analyst, but also as the FCC coordinator. He manages and tracks the more than 1200 frequencies and 326 FCC licenses for AWIN and Arkansas State Police.

Bales was born in Lancaster, Ohio but was raised abroad as an Air Force dependent. He is an eight year US Army Veteran. He left the Army in 1992 after living in Europe most of his career, including Germany and the Netherlands. After his discharge, he began working for the Army and Air Force Exchange Service (AAFES) which culminated in 13 years of work. During his tenure with the AAFES, Tim held positions ranging from bookstore manager, computer operator, computer technician, to mainframe storage specialist and data processing manager. He lived in Ft. Leavenworth, KS, Fussa-Shi (Tokyo) Japan, Yigo, Guam, Dallas, TX, and Little Rock.

Timothy is glad to have the opportunity to work in a job that can help the citizens of the state. "I love that what we do here helps those working on the front lines of public safety in our state," said Bales. It makes him feel good to know that the work that he does helps in a small way to provide a service that can save lives. Bales also says that he appreciates the people he works with every day at AWIN and the variety of people that he gets to work with across the state.

Timothy and his wife have been married for nearly 25 years. He met his wife in Germany on his first tour with the Army. The couple has one daughter and a son, and they will also become grandparents in the very near future. Bales enjoys reading science fiction, fantasy, and Christian fiction. He also plays online games in various venues. In his free time, he likes taking day trips with the family through the state.

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