

Good afternoon and thank you for the opportunity to be here today-  
I'm Cumberland County Commissioner Barbara Cross-

I'd like to give a very brief history of the Radio project in Cumberland, tell you where we are currently and where we'd like to be in the future-

As you are aware- the trend in 1990 was to get away from low band- get away from analog and move to digital

By 1999 the County went out on an RFP – EF Johnson, Motorola, GE Erickson and also AmpWireless (Open Sky) as the first with Voice Over IP technology were part of this process. **Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP)** is a general term for a family of transmission technologies for delivery of voice communications over IP networks such as the Internet or other packet-switched networks.

During this time frame the Commonwealth selected Amp Wireless-

The County's consultants at the time however recommended Motorola – ultimately though, all vendors were rejected, and the project put on hold.  
By 2001 the Commonwealth contract was awarded to Amp Wireless

Soon after, the County received an unsolicited bid from Tyco based on the Commonwealth's pricing- Our Master contract was signed with Tyco and has since been renegotiated with Harris Corporation.-  
This began the partnership that Cumberland and the Commonwealth enjoy today-

However this interoperability took months of planning and required a commitment and dedication by both parties.

The benefits for both are best demonstrated through the County's site map – foremost this site-sharing reduces the burden for additional tower construction, saving both dollars and the environment-

The interoperability and site-sharing is evident at Reeser's Summit- where the County uses the Turnpike tower; has radio equipment housed in the Commonwealth shelter; and uses the Commonwealth microwave for network connectivity.

Another example is from our site at Lambs Gap site where the Commonwealth uses the County microwave into our Emergency Operations Center /EOC and then to the South Mountain site. The Lambs Gap site further links South Mountain to Waggoner's Gap then on to 3 Square Hollow-

Since the Waggoner's Gap site has presented some challenges -- the solution (which came out of a hallway conversation during a quarterly OPRS (**Office of Public Safety Radios System**) meeting) was for the State to put a couple of their radios in our EOC-

All in all the Commonwealth uses the County's microwave to access 3 radio sites, and Cumberland County uses the Commonwealth's microwave to access 2 sites.

### **Where we are today-?**

We are using 4 voice slot technology- (where a single radio channel supports 4 different voice transmissions) and we currently have 16 Radio Sites- 6 multi and 10 single channel sites-

We are rolling out 1,675 new portable radios and 664 mobiles, for a total of 2,359 subscriber units along with 20 control stations- this translates to usage by approximately 69 agencies- including Public Safety, local governments ( Lower Allen and Upper Allen Townships) the State radios on the County system used by Shippensburg University Police, DNCR State Parks - Pine Grove Furnace, King's Gap Environmental Education and Training Center, Col Denning and DNCR Forestry at Michaux State Forest.

We have identified 3 critical areas ( Shippensburg, Middlesex and New Cumberland) and these have received the first portables and mobiles- along with this distribution comes a full training package and equipment and software installation for the MRUs- I have attended the Police, Fire and EMS training sessions and have personally observed the installation of these radios into the Middlesex police cruisers.

We have also made available a County Radio Blog- complete with a tracking map for distribution, equipment installation and paramount to this project is the training schedule – The Blog further provides an opportunity for users to post comments, concerns and user ideas.

### **Where do we want to be-?**

Looking to the future, following the re-banding, we believe the Commonwealth will continue with the plans to grant roaming of selected public safety voice groups on the State radio system in the 8 County South Central Task Force-

Full interoperability with the microwave system would also provide video conferencing, from our EOC to Dauphin, and from Clark Knob into Franklin County.

One additional component to the enhancement of this interoperability within Cumberland County, would be the permissions for a State Police talk group through Cumberland's EOC.

Thank you again for this opportunity to speak-