

# COMMunity

Volume 4, Issue 2, Spring 2008

A News Bulletin from **WILLIAMS COMMUNICATIONS, INC.**

*"Please accept our heartfelt thanks for donating so generously to the first 'Shop with a Cop' at the Baker County Sheriff's Office. Because of WCI's generosity, more children were able to be a part of what we hope will become an annual event here."*

Joey Dobson  
Baker County Sheriff

*"On behalf of the Tallahassee Animal Shelter Foundation, let me extend a huge 'Thank You' to Williams Communications for your support of the 7th Annual Tails and Trails! Williams Communications served as a sponsor, as well as provided the volunteer event staff with hand-held radios which kept us well connected throughout the morning. Thank you for taking time out to help our community's least fortunate four-legged residents."*

Heather Smith  
Animal Shelter Foundation  
Board Member



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## Law Enforcement Officers Honored During Black History Month

Numerous attendees recently gathered at the Pat Thomas Law Enforcement Academy in Tallahassee to honor the "Color of Criminal Justice in Past, Present and Future." The event, held in late-February and hosted by the Academy, began with the Master of Ceremonies, Florida State University Police Chief David Perry.



Florida State University  
Police Chief David Perry

Many African-American law enforcement officers were honored during the ceremony with a number of attendees paying tribute to their contributions. Among those honored were officers

from Leon County and its surrounding counties that were the "first African-American" in their agency to be hired and/or promoted to various ranks.

Williams Communications, Inc. (WCI), would like to thank the 2008 Black History Month Committee for their dedication in coordinating a very heartfelt appreciation to these men and women who proudly serve our communities.

For more information on Tallahassee Community College and the Pat

Thomas Law Enforcement Academy visit <http://content.tcc.fl.edu/ptlea/>.

## Narrowbanding Deadlines

- What you need to know -

We all know that there will never be enough spectrum (a.k.a. channels) for radios to function efficiently because the number of radios coming onto the VHF/UHF channels continues to grow. Because of the limited channels available, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has created narrowbanding requirements. These requirements will affect systems on VHF and UHF channels between 150 and 512 MHz.

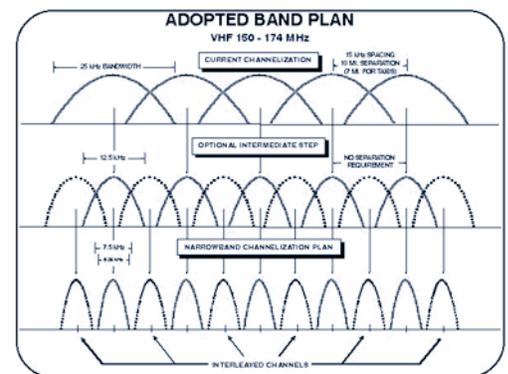
Most current radio systems use the 25 kHz-wide channels instead of the narrowband channels. However, the FCC has mandated that all non-federal public safety licensees using 25 kHz radio systems migrate to narrowband (12.5 kHz channels) by January 1, 2013. Businesses that do not meet the deadline face the loss of communication capabilities. Now is the time for businesses to start planning to migrate to narrowband systems by assessing their current radio equipment and applying for new or modified licenses.

To the right is a diagram to help visualize the FCC narrowbanding plans.

**Important deadlines to remember:**

*Until January 1, 2011*

- New applications for 25 kHz bandwidth will be accepted.



- Modifications to existing 25 kHz systems will be accepted.
- Radio 25 kHz equipment can be manufactured and imported.

*On January 1, 2013*

- The FCC deadline for migration to 12.5 kHz technology.

**What if my radio is already capable of narrowbanding?**

Narrowbanding will not require radio users to move to another frequency band. Instead, radio

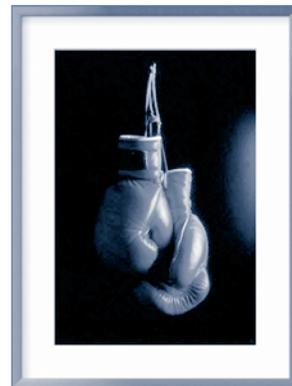
*Please see **Deadlines**, p. 2*

# Florida Sheriffs Convene for Winter Conference in St. Augustine

Budget cuts in the State of Florida have been the talk of the town for quite some time and were definitely a discussion point in St. Augustine during the Florida Sheriffs Association's Winter Conference. Many agencies spoke with distress about having to trim their budgets, which would potentially lead to personnel cuts and hiring freezes in order to maintain functioning. However, despite the talk of budget cuts, the Sheriffs and members of their staffs spent time discussing other activities affecting their communities. It's here – at such conferences – that the

Sheriffs have the opportunity to talk about their agencies and share the "dos and don'ts" of what they have learned and experienced. It's the perfect time to network and share old stories that usually bring chuckles to the crowd.

During the conference meetings, the Sheriffs rolled their sleeves up to listen, learn and take action on criminal-justice issues facing our state. This year's slogan, "Knocking Out Crime in 2008," gave the Sheriffs the necessary training to gear up for the 2008 goals and objectives.



*This year's Florida Sheriffs Association slogan: "Knocking Out Crime In 2008"*

## Tyco Electronics' (M/A-COM) Wireless Network Solutions

### - 2008 Channel Partner Business Meeting -

In February, M/A-COM held its Annual Network Solution Providers (NSPs) meeting. This year's conference was one of the largest turnouts yet, with NSPs worldwide flying in for the partner meeting. It gave NSPs an up-close look at where we are and where M/A-COM is headed. From the President and Vice President of the company to directors, managers and sales team members, M/A-COM's staff prepared a dynamic agenda, presenting numerous topics, including effective sales strategies, new products and grant assistance for law enforcement agencies. The two-day, packed agenda left all participants with a wealth of information to bring back to their hometowns and share with their customers.

An independent consultant, who conducted a survey on M/A-COM and its competitors, presented survey results at the meeting. The findings were not surprising; but, nonetheless, were reassuring to the NSPs. Following are some distinctive M/A-COM strengths that customers shared with the consultant:

- *Superior technology*
- *Strong customer service*
- *Flexible, customer-focused employees*
- *Well-trained staff with strong experience*
- *Honest, good people to work with*
- *Commitment to portability*

M/A-COM is very proud of the consultant's findings. These strengths are just a few of the reasons why M/A-COM has been in business for so many years. Nothing beats strong customer service with honest, good people. When M/A-COM tells you they can do something, it's because they can. M/A-COM offers options for its customers in order to ensure the customers get what they want, not what M/A-COM thinks they need. Relying on our honest reputation, customers know that M/A-COM will deliver what they promise. That is why M/A-COM has customers in more than 150 countries and employs more than 8,000 employees. We believe in critical communications today for a network for tomorrow.

## Deadlines

*(Continued from page 1)*

users will be reducing the bandwidth of the channel(s) they are currently using.

For those who have purchased radios within the past six to eight years, these radios are most likely already narrowband capable. These radios will only need to be re-tuned or re-programmed by a technician. Radio users' coverage will remain approximately the same; however, a thorough analysis of businesses' coverage requirements will need to be conducted.

### ***Planning to move to narrowband?***

It's important to start preparing a plan to meet the narrow banding deadlines in order to avoid cancellation of existing wideband FCC authorizations. The migration timeframe may seem far away, but it will be here sooner than most users may think. To prepare for the migration:

- *Start assessing your radio systems*
- *Anticipate needed replacements/upgrades*
- *Take inventory of your current equipment (what can be converted to the 12.5 kHz and what will need to be replaced before the January 1, 2013 deadline)*

To move to narrowband operations, businesses must apply for new frequencies or modify existing licenses. Businesses that are licensed for a 25 kHz-wide channel are not guaranteed two 12.5 kHz channels. Licensees will have to justify why they need additional channels to the FCC.

# M/A-COM New Product Offerings

WCI recently attended M/A-COM's annual business partner meeting and participated in the International Wireless Communications Expo (IWCE) in late-February. Hundreds of vendors were on hand to show off new communication technologies.

Here are some of M/A-COM's newest portable and mobile radio solutions:

## **5200 Portable Radio Series**

The P5200 portable is a dual-band (700/800 MHz) radio that can host multiple applications, including the sophisticated capabilities of M/A-COM's OpenSky trunking. Other modes include P25 trunked or conventional modes, Enhanced Digital Access Communications System (EDACS) or ProVoice trunked modes, and analog conventional mode. With a full range of audio accessories, the highest RF specifications and a rugged housing, the P5200 portable family provides reliable communications with a range of features designed to excel in the challenging public safety environment.



*P5200 Portable Radio Series*

## **7200 Portable and Mobile Series**

The 700/800 MHz dual-band P7200 portable and mobile radios deliver end-to-end encrypted digital voice and IP data communications. The P7200 was designed to meet the critical communication

demands of public safety users. It is a high specification, feature-rich radio built to provide superior performance. The P7200 is also a multi-mode radio that includes OpenSky trunking, P25 trunked or conventional modes, EDACS or Provoice trunked modes, and analog conventional mode.



*P7200 Portable and Mobile Radio Series*

## **7300 Mobile Radio Series**

The M7300 is a new mobile radio line built for mission critical communications. M/A-COM's M7300 mobile radios provide secure interoperations for first responders who need to utilize various operating modes in the dual-band public safety environment, enabling seamless communica-

tions at 800 MHz and 700 MHz radio frequencies for multiple communication protocols. The M7300 line of mobile radios answers the needs of mission-critical radio communications users and supports multiple operating modes, including OpenSky digital operation, EDACS or ProVoice trunked modes, P25 digital trunked or conventional modes, and analog conventional mode.

M/A-COM's M7300 mobile radios offer optional Advanced Encryption Standard (AES) for maximum communications security and an optional Global Positioning System (GPS) receiver module to provide standard GPS data for over-the-air transmission for use in location-based applications such as AVL.

For more information about these products please call WCI's headquarters at (850) 385-1121 and ask for the sales department.



*7300 Mobile Radio Series*

## WCI – Not Just in Florida

When most people think of Williams Communications, Inc. they probably associate the company with Florida radio support and systems. However, in actuality, WCI has worked on a number of projects throughout the United States, providing technical support for M/A-COM systems. Some states and project highlights on which WCI has partnered with M/A-COM include:

- Alabama – Mobile County, SIM/Sitepro and Provoice Upgrade.
- Connecticut – Hartford, technical support for EDACS and EDACS IMC Switch.
- Georgia - Spalding County, pre-contract/sales through full system deployment. The system will be the first 800 MHz, P25 systems M/A-COM has deployed and will be the first system upgraded to P25 Phase II.
- Louisiana – City of New Orleans, provided staff during hurricane Katrina by supporting the EDACS system communication needs and relocated their dispatch system after the hurricane. Other cities served include Saint Tammany and Fort Polk.
- Maryland – Cecil County, technical support for EA Simulcast System.
- Michigan – Lansing, technical support for one EDACS Simulcast System; and Oakland County, site management and system trouble shooting.
- New York – State of New York, system site management and technical support.
- Pennsylvania – Lebanon County, technical support for EDACS Simulcast Sites.
- Wisconsin – City of Milwaukee, site management for IPC and OpenSky installation.

# Property Tagging and Key Loading of Radios at WCI

When WCI built its facility, it was nearly 10 times larger than its original location. A great deal of thought went into the details of creating an office space that could serve both the WCI staff and customers. One unique feature of the facility is an area for clients to come in and property tag and key load their radios on-site.

"This process is much more time efficient and practical," stated Detective Gregory Whipple of the Department of Financial Services, Division of Insurance Fraud. "I can come to Williams Communications, Inc., to tag and key load our radios all in the

same place." The property tag and key loading feature provides customers with the convenience of an organized station and the opportunity to get answers to immediate questions.

A number of agencies take advantage of this on-site area at WCI's office, including the Department of Corrections, Department of Financial Services, Florida Highway Patrol and State Fire Marshal's Office.



*Detective Gregory Whipple performs property tagging and key loading of radios at WCI's facility.*



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**Tyco Electronics**

M/A-COM Wireless Solutions

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