



# MPD BULLETIN

## A Message from the Chief

February 2010



### Men and women of the Milwaukee Police Department:

The implementation of the Open Sky radio system has been a source of concern to every member of the Milwaukee Police Department. Once again, it is necessary to clarify the record and address the most recent controversies surrounding this project.

First, we must remind ourselves that this transition is not optional. Congress has mandated that all public safety agencies migrate from analog to digital trunked radio systems by January 1, 2013. Unfortunately, Milwaukee jumped out in front of this change before the technology caught up. We are still paying the price of premature innovation. You should know that every major city making this transition is experiencing similar challenges. Indeed, there are entire web sites devoted to the issue.

Second, as frustrating as the change process has been, I am simply not in a position to discard Open Sky. This has been a seven-year project that has cost over \$17 million

in taxpayer money. It is a sunk cost. I owe you, as police officers and taxpayers, my best efforts to get a value return on that investment, one that simply cannot be remade, in the current economic environment, with new money. I can say with absolute certainty, that we have made more progress in the last twelve months than in the preceding six years.

Third, due to our relentless pressure on our vendor, Harris Communications, we have been offered new consoles at no cost (the computer work stations that interface with the radios). The current consoles were bought long before the radio system was field-tested (in 2003) and have been a documented source for many of the radio problems reported by our officers. The replacement value would have been nearly \$3 million. That is a remarkable concession. We are currently negotiating the terms of this offer and an installation schedule.

Fourth, we are making plans to purchase new handheld radios for every officer in an operational assignment. This will enable all of our officers in the field to have a personal radio. This will probably take two budget cycles but will result in a better system and safer officers.

Fifth, we have constantly been working with Harris to identify and rectify dead spots while relying on our officers to diligently, accurately, and promptly report any and all problems to the chain of command. We can't fix what we don't know about. A critical component of problem identification has been field testing during what are known as "seven day tests." These are periods when the analog system is turned off and only digital technology is used. As you well know,

we have aborted several seven-day tests already, when the volume of problems identified required curtailment in the interest of efficiency and safety. I can report to you that, for the first time a seven-day test (this one) is actually going to be completed. Although there have been a few documented instances of substandard radio performance, the system, as a whole, has performed more reliably than at any other time. This is not the time to abandon our efforts at achieving a useful system. We will learn from and correct the problems that arose this past week, as that is the entire purpose of the seven-day test in the first place.

Sixth, through the use of seized asset forfeiture money, we have hired a nationally-known and respected engineering contractor to evaluate and monitor final implementation of this system. Federal Engineering has an extensive reputation for holding vendors accountable for their product. This system will not be accepted until Federal verifies to its and our satisfaction that the system and its components are fully functional.

Finally, I renew my commitment to your safety. I recognize that uncertainty regarding your radio communications system is a source of stress, and pledge our ongoing best efforts to make this system reliable. In the meantime, I urge you to continue to apply your best efforts to learning the new protocols and properties of your new radios while identifying issues and promptly reporting them. Together, I am sure that we can succeed in implementing a system that will ultimately be more reliable, flexible, clear, secure and versatile than any radio system in use in the country.





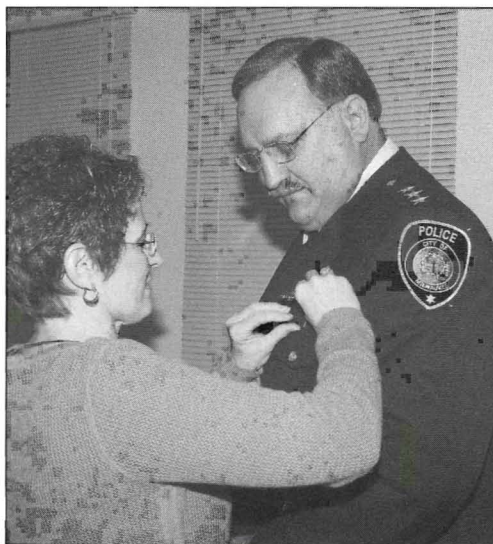
Chief Flynn with clergy graduates from the Citizen Police Academy Class on January 26. Pictured Left to right; Pete Schmidkofer, Redeemer Evangelical Free (District Six); Charles Green, Christian Faith Fellowship Church East (District Two); Archie Ivy, New Hope M.B. Church (District Five); Chief Flynn; Pamela Reit, Beautiful Savior Lutheran (District Seven); Fred Crouther, New Covenant Missionary Church (District Three); Wang Chao Lee, Grace Hmong Alliance Church (District Two); Christian Winkel, Redemption Evangelical Lutheran Church (District Four)



Chief Flynn with Michelle Harrer, Jacqueline Davis-Cobin, and Kathy Harris at their January 8 promotions. Michelle and Jacqueline were promoted to Police District Office Assistant, and Kathy was promoted to Office Assistant III.



Police Officer Dexter Love is awarded the Purple Valor for injuries he received while arresting a suspect at Custer High School.



Assistant Chief Edward Liebrecht's wife Marie pins on his badge at his January 8 promotion



Newly-promoted Inspector John Hagen (center, in uniform) is pictured with, L to R, Lt. Jason Smith, Lt. Gary Schuster, former MPD Capt. now Sheboygan Police Chief Chris Domagalski, former MPD Detective now DA Investigator Joe Link, Lt. Scott LaFleur, Lt. Alfonso Morales



## Vehicle Equipment Installation

The Communications Systems Section (AKA the Radio Shop) is under a tight schedule to ensure vehicles and officers are properly equipped. The CSS is tasked with installing radios, cages, light bars, and other equipment in our vehicles as well as other equipment in MFD and DPW vehicles. They are also tasked with programming and maintaining portable radio equipment as well as our radio network.

To maintain the vehicle setup schedule and CSS efficiency we are asking all members not to bring vehicles to the CSS without calling and scheduling an appropriate time. You may contact the Communications Systems Section at 935-7473.

Failure to properly schedule an appointment will result in you not being able to get your vehicle serviced the day you bring it.

## Radio Trouble Reports

There has been a slow down in the number of radio trouble reports that the Technical Communications Division has been receiving. We would like to think that this is a good thing; however, we suspect members may believe they do not help. The radio reports are used to trouble shoot radio problems and coverage issues throughout the city. These reports help us provide you with a radio system that you can feel comfortable with. As you may be aware the Milwaukee Police Department has hired Federal Engineering, a leader in public safety mobile radio consulting, to assist the city working with Harris Corporation ensuring that we are taking proper steps to providing a useful and reliable radio system. Federal Engineering is very interested in your feedback via the radio trouble reports. If you have a specific radio issue, you are encouraged to complete the reports so that we can improve the system and provide useful feedback.

## LPO Sharepoint Site

Leadership in Police Organizations (LPO) graduates are encouraged to view the LPO Sharepoint Site found on the department's Directives Intranet. Just click on the LPO Blog tab located on the upper left corner above the roll call calendar. There, you will find a blog where you can see what some of your fellow grads are discussing or perhaps you may want to weigh in on a topic and/or post one yourself. REMEMBER: In order to post, you must add your e-mail to your profile using the edit field. Additionally, you can upload your photo from the LPO photos link (lower left tab). Anyone needing assistance may call **Detective Kim Pierce**, Office of Management Analysis & Planning – Day Shift, at ext. 7830 or 414-305-1018.

In the future, the LPO site, accessible to LPO graduates only, may be the only source of information for LPO related events. Please check it regularly.

## Blue and Red Go Head-To-Head

The 2nd Annual Blue-Red basketball game is approaching. All department members, families and friends are invited to attend as the reigning champ, Milwaukee Police Department, challenges the Milwaukee Fire Department on the Bradley Center court prior to

the Bucks game on Saturday, April 10, 2010. Scheduled tip-off will be at 3:30 p.m. Bucks vs. Boston Celtics will begin at 7:30 p.m.

You must have a ticket to the Bucks game that evening to enter the Bradley Center for the MPD/MFD basketball game. Order tickets early to ensure seating! Special ticket prices are available. For more information or to order tickets, contact John Hummitzsch at 414-227-0594 or [jhummitzsch@bucks.com](mailto:jhummitzsch@bucks.com).

Let's support our team as they defend their title as reigning champ! GO BLUE!

## Social Networking

There are many technological tools available for networking. Aside from e-mail, some officers communicate using Facebook, Twitter, MySpace, YouTube, LinkedIn, among others. If used professionally and responsibly, these are great ways to stay connected. However, when policies are ignored and common sense is set aside, trouble is inevitable. From what is written to posted photographs, wise use of online persona must be applied. Below are some tips that can help you avoid negative consequences as you network:

- 1) No pictures of gun glorification.
- 2) No pictures involving alcohol.
- 3) Watch your comments.
- 4) Avoid bashing the department.
- 5) Restrict personal information.
- 6) Pay attention to picture choice.
- 7) Minimize status update complaints.
- 8) Highlight accomplishments.
- 9) Manage your privacy settings.
- 10) When in doubt, leave it out.

All department members are encouraged to review SOP 680-Computer Equipment on the Internet.

## TECH TIPS

*By Jill Price*

*Telecommunications Specialist*

### COMPUTER TIPS

- All email for all members is being archived by Mimosa application and available to Open Records request. Please use your email to conduct Departmental business only.
- A folder is reserved on the left hand side of your mailbox – PLEASE DO NOT DELETE THIS LINK
- Requests for larger e-mail storage will no longer be filled. Users will have to delete e-mail from their Outlook email account to provide additional space. Then you will have the ability to access all of your email through the Mimosa Archive application.
- Instructions are available on MINT:  
<http://mint.Milwaukee.gov/OutlookAssistance18083/ArchivingEmailMessages.htm>



# Top Cops and Unsung Heroes

- District 3 Officers **Gary Post** and **Scott Iverson** were following up on a latent fingerprint when Post developed information that the suspect was also involved in a strong –armed robbery. The officers arrested the suspect who confessed to the robbery, two burglaries and being in the stolen car.
- The parents of a man who was shot during a robbery in Bay View wrote Chief Flynn to commend Detectives **Pat Pajot**, **Eric Donaldson**, **Brett Huston**, **James Hensley**, **David Chavez**, **Douglas Williams**, **Gilbert Carrasco**, **Kenneth Fortune** and **Ronald Linzmeyer**. Their hard work and dedication led to the arrest of the suspect.
- Officers **Richard Gordy** and **Eugene Reyes** from District 5 quickly arrested a suspect after he stuffed a flaming rag into the mail slot at his ex-girlfriend's house. The officers identified the suspect after they had the girlfriend call him to ask about the fire. The suspect revealed information that only he would know.
- Investigator **Brian Wall** of the Caledonia Police Department wrote Chief Flynn to commend Officer **Tim Keller** of District 2 and Detective **Pat Pajot** of the Violent Crimes Division for assistance in the investigation of a robbery at a Caledonia home. The sharing of information between the jurisdictions led to the arrest of four suspects responsible for the robbery.
- District 2 Officers **Christine Kropidowski** and **Daniel Urban** were responding to a battery when they stopped a man who matched the description of the suspect. While detaining the suspect the officers learned that he actually robbed the victim, and he still had the victim's purse on him.
- District 4 Officers **Ronald Edwards** and **Marshall Jones** were in the 8900 block of W. Fairy Chasm Drive when they saw a suspect adjusting something in his waistband as he was exiting a driveway. The officers stopped the suspect, patted him down and found a gun his pocket.
- Officers **Nicholas Dankert** and **Matthew Wagner** from District 4 did a field interview of several suspects that were loitering around a car in a gas station parking lot. The officers found a .38 caliber handgun on one suspect and drugs on another.
- District 4 Officers **Steven Johnson** and **Shane Bishop** stopped a driver they knew didn't have a license. As the car was stopping the officers could see the driver making movements toward the center console. The officers searched the console and found a loaded revolver.
- District 2 Police Aide **Martez Ball** demonstrated keen observation skills when he recognized an unidentified bank robbery suspect on a wanted poster as someone he had recently booked. He searched the CMS database until he identified the suspect. The information was passed to CIB and a warrant was issued based on information provided by PA Ball and evidence found at the scene.
- NTF Officers **Jason Enk** and **Fawn Gabrielson** "asked the next question" when they stopped a suspect with a municipal warrant. The suspect told the officers about a convicted felon who was in possession of a shotgun. The officers did a knock and talk at the suspect's home and found the shotgun in his bedroom. He was arrested for felon in possession.
- NTF Officer **Christina Marshall** and her K-9 **Kenny** stopped a car for expired registration. The driver had drugs and a stolen credit card on him. He was arrested and conveyed to District 2 where two of his friends came to pick him up. Detectives arrested the friends after they discovered that they were suspects in several burglaries and thefts.
- NTF Officers **Michael Schwandt** and **Kurt Kezeske** found several graffiti paint markers on a suspect during a field interview in the 800 block of W. Mitchell. The suspect admitted he just vandalized three locations. District 2 Officer **Matthew Thompson** also responded when he heard the NTF officers tell the dispatcher that the stop was graffiti-related. Officer Thompson is familiar with much of the south side graffiti and he was able to link the suspect to a significant amount of graffiti vandalism in Milwaukee, West Allis and West Milwaukee.
- After two women were robbed of their purses near 83rd and Appleton, District 7 Officers **Warren McDuffie** and **Dwight Copeland** took initiative to repeatedly check the area for a suspect that was seen in a surveillance video. The officers eventually saw the suspect and arrested him for an ordinance violation. Using skillful questioning, CIB Detective **Todd Fischer** obtained a confession from the suspect for both robberies.
- NTF Officers **Tom Harter** and **Greg Sousek** stopped a car with a defective tail lamp in the 1300 block of W. Forest Home. The officers could smell marijuana in the car and observed blunt wrappers on the center console. The driver was arrested for a felony warrant and a half-pound of marijuana was found in a paper bag on the passenger seat. The suspect was on probation for a drug charge.
- District 5 Officer **Ken Cecil** was off-duty when he noticed a house on fire in the 300 block of E. Locust. At about the same time Officer **Jerry Whiteley** also saw the fire. They called for MFD and discovered a woman still inside of the burning home. The officers went into the home and rescued the woman, whose hair was on fire.
- District 5 Officer **Christopher Ottaway** was off-duty and leaving a store in Greenfield when he saw a store employee running after three people. Officer Ottaway identified himself as a police officer and the employee told him that the three had just stolen some merchandise and fled in a car. Officer Ottaway got into his car and called 911 while following the suspects through several municipalities. Eventually the suspects were stopped on I-43 and Moreland Road.