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Radios Rescue Dallas Red Cross

In the days following Hurricane Katrina's landfall on the Gulf Coast in August 2005, more than 29,000 evacuees from New Orleans poured into the Dallas-Fort Worth area as people displaced by the flooding and storm damage relocated to the Dallas Convention Center and Reunion Arena for emergency aid services.

The Dallas Chapter of the American Red Cross, which provides disaster relief programs and services throughout its 12-county and 155-city service area in North Texas, headed up efforts to provide emergency and humanitarian services to the Katrina evacuees in Dallas.

Large-scale emergency aid operations typically rely heavily on two-way communications for coordinating efforts, but in the case of the Dallas-based Katrina efforts, the Red Cross' existing communications system proved unfortunately inadequate for its needs.



The Dallas Chapter had been using radios on a system belonging to a local utility service provider that operated its radios in the 900 MHz band. In the fall of 2005, however, the provider sold its radio and utility operations to a European company that wanted to operate the system as a proprietary system only. The Red Cross was left



high and dry with its 900 MHz radios and had no place to go. The Dallas Chapter quickly realized the ESMR equipment and cell phones did not meet its needs.

The organization approached Lonnie Danchik, president of Dallas Mobile Communications, a company that operated a 900 MHz LTR system. Although the Red Cross' existing radios were a different format, the company was able to program them as conventional radios, using them on one of the Dallas Mobile channels.

In 2008, funded by a \$25,000 donation from a private donor, the organization began looking for new radio equipment. Mobile and portable coverage in their area was a specific requirement along with affordability (without sacrificing necessary features).

Danchik told the organization, "Icom makes quality products and has just come out with a new digital line. We have just installed a single UHF Icom IDAS (Icom advanced digital system) channel." He suggested the Red Cross demo a few Icom portables and one mobile on the designated channel for a week. Success.

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Continued from page 1 **Radios Rescue Dallas Red Cross**

The Dallas Area Chapter decided to purchase nine Icom F4161DS portables and 11 F6061D mobile radios. Coverage was tremendous; 30-plus miles portable to portable and 60 miles for mobile to mobile.

The organization also appreciated the mobile radio's aluminum case that holds a low-profile power supply and a magnetic antenna, so the radio can quickly be converted into a base station if necessary. Danchik stated, "The nature of the IDAS digital technology allows the base to be operated from inside homes or office buildings, with the antenna setting on a file cabinet or refrigerator."

The portables are inside a smaller metal case for quick distribution in emergencies. They can be charged inside a vehicle with a standard portable antenna or a magnetic antenna on the roof for greater range.

The first major test of the new equipment occurred during the 2009 floods in the Dallas-Fort Worth area, when parts of

the area received 8 inches of rain along with 72 mph winds.

The Red Cross set up shelters for people who were forced out of their homes and volunteers provided food, water, and supplies for those in need. When asked how the new Icom equipment performed, the Red Cross responded, "remarkably well."



Portage Area Transit Gears Up for Digital Migration

Sales consisting of seven mobiles rarely make headlines. But what makes Jeff Mitchell's recent sale to the Portage Area Regional Transit Authority noteworthy is the promise of what is still to come.

Portage Area Regional Transit Authority (PARTA) recently purchased seven new Icom F6061D mobiles from Mitchell Communications of Akron, Ohio. The transit authority, which operates 25 large passenger buses and 40 light transit vehicles, provides public bus service throughout Portage County, Ohio, and services Kent State University.



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For People Who Make Smart Choices

Accessory of the Month

BP-263 & BP-264
Battery Packs



The BP-263 (Alkaline case) & BP-264 (Ni-MH battery) Battery Packs are for the new IC-F3001 & IC-F4001 radios. The BP-246 lasts up to 14 hours (with power-save function on).

Continued from page 2 **Portage Area Transit Gears up for Digital Migration**

PARTA is in the initial stages of replacing its entire fleet of old analog radios as it transitions to a digital narrowband system over the next year. It also plans to install two Icom FR6000 repeaters that will provide coverage across Portage County's 500 square mile region.



Mitchell says the transit authority's previous radio system, which consisted of mostly Icom F121 mobiles and two Icom FR4000 repeaters, was still functioning well, but PARTA wanted to replace its system in advance of the FCC's January 1, 2013, narrowband deadline.

Mitchell Communications, Inc.
www.mitchellcom.com

"The main reason it decided to upgrade to the IDAS™ system is the upcoming narrowband deadline," Mitchell says. "They wanted to go digital now and take advantage of the other capabilities offered by digital IDAS™ radios."

Icom IDAS digital land mobile radio systems provide improved audio and a greater coverage area than analog FM radios. And because IDAS radios are capable

of operating in mixed analog/digital mode, the transit authority can gradually integrate IDAS technology into its current analog system.

"The long-term plan is to move to a digital IDAS radio system, including data," Mitchell says. "We are hoping to incorporate mobile data terminals into the radios in the future — hopefully this year."

PARTA currently spends thousands of dollars each month on commercial cellular network airtime fees for its data mobile component. "Once we can integrate data on the IDAS system, it will be very cost-effective for them," Mitchell says.

The first seven F6061D's are up and running, and the next step is to install the first of two FR6000 repeaters. The transit authority is pleased with the performance of the F6061D, especially its improved range and enhanced audio.

For Mitchell, who sold PARTA its previous Icom system and has a long-standing service agreement with the transit authority, this is the fourth major implementation of an IDAS digital radio system. Other customers include a manufacturing plant, scrap yard, and art museum. Mitchell also is in preliminary talks with two other manufacturing plants to develop and implement IDAS digital radio systems.

"All three systems have been very, very well received," he says. From a sales position, "the demonstrations sell it. Customers are amazed by the difference in audio between analog and digital."

For People Who Make Smart Choices

Drop by Our Booth at These Upcoming 2010 Land Mobile Trade Shows!

2010 Western Regional APCO Conference

January 20 – 21, 2010

Tech Advantage 2010

February 12 – 15, 2010

Texas Homeland Security Conference

February 15 – 17, 2010

IWCE

March 10 – 12, 2010

National Indian Gaming Association (NIGA)

April 6 – 9, 2010

FDIC

April 19 – 24, 2010

ASLRRRA Annual Convention

May 1 – 4, 2010

RSSI 48th Annual C & S Exhibition

May 1 – 4, 2010

WA APCO Summer Conference 2010

June 23 – 25, 2010

APCO International

August 1 – 5, 2010

NGAUS General Conference

August 21 – 23, 2010

Fire Rescue International (IFCA)

August 27 – 28, 2010

State of WI P25 Vendor Show

September 2010

National Fire Chiefs Association (IACP)

October 23 – 27, 2010

EWA

November 2010

Icom America Inc.
2380 116th Ave NE
Bellevue, WA 98004
Phone: (425) 454-8155
Fax: (425) 454-1509
Customer Service: (425) 454-7619

Icom America Systems
Phone: (425) 586-6363
Fax: (425) 586-6321
ias@icomamerica.com

For People Who Make Smart Choices



ICOM P25 TRUNKING F9011/F9511 SERIES



Icom is pleased to announce the launch of our new P25 Trunking IC-F9011/9021 and IC-F9511/9521 series. The radios are featured for the First Responders, and ready for use on analog, P25 conventional and P25 trunking systems.

P25 Network and Roaming

The P25 standard for Trunking includes multi site network capability, including automatic roaming from site-to-site and specific-site only repeater activation.

Multi-Mode Operation

The F9011/F9511 series can function on analog, P25 Conventional and P25 Trunked operations. It enables analog or P25 conventional for tactical situations and P25 Trunked for dispatch systems. Plan your implementation to digital operations while maintaining backwards compatibility to your current analog systems.

Mixed Mode Operation

When in mixed-analog mode, you receive in both digital and analog mode, but will always transmit in analog. When in mixed-digital mode, you receive in both digital and analog mode, but will always transmit in digital. This allows operation on a mixed system with analog and digital signals.

“Grant Friendly”

The F9011/F9511 series are designed to meet the DHS SOR requirements for grant qualification. Government agencies can use Federal grant money to upgrade their system now, and migrate to P25 digital in the future, or do both now.

CAP Compliant (pending) Interoperability

The F9011/F9511 series are designed to meet the P25 CAP certification process (pending). You can be assured that these radios will be totally interoperable on your P25 compliant system.

3 Portable Models, 3 Mobile Models

We offer three versions of the portable; basic with no display, simple keypad with display, and full keypad with display. On the mobiles, we offer two versions; simple keypad and full keypad versions. We also have a new 110W (at 20% duty cycle) VHF mobile.

A Great Value

The F9011/F9511 series are priced less than many other competing models with more features and capabilities. You can use the cost savings to provide more radios to the field, or fund other interoperability projects that need addressing.

IC-F9011 (136-174 MHz) & IC-F9021 (400-470 MHz) Series

These portables have APCO P25 Trunking built-in with enhanced 14-pin ACC connector. It is IP57 dust tight and submersible, with 6W (VHF) / 5W (UHF) RF output and 1W audio BTL amplifier. The HM-184, a waterproof speaker microphone with a programmable button is available as a new accessory for this series.

F9011B 01 / F9021B 01	No LCD, No Keypad
F9011S 05 / F9021S 05	LCD, No Keypad
F9011T 10 / F9021T 10	LCD, Full Keypad

IC-F9511 (136-174 MHz) & IC-F9521 (400-470 MHz) Series

These mobiles have APCO P25 Trunking built-in with 50W (VHF & UHF) RF output and 22W PA audio amplifier. It is IP54 water resistant (controller only).

F9511S 01 / F9521S 01	No Keypad
F9511T 05 / F9521T 05	Full Keypad

IC-F9511HT (136-174 MHz)

This mobile is Icom’s first 110W mobile at 20% duty cycle, and it comes supplied with a HM-148G (self grounding microphone) and front separation kit consisting of OPC-726 16.3 ft separation cable and mounting bracket kit for controller. Both controller and RF unit are IP54 water resistant. The SP-30, large external speaker and RMK-4, a dual head separation kit is available as new accessories for this series.

F9511HT 01	Full Keypad
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