

Q. Are the USAF KAWN fax frequencies gone? Greg, Marietta, Georgia

A. I have not seen any of these frequencies reported in quite some time. None of the current DoD instructions I could find online mention these broadcasts. My best guess: if they are still around they are only used for on-demand transmissions.

Q. With the new APCO-25 capable scanners now on the market (such as the Uniden BC-396), at some point I'd like to purchase one. As it is, I live in Rapides Parish, LA, which uses a Motorola Type II system. Thus, I can't justify upgrading from my BC-250, unless I move back to New York State. Just in case I'm missing something P25 here in Rapides Parish and don't know it, can you tell me – What does APCO-25 sound like on a conventional scanner? Can you tell there is something there, even if your scanner can't decode it? If there is something P25 in this area, that certainly would be added incentive to upgrade. Bill Seamans, Louisiana

A. Given the massive shift by the federal government, military and public safety agencies over to the P25 protocol, if I was updating my listening post, a P25 capable scanner is a must. As far as Rapides Parish in Louisiana, you should seriously consider a P25 scanner as soon as possible, thanks to the state's new LAITE trunk radio system.

In the aftermath of Katrina, the State of Louisiana is putting in a new P25 700 MHz interoperability trunk system statewide known as the Louisiana Totally Interoperable Environment (LATIE) radio system. This system will provide 700 MHz P25 digital voice communications with users across the state including LSP, Sheriff's Departments, Fire, Police, National Guard, Health Department, Game and Fish, United States Marshals, up to about 40,000 Public Safety users. Even the New Orleans Public Safety system is now dumping their M/A-Com ProVoice system for this new 700 MHz P25 system.

You can learn more about this new Louisiana Statewide Trunk System on their official page at www.lsp.org/interoperability.html. Matt Outlaw has a scanner site that has hobby related information on LAITE at www.scanningarkansas.com/LATIE.html.

And if you want to hear what P25 digital voice sounds like, go to Gary Hahn's Digital Modes Sample page at www.kb9ukd.com/digital/.

Q. I really like Monitoring Times, and have a question about scanner laws in California. Per my understanding, I can't use a scanner in a vehicle in California if it's in the furtherance of a crime. What I'm wondering

is...have you heard of anyone caught for speeding who has then been prosecuted for violating the California scanner law? Is this enforced, and if I'm caught speeding and they become aware of my scanner, will they take it? David, California

A. We have never received a report of anyone who received a ticket for speeding getting their scanner seized under California state statute. I don't believe that speeding is considered a criminal offense (unless other factors are involved) so it looks like Section 636.5 (below) would not apply. From the MT Online Reference Library:

California State Law

Most of its laws can be found under Chapter 1.5, Title 15 Miscellaneous Crimes, California Penal Code, Sections 630 to 637.9 and cover the gamut of eavesdropping violations. However, of all the sections, one is of particular interest to the scanner listener – section 636.5 titled "Police Radio Communications; prohibited interceptions; penalty."

Section 636.5 prohibits any person who is not authorized by the sender, to intercept any public safety radio service communication, by use of a scanner or any other means (such as online scanner audio on the Internet), for the purpose of using that communication to assist in the commission of a criminal offense or to avoid or escape arrest, trial, conviction, or punishment. It also punishes those who divulge to any person he or she knows to be a suspect in the commission of any criminal offense, the existence, contents, substance, purport, effect or meaning of that communication concerning the offense intending that the suspect avoid or escape arrest, trial, conviction, or punishment. Violations of Section 636.5 in California are considered a misdemeanor punishable by a fine or jail for less than one year or both.

Section 636.5 goes on to say that, "Nothing in this section shall preclude prosecution of any person under Section 31 or 32."

Sections 31 and 32 of the California Penal Code are the state statutes that deal with and explain the liability of principals to a crime, those primarily involved in the planning and execution of criminal activity, and those who are mere accessories to a crime.

Section 636.5 defines "public safety radio service communication" as a communication authorized by the Federal Communications Commission to be transmitted by a station in the public safety radio service. This is a common definition used by other states as well.

You can find out more about this at www.monitoringtimes.com/html/mtlaws_oct03.html. *Disclaimer: The information provided in this column is for informational use only. Nothing here should be construed as specific legal advice. Persons wishing legal advice for their particular situation should consult an attorney licensed in their jurisdiction.*

Q. I live in Gulf County in Florida, and for the most part it was a two frequency system for the police. The county used 460.500 MHz for their dispatch and the city of Port St. Joe used 460.125 for theirs. A few months back, a fellow told me that the county was set to move to a 800 MHz

frequency. So they have pretty much disappeared from the UHF frequencies except for the ambulance using the old 460.500 MHz frequencies for a backup and page out channel. I have done searches on the FCC site and haven't found anything at all that shows where they might have moved to. The State M/A Comm system shows up along with a joint task force system in the county, but even so, wouldn't the county show a license for those frequencies had they moved there? Anonymous

A. The Gulf County Sheriff has moved to the Florida Statewide Law Enforcement Radio System (SLERS) M/A-Com ProVoice trunk system. They are considered a third party user of this new statewide system. The list of third party users as of May 2006 are:

- Baker County Sheriff's Office
- Franklin County Sheriff's Office
- Glades County Sheriff's Office
- Gulf County's Sheriff's Office, Emergency Medical Service and Port St. Joe Police Department
- Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office (interoperability)
- Social Security Administration's Office of Investigations in Florida
- Sumter County Sheriff's Office (interoperability)
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Wakulla County Sheriff's Office

Other agencies are included in the 800 MHz system by statutory reference (s. 282.1095, F.S.) or by acceptance into the Governor's Enterprise-wide Sharing of Resources Model. Both categories of members receive equipment and services as provided by the M/A-COM contract. The statutory agencies are:

- Department of Business and Professional Regulation/Division of Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco
- Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles/Division of Florida Highway Patrol
- Department of Law Enforcement/Criminal Investigations and Forensic Science Services
- Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
- Department of Environmental Protection/Division of Law Enforcement
- Department of Corrections
- Department of Financial Services/Division of State Fire Marshal
- Department of Transportation/Motor Carrier Compliance Office

Unfortunately, SLERS is not a P25 system; therefore it cannot be monitored on any publicly available scanner, and is on my *Non-P25 Hall of Shame*.

And that is it for this month. I appreciate all the great questions. If you have a question for the MT Help Desk, send it to the email address in the masthead. Until next month, 73 and good hunting.