

# Planning Aids Interoperability During WWII Memorial Dedication

**By CommTech  
National Institute  
of Justice**

## **EDITOR'S NOTE —**

*This article was submitted by Capt. Eddie Reyes, Alexandria Police Department, who moderated a seminar on public safety interoperability at the 2004 Private Wireless Summit. On his panel were Charles Stephenson, National Law Enforcement and Corrections Technology Center – Northeast; Bob Moseley, L3 Communications; and Kevin Koch, Sti-Co Industries Inc.*

They traveled from as far north as New Jersey. More than 30 law enforcement agencies amassed in our nation's capital last Memorial Day. They came there to protect the tens of thousands from across the nation who would attend the ceremonies and dedication of the World War II Memorial and numerous other events on the National Mall in downtown Washington, D.C.


With more than 600 police officers present, assuring fluid communications between the different platoons and the command post was crucial. It was the responsibility of the U.S. Park Police to ensure that this daunting task was achieved in order to provide for the overall safety of all of the attendees. Due to his extensive work promoting interoperability in law enforcement for the National Institute of Justice's CommTech (formerly AGILE) Program, the U.S. Park Police recruited Captain Eddie Reyes of Alexandria's Police Department to spearhead the communications interoperability efforts.

The Alexandria, Virginia, Police Department has served as the CommTech Program's test bed for public safety communications interoperability since 1999. The ACU-1000, manufactured by Raytheon – JPS Communications, was the first interoperability solution tested and installed. Today, the Alexandria Police Department, in collaboration with NIJ's CommTech Program and various communications interoperability vendors, has started looking at other methods to establish reliable communications between disparate radios.

Captain Reyes could not have accomplished and deployed the mobile communications infrastructure for this event without the extensive collaborative efforts from several communications subject matter experts, including staff from the National Law Enforcement and Corrections Technology Center Northeast (NLECTC-NE), which were assembled to ensure that the best communications plan was implemented. He sought the assistance from multiple agencies and vendors that provided antennas (Sti-

## **Agencies that Provided Support for the WWII Memorial Dedication:**

Alexandria Police	Manassas City Police
Annapolis Police	Maryland State Police
Arlington County Police	Metro. Wash. Airport Police
Arlington County Sheriff's Office	Montgomery County Sheriff's Office
Baltimore County Police	National Institute of Health Police
Bladensburg Police	National Park Service
Charles County Sheriff's Office	Prince William County Sheriff
Fairfax City Police	Prince George's County Police
Fairfax County Police	Prince William County Police
Fairmount Heights Police	Stafford County Sheriff's Office
FBI Police	Takoma Park Police
Federal Protective Service	U.S. Capitol Police
Greenbelt City Police	U.S. Marshal
Howard County Police	U.S. Pentagon Police
Hyattsville Police	Virginia State Police
Loudoun County Sheriff's Office	



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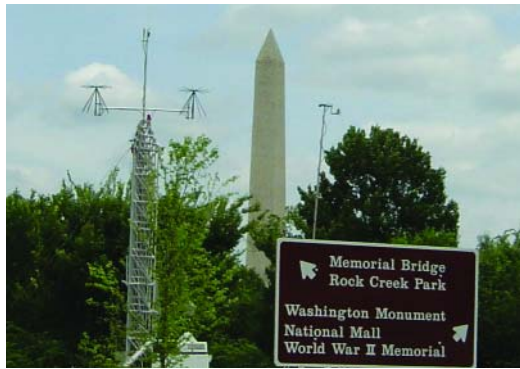
Co Industries), a 100-foot mast (U.S. Marshal's Service), portable radios (Arlington Virginia County), Virginia Police Department and Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority Police Department), portable repeaters (Fairfax Virginia County Police Department) and bank radio chargers (U.S. Dept. of Homeland Security – Immigration and Customs Enforcement).

To date, never has an interoperability plan been designed and implemented on so massive a scale in the Metropolitan Washington, D.C., area. Several meetings among key coordinating agencies (U.S. Park Police; Alexandria Police; U.S. Marshal's Service; Fairfax County Police; Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority Police; as well as several contractors detailed to the CommTech Program) were held in preparation, on behalf of the U.S. Park Police. Weeks prior to the event, Captain Reyes and his team designed a questionnaire intended to solicit the radio information from each of the agencies coming to assist. This questionnaire collected information such as frequency, make and model of portable radios, as well as inquiring about any interoperability capability. This allowed the planning group to gain knowledge about what each law enforcement agency was equipped with to better expedite a process that would allow radio communication amongst all officers.

The Tuesday, May 25, before the event, platoon leaders from the participating agencies were briefed on the needs for their officers' handheld radios. Each agency was told to program the radios coming to this event to a common national interoperability channel so that should an emergency arise, all platoon leaders would be capable of communicating and thus, keeping everyone informed.

The morning of Friday, May 28, an entire block near the Franklin Delano Roosevelt (FDR) Memorial was barricaded for the set-up of the communications command post. Several agencies worked together to construct the layout and determine the needed supplies. A 100-foot mast, one ACU-1000, a trailer with a Futurecom repeater and numerous loaned portable radios were on-site. Several emergency medical service and fire department vehicles, as well as their command posts, were stationed on the same block, allowing all first responder units close proximity in case of an emergency. After the equipment was set up and adjusted, radio testing was conducted to ensure clear audio.

Saturday morning, May 29 — the day of the event — the crew met to ensure that the numerous capabilities were in check and operational. All law enforcement officers participating in the security measures were deployed to assigned areas along the Mall accompanied by a Park Police officer. This officer knew to stay connected to the channel with ITAK-3.



During the event, the ACU-1000 which was connected to seven Motorola ASTRO radios (three VHF, two UHF, one UHF T-band and one 800 MHz) maintained a continual patch in support of operations between three disparate radios systems making it possible for officers to monitor across radio systems and react immediately when required. Additionally, the ACU-1000 provided the capability to monitor all radio systems and stood ready to provide immediate patches between four additional radio systems in support of operations.

Another funded technology utilized for this effort was the Capital Wireless Integrated Network, otherwise known as CapWIN, which is a mobile data network designed to have multiple platforms operating seamlessly across jurisdictions for federal, state and local public safety police, fire and EMS agencies. CapWIN was deployed

to assist the World War II Memorial by logging incidents called in by officers throughout the day; multiple chat rooms were established for the various disciplines. For information on CapWIN, visit its website at [www.capwin.org](http://www.capwin.org).

Overall, the effort was a success, increasing communication channels for police officers working a large-scale event. Providing officers with additional training would allow for an increased comfort level with this new technology. Some valuable lessons learned from this event are as follows:

1. Recognize that advanced planning is essential
2. Make time for a dry-run prior to event
3. Ensure information dissemination to all participants
4. Create an after-action report to develop lessons learned

For more information on the communications plan for the event, visit the National Public Radio's coverage at <http://www.npr.org/features/feature.php?wfId=1941058>. For more information on the National Institute of Justice's CommTech Program, visit [www.agileprogram.org](http://www.agileprogram.org). ■

## INDUSTRY NEWS *(continued from page 25)*

### **EFJohnson to Focus on Dealer Sales Channel**

EFJohnson has launched an Elite Dealer Program. The goal of this program is to provide focused support for its dealer and reseller network. The company also announced the hiring of Jim Swan as the Director of Dealer Channels to concentrate on developing and managing the program.

"A strong dealer network is essential to growing our state and local sales to first responders and we are positioning our dealer channel to complement our direct-sales teams' efforts in Homeland Security," said Michael E. Jalbert, chairman and chief executive officer of EFJ, Inc. "The elite dealer program will keep us close to our top dealers, and therefore closer to customers."

### **Frost & Sullivan Recognizes Microwave Data Systems**

Microwave Data Systems (MDS) has received Frost & Sullivan's Excellence in Technology Award in the category RF for Industrial Wireless Networking. The company is being recognized for its performance and achievements in wireless and mobile strategy, technology and services.

"MDS radios enable mission-critical communications, increased safety, improved revenue, and greater efficiency in tough, industrial climates for customers in the oil and gas, water and wastewater, electric utilities, telecom and public safety sectors," notes Frost & Sullivan research analyst Miriam Nagel. "Frost & Sullivan is, therefore, pleased to confer the 2004 Excellence in Technology of the Year Award upon MDS for its development of high-speed, point-to-multi-point industrial wireless networking radios." ■