

# MT HELP DESK

## SPECIFIC FREQUENCY AND EQUIPMENT QUESTIONS

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**Q.** Who is going to be using the 700 MHz band and why? Bret Erickson via email

**A.** It seemed appropriate to revisit Bret's question, originally run in this column in the February 2006 issue of *MT*. Since the public, media and government discourse continues to swirl around this new public safety band, I want to add the latest information about what is happening in this band.

In 1998, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) adopted service rules for the 24 megahertz of spectrum in the 764-776/794-806 MHz frequency bands (collectively, the 700 MHz public safety band). Channel spacing here is 12.5-kHz spacing. At the direction of Congress, this spectrum was reallocated from television broadcast services to public safety communications services for general use by local, regional and state users. It will be available as soon as existing TV stations vacate the spectrum. Congress has recently set the hard date for DTV conversion and the rebanding of TV stations in this band to be February 17, 2009.

The FCC designated approximately 10 percent (2.6 MHz) of the 700 MHz public safety spectrum for nationwide interoperable communications. The FCC determined that administration of the Interoperability channels should occur at the state level, either by a State Interoperability Executive Committee (SIEC) or an existing equivalent agency. Interoperability is defined as the ability of different governmental agencies to communicate across jurisdictions and with each other.

And just when you thought the public safety spectrum grab was over, have you heard about the 4.9 GHz band reserved by the FCC for communications between first responders at emergencies? The 4.9 GHz public safety band has been allocated to public safety for broadband technologies. Communications must be related to the protection of life, health or property. Examples of types of uses are:

- Wireless LANS for incident scene management
- Mobile data
- Video security
- VoIP
- PDA connectivity
- Hotspots
- T1 line replacement (permanent fixed point-to-point operations are secondary to base mobile and temporary fixed operations)

**Q.** I have a question about the proposal to drop the Morse code requirement for ham radio licenses. I have not been able to find any information on what the outcome of the FCC proposal has been. Was it adopted or rejected? I have started to study for my general license and I am interested in knowing if I still need to learn Morse code for the license. Bill Maquet, N7SZC

**A.** The American Radio Relay League (ARRL) recently released a bulletin to the amateur radio community that sums up what we currently know

about the no-code proceedings before the FCC. From their bulletin we quote:

"Just when the FCC will act on the 'Morse code' proceeding, WT Docket 05-235, remains hazy. The Commission released a Notice of Proposed Rule Making and Order (NPRM&O) last July proposing to eliminate the Element 1 (5 WPM) Morse code requirement for all license classes."

"The next – and most-anticipated – step for the Commission is to formally adopt any revisions to its rules and conclude the proceeding with a Report and Order (R&O) that spells out the changes and specifies their effective date.

"There really is no news," an FCC Wireless Telecommunications Bureau (WTB) staffer told ARRL... "We certainly hope to release WT Docket 05-235 sometime this year, but we're not making any predictions at this time." The WTB staffer indicated there would be no 'big announcements' at the Dayton Hamvention FCC Forum either...

"Any FCC decision to eliminate the 5 WPM Morse code requirement for HF access would have no impact on either the current HF CW-only sub-

bands or on the CW privileges of Amateur Radio licensees."

**Q.** What is the 1711-1799 kHz band used for? As a practical matter, is it really used at all in North America? Government publications list it for radiolocation but I haven't heard anything there for many years. Steve Green, San Diego, California

**A.** As Steve points out, this band does not appear to be in wide use. In ITU Region 2 the band is allocated for aeronautical radio navigation, fixed and mobile radio services, and radiolocation. To see what is licensed here in the United States, Table One shows the allocations listed by the FCC. (Note: RL is an abbreviation for Radiolocation.)

While not heavily populated, most of the signals in this band are probably aimed offshore or to nearby coastal waters and would not propagate well inland.

And that does it for this month. Until next time 73 and good hunting.

**TABLE ONE: 1711-1799 FCC ALLOCATIONS**

1705.0	KVC59 WBH84 WPXC758	Cook Inlet Pipeline Co Kevin O'Leary NorQuest Seafoods	Kenai, AK Kodiak, AK Ketchikan, AK	Alaska Private Alaska Private Alaska Private
1709.0	WDH61 WPXC758	Icicle Seafoods Inc NorQuest Seafoods	Petersburg, AK Ketchikan, AK	Alaska Private Alaska Private
1710.8	WNZG604 WNZG605 WNZZ248 WNZZ249 WPAP201	Cochrane Technologies Cochrane Technologies Cochrane Technologies Racal NCS Inc Racal NCS Inc John Fulton	Pacific Coast Areas Atlantic Coast Areas Great Lakes Region US Gulf and Offshore Waters Gulf and Offshore Waters Dillingham, AK	RL-Temporary RL-Temporary RL-Temporary RL-Temporary RL-Temporary Alaska Private
1712.0	KNNN982	Racal NCS Inc	Port Hueneme, CA	RL-Land
1714.0	KNNN982 KNNN982 KNNN982 KNNN982	Racal NCS Inc Racal NCS Inc Racal NCS Inc Racal NCS Inc	Pensacola, FL Boothville, LA Boothville, LA Gilchrist, TX	RL-Land RL-Land RL-Land RL-Land
1715.8	WPHW222	Cochrane Technologies	Gulf and Offshore Waters	RL-Temporary
1716.0	KNNN982 RS KNNN982 RS KNNN982 RS KNNN982	Racal NCS Inc Racal NCS Inc Racal NCS Inc Racal NCS Inc	Port Hueneme, CA Pensacola, FL Boothville, LA Gilchrist, TX	RL-Land RL-Land RL-Land RL-Land
1720.8	WNZG604 WNZG605 WNZZ248 WNZZ249 WPAP201	Cochrane Technologies Cochrane Technologies Cochrane Technologies Racal NCS Inc Racal NCS Inc	Pacific Coast Areas Atlantic Coast Areas Great Lakes Region US Gulf and Offshore Waters Gulf and Offshore Waters	RL-Temporary RL-Temporary RL-Temporary RL-Temporary RL-Temporary
1725.8	WPHW222	Cochrane Technologies	Gulf and Offshore Waters	RL-Temporary
1730.8	WNZG604 WNZG605 WNZZ248 WNZZ249 WPAP201	Cochrane Technologies Cochrane Technologies Cochrane Technologies Racal NCS Inc Racal NCS Inc	Pacific Coast Areas Atlantic Coast Areas Great Lakes Region US Gulf and Offshore Waters Gulf and Offshore Waters	RL-Temporary RL-Temporary RL-Temporary RL-Temporary RL-Temporary
1735.8	WPHW222	Cochrane Technologies	Gulf and Offshore Waters	RL-Temporary
1740.8	WNZG604 WNZG605 WNZZ248 WNZZ249 WPAP201	Cochrane Technologies Cochrane Technologies Cochrane Technologies Racal NCS Inc Racal NCS Inc	Pacific Coast Areas Atlantic Coast Areas Great Lakes Region US Gulf and Offshore Waters Gulf and Offshore Waters	RL-Temporary RL-Temporary RL-Temporary RL-Temporary RL-Temporary
1742.0	WPST448	Racal NCS Inc	Offshore Waters	RL-Temporary/Mobile
1744.0	WPST448	Racal NCS Inc	Offshore Waters	RL-Temporary/Mobile
1745.0	WQBW612	Subsea 7 LLC	Venice, LA	Business Data Signal
1745.8	WPHW222	Cochrane Technologies	Gulf and Offshore Waters	RL-Temporary
1746.0	WPST448	Racal NCS Inc	Offshore Waters	RL-Temporary/Mobile
1750.0	KNCW611	WesternGeco L.L.C.	Temporary Nationwide	RL-Temporary/Mobile
1750.8	WPAP201	Racal NCS Inc	Gulf and Offshore Waters	RL-Temporary
1755.8	WPHW222	Cochrane Technologies	Gulf and Offshore Waters	RL-Temporary
1757.0	KNCW611	WesternGeco L.L.C.	Temporary Nationwide	RL-Temporary/Mobile
1760.8	WPAP201	Racal NCS Inc	Gulf and Offshore Waters	RL-Temporary
1765.8	WPHW222	Cochrane Technologies	Gulf and Offshore Waters	RL-Temporary
1766.0	KNCW611	WesternGeco L.L.C.	Temporary Nationwide	RL-Temporary/Mobile
1770.0	KNCW611	WesternGeco L.L.C.	Temporary Nationwide	RL-Temporary/Mobile
1770.8	WPAP201	Racal NCS Inc	Gulf and Offshore Waters	RL-Temporary
1775.8	WPHW222	Cochrane Technologies	Gulf and Offshore Waters	RL-Temporary
1780.8	WPAP201	Racal NCS Inc	Gulf and Offshore Waters	RL-Temporary
1785.8	WPHW222	Cochrane Technologies	Gulf and Offshore Waters	RL-Temporary
1790.8	WPAP201	Racal NCS Inc	Gulf and Offshore Waters	RL-Temporary