



April 2007

AWIN Monthly Newsletter

Send us your story

Do you have a story you would like to share with other end users? Any advice you want to pass along to agencies that are awaiting a cutover in their area? We want to know how AWIN is working for you! Please send your comments to awin@arkansas.gov.

AWIN Support

In partnership with the Arkansas State Police (ASP), the Department of Information Systems (DIS) operates the AWIN Call Center to support all AWIN subscribers (radio users) with technical assistance or AWIN-related requests. Technicians are on call in the event of any emergency. Call (501) 682-HELP (682-4357) or toll-free (800) 435-7989 or e-mail: awin.support@arkansas.gov

AWIN User Spotlight



Derrell Reynolds is an Emergency Management Coordinator with the Miller County Office of Emergency Management (OEM). He lives in Texarkana and has worked with Miller County OEM since 1996. Reynolds was born in Amarillo, Texas and attended Texas Tech and the University of Texas. He received a Bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering and a Master's degree in Electronics.

Reynolds began working for NASA in 1955 while in college. He was a Radar and Telemetry Engineer for NASA for 25 years. Reynolds assisted in the testing of space capsules before they were put into production. He tested the lifting body, or shuttle prior to flights and missions. He had the opportunity to work on the Mercury, Gemini, and Apollo flights before retiring from NASA in 1977.

After his tenure at NASA, Reynolds worked as a Research and Development Engineer for a private firm until beginning his employment with Miller County OEM. Reynolds first began working as a volunteer, since he had scanners at home that he would monitor during stormy periods. He enjoyed working with local residents during severe weather conditions. "I like being able to assist people," said Reynolds. That is exactly why he decided to work full-

time in the emergency management field.

Reynolds was skeptical about the implementation of AWIN in its early stages. When he learned of plans to build new towers in the area, he grew more interested in the project. After the construction of the Fouke tower, Reynolds was convinced that the system could really work in southwest Arkansas. "It's the greatest thing that's ever happened to this county," said Reynolds. "Once the quirks were worked out, we had terrific coverage."

In Miller County, AWIN is used for daily operations. Luckily, the area hasn't had a large scale emergency for which the system has been needed. County officials are able to monitor surrounding counties' traffic so they are able to assist if needed, and they have received useful information from surrounding areas about their uses of AWIN.

Reynolds says that he understands that the system will continue to evolve, but there are some things that he would like to see for the future of AWIN. He would like to see other agencies' channels added to the radios, and Arkansas State Police (ASP) needs to be able to easily talk with the counties. "The system needs to be used to the fullest extent," said Reynolds. "Some channels are not used and could be." Reynolds would also like to see more communication about everything the system can be used for. Overall, Reynolds is very pleased with the AWIN system and is using it as a tool within daily operations.

System expansion update



The plan to upgrade and transfer sites between SmartZone Controllers will begin next month. Beginning May 1st, technicians will switch individual tower sites to the new (north) controller. The transition from the south to the north controller will take approximately 20 minutes per site, and technicians will move sites according to ASP Troop designation. There will be a short period of downtime on the individual towers as they are moved between controllers, and areas

may be isolated from surrounding groups for a short period. The site transitions will all be performed May 7th through May 17th.

All towers will migrate to the new controller to allow for an upgrade of the initial system. After the upgrade is performed, technicians will transfer some sites back to the initial controller for better call balance and system redundancy in the case of a disaster. AWIN Alerts will be distributed to inform users of the order in which sites will be moved. All site moves and associated testing should be complete by mid-August.

Planning rebanding efforts

AWIN recently submitted a proposal with the Transition Authority (TA), established by the FCC to coordinate rebanding efforts within the State of Arkansas and across the country. The Request for Planning / Funding (RFPF) was approved by the TA. The planning and funding agreement was signed by the involved parties and sent to Sprint/Nextel for the company's signature.

Once the agreement is signed and returned, the team will have 30 days to prepare for a kick-off meeting to initiate the six-month planning and negotiation phase of the effort. The kick-off meeting will include all parties involved in the rebanding for the AWIN system, and the participants will discuss steps for implementation of the project.

During the planning and negotiation phase, AWIN program management will have to take a complete inventory of the system. They will also work with vendors to test alternate frequencies provided by Sprint/Nextel to see if they work as well as the ones currently occupied by AWIN.

For more information on the rebanding efforts across the country, you can go to <http://www.800ta.org/>. For questions about the project, please contact David Baker at 501.682.1185 or david.baker@arkansas.gov.

Israeli police visit



Three Israeli visitors made a recent stop in the State of Arkansas. Eitan Moshe, Israeli National Police Commander, Shuki Rozen, Motorola - Israel, and Hanania David, Motorola - USA spent March 28th in

Little Rock visiting several different agencies.

The group was interested in a look at how the Arkansas State Police (ASP) operates, and they began the day at ASP headquarters with a tour of the facilities. The group also visited with AWIN Program Management, as well as Department of Information Systems (DIS) senior leaders. The visitors received more information about the AWIN

program, system equipment, and the operation and monitoring of the system. AWIN representatives discussed the challenges of moving from the original ASP system to a state-wide radio system. The group toured the AWIN Systems Management area, and systems engineers provided some explanation and demonstrations of AWIN. The group also took a quick tour of the DIS Data Center.

Following the tour at DIS, the group spent time with representatives of the City of Little Rock. They had the opportunity to tour the dispatch center and talk with end users about the transfer of High Performance Data (HPD). The day ended with a visit to the William J. Clinton Presidential Center. DIS Director Claire Bailey presented each visitor with an Arkansas Traveler Certificate and a proclamation from the City of Little Rock declaring them citizens of the capital city.



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