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Fayetteville Joins AWIN as Full Time Member

Proposals Approved to Add Little Rock, Jacksonville Systems

The end of 2011 marked the beginning of some big changes for the Arkansas Wireless Information Network (AWIN) as the city of Fayetteville became a full time AWIN member and proposals were approved to integrate the Little Rock, North Little Rock, and Jacksonville systems as full time members.

"We are so pleased to have these cities join AWIN," said Penny Rubow, AWIN program coordinator.

Fayetteville finalized integration by completing the cutover from its previous system to AWIN on December 22, said Kathy Stocker, dispatch manager for the Fayetteville Police Department. Fayetteville brought with it a three site simulcast system and approximately 650 users representing police, fire, and all other city divisions. The city could have remained on a stand-alone system, however, the interoperable capability of AWIN was the primary tipping point for the city in making the decision to become full time users, Stocker said.

Approximately 5,000 new AWIN users will be added with the integration of systems in Jacksonville and Little Rock which will also include North Little Rock, Pulaski County, Sherwood, Cammack Village, and Maumelle. Like Fayetteville, Laura Martin, communications manager, for the city of Little Rock also cited the interoperable benefits of the AWIN system as well as the financial benefits to the city.

"Our system was antiquated and the financial resources to upgrade it were limited." Martin said.

The Little Rock system will be comprised of a three-site, 30-channel, simulcast system. The city anticipates it to take approximately 18 months to complete the integration to AWIN. The Jacksonville system consists of one site of six channels. The Little Rock, North Little Rock, and Jacksonville systems should also experience a significant improvement in the quality of communications inside buildings and other areas where poor signal quality was previously a barrier, said Kirk Miller, senior account manager, of Motorola.

Spectrum Realignment Requires Updates to Frequencies on Sat Phones



Due to a spectrum realignment, agencies with an MSAT G2 satellite phone will be required to conduct a manual update to the frequency by close of business, February 29, 2012, in order for the device to continue to be operational, according to recent information released by LightSquared.

The company estimates that the process of updating the frequency will take up to five minutes. The following is detailed instructions to complete the update.

Before commencing, you need to be aware of the satellite beam under which your radio is currently operating. This is indicated in small print in the lower middle of your MSAT G2's display screen. (See image above right).

Once you know the beam you are currently operating under, find the BEAM # in the list below. The CFC and PFC listed beside your BEAM # are the frequencies that need to be entered into your radio.

**NEW FREQUENCIES ARE EFFECTIVE
DECEMBER 15th 2011**

BEAM	ZONE	CFC's	PFC's
0	Northeast	1555941000	1555932000
1	East	1556325000	1556334000
2	Central	1555992000	1555983000
3	West	1555959000	1555950000
4	Southwest	1555977000	1555968000
5	Alaska	1555763000	1555797000
0	Hawaii	1555941000	1555932000
5	Southeast	1555763000	1555797000

You are now ready to update your MSAT G2.

1. Power off the MSAT G2.
2. Power on the MSAT G2 and as soon as you see "**SEARCHING**," press and hold the "**5**" key.
3. You will be prompted for a "Dealer Password". Enter **67857**, and press "**OK**"
4. The display will show "Tracking" or "Other". Highlight "**Tracking**" by using the up/down arrow keys, and then press the right side minus sign key underneath the word "**Select**" on the display screen.
5. Press and hold the left side minus sign key underneath the word "**Clear**" to remove the old CFC.
6. Enter the CFC of the beam under which your radio is currently operating (from table above).
7. Press the right side minus sign key underneath the word "**Store**" once the CFC is completely entered.
8. Press and hold the left side minus sign key underneath the word "**Clear**" to remove the old PFC.
9. Enter the PFC of the beam under which your radio is currently operating (from table above).
10. Press the right side minus sign key underneath the word "**Store**" once the PFC is completely entered.
11. Press the right side minus sign key underneath the word "**Store**" to preserve the 20-digit SASK already in the radio which will be displayed as a series of 20 asterisks. ("*****")

The SASK should not be re-entered as the existing one should not have changed.

1. Press the right side minus sign key underneath the word "Yes" when asked, "Continue?" on the display screen The signal strength may show "S0; ignore this. The MSAT G2 will cycle through a series of "searching," "commissioning," and "COM: SUCCESS" messages.

Keep the MSAT G2 powered on for three minutes to receive numerous updates from the network, and you can then dial "611" to perform a free test call to customer technical support.

Contact customer technical support at 1-800-216-6728 if you have any issues.



Federal Legislation Proposes Plans for D Block

Federal legislation introduced to extend the payroll tax cut also includes spectrum language that would reallocate the 700 MHz D Block to public safety and provide at least \$5 billion in funding for the build out of a nationwide LTE network for first responders.

Legislation recently approved by a House subcommittee would reallocate the 700 MHz D Block to public safety; provide at least \$5 billion in funding for the deployment of a nationwide LTE network for first responders. However, the legislation calls for public safety to return its 700 MHz narrowband spectrum to the FCC in the future and has a governance model that has been questioned by many public-safety representatives.

The Senate Commerce Committee has approved legislation that would reallocate the D Block to public safety and provide more than \$10 billion in funding for the deployment of a nationwide LTE network. The funding of the network would come from spectrum auctions, including the spectrum TV broadcasters and other incumbent licensees would return to the FCC in exchange for financial compensation.

Another piece of the Senate legislation calls for the creation of a "Public Safety Broadband Corporation" (PSBC) that would serve as the spectrum licensee and governing body to ensure interoperability among users of the broadband networks. The PSBC is designed to replace the Public Safety Spectrum Trust (PSST) as the licensee for existing public safety's 700 MHz broadband spectrum

The [Public Safety Alliance](#) (PSA) has reiterated its support for the legislation proposed by the Senate Commerce Committee and noted that the first-responder community is united on the issue. Public-safety representatives continue to be hopeful that the 700 MHz D Block spectrum will be reallocated to first responders and that funding will be provided to pay for a much-anticipated LTE network for public safety, but a clear path for approval has not yet emerged.

Brown Lives His Dream Doing What He Does Best

It had been 10 years since the Arkansas Forestry Commission experienced a fire season like the one that occurred in 2011. A critical element of winning the battle against forest fires is effective radio communication for wild land firefighters.



Trained as a radio operator in the U.S. Marine Corps, Steve Brown, communications manager for the Forestry Commission, works year round to ensure that, in those critical circumstances, incident personnel and the forestry dispatch center in Malvern are able to seamlessly coordinate activities. When the airwaves become extremely congested, as was the case during the Traskwood fire, one of the largest forest fires of 2011, the Arkansas Wireless Information Network (AWIN) provided an extra layer of reliable emergency communication.

"When things get busy on the fire line and the forestry radio system becomes overwhelmed, the AWIN radio provides another avenue of communications," Brown said. "This gave an additional margin of safety."

The forestry commission is involved in more than safeguarding against and battling forest fires. Commission personnel were among the first to respond to other events and disasters in 2011 such as an ice storm and tornado, Brown said.

"Forestry was directly involved in checking the status of AWIN sites located in the hard hit areas," Brown said.

Forestry AWIN radios were heavily used to coordinate personnel and activities clearing roads leading to tower sites, checking generators and propane tanks, and coordinating the use of the commission's dozers to tow propane trucks up the mountain to tower sites to refill propane tanks, he explained.

Maintaining effective radio communication during forest fires, ice storms, and in the aftermath of tornadoes, is all part of the job for Brown. In fact, it is fulfilling his dream of working in the forest.

"I always dreamed of working on the water and in the forest," he said. "I spent over 20 years working on the water in the Gulf of Mexico for Chevron and other oil companies. It was time to live the other part of my dream."

Brown, a resident of Hot Springs, has been fulfilling the second half of his dream of working in the forest for the past six years.



Get to Know the AWIN Team

Brent Shifley is one of the newest members of the Arkansas Wireless Information Network (AWIN), joining the support team in November.

"I am still learning what all is involved," said Shifley. "The learning curve is high, but I am enjoying every minute of it!"

Brent jokingly calls himself a "gypsy", having lived in 10 different cities and attending five different high schools as a child. His travels continued after graduation when he joined the U.S. Navy, working as an electronics technician. Brent served our country for 10 years. After leaving the military he held a variety of jobs including line assembly technician, repair technician working on nuclear gamma cameras, and steam engineer working on high pressure boilers. He also worked for Microsoft in various capacities, including internal help desk support, server and network support, and software tester.

Brent's wife, Rosemarie, works in fiscal at the Department of Information Systems. The couple is raising their 11-year-old granddaughter and has three dogs.

"To say the least, life at home can be very entertaining," he said.

Outside of work, Brent enjoys a wide range of hobbies including hiking, canoeing, deep sea fishing, and watching bird migrations.

"I'm also a serious computer geek, having worked with and in computers now for 17 years,"

he said.

Brent's latest interest is digeridoos, the wind instrument traditionally played by the Aboriginal people of Australia.

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