



Boston Area Police Emergency Radio Network (BAPERN)

May 1, 2014

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN WE CAN'T COMMUNICATE?

- ▶ On September 11, 2001, casualties were nearly 100 percent at and above the impact zones and were very high among first responders who stayed in danger as they tried to save lives.
- ▶ Despite weaknesses in preparations for disaster, failure to achieve unified incident command, and inadequate communications among responding agencies, all but approximately one hundred of the thousands of civilians who worked below the impact zone escaped, often with help from the emergency responders.

911 COMMISSION FINDINGS

- ▶ Make homeland security funding contingent on the adoption of an incident command system to strengthen teamwork in a crisis, including a regional approach.
- ▶ Allocate more radio spectrum and improve connectivity for public safety communications, and encourage widespread adoption of newly developed standards for private-sector emergency preparedness-since the private sector controls 85 percent of the nation's critical infrastructure.

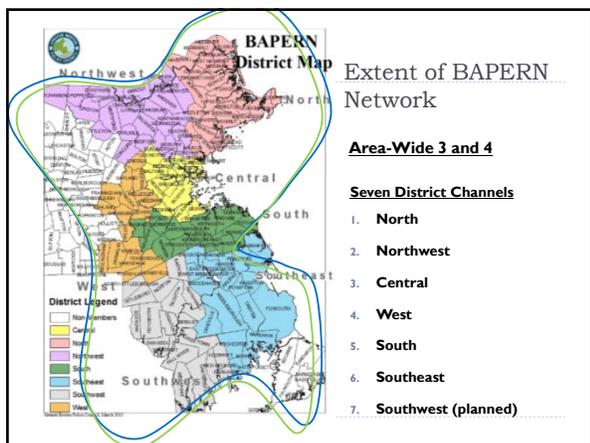
HISTORY OF BAPERN

- 1970: Harvard Sq. riots. No method for command and control of 1,200 officers responding from outside agencies with different communication systems. BAPERN developed to provide a mechanism for inter-agency communications.



Boston Area Police Emergency Radio Network

- ▶ Interoperability
- ▶ Communications During Special Operations
- ▶ Increased Officer/Agent Safety
- ▶ Enhance Effectiveness of Multi-agency Incidents
- ▶ Increase apprehension of suspects
- ▶ Improve Efficiency of Pursuits
- ▶ Reliable Infrastructure



BAPERN Area Wide Channels

- ▶ **“Area-Wide 3”** is a system-wide channel reserved for specific and relevant law enforcement notifications that are of interest **beyond a local district**. This channel can be heard by all agencies. Use Area-Wide 3 in an emergency situation, such as a major crime, pursuit, officer in need of assistance, missing person, etc.
- ▶ **“Area-Wide 4”** is a system-wide channel reserved for communications during **investigative operations, special local events, and as a back-up to Area-Wide 3, the District Channels, and local systems**. **Permission from GBPC is required** prior to using Area-Wide 4 for pre-scheduled events and operations.
 - ▶ AW4 is used for many planned local events, including: the Boston 4th of July activities, St. Patrick’s Day Parades, Pan Mass Challenge, Urban Shield, Boston Marathon, Bay State Marathon, and Salem Halloween. It is also frequently used for special investigations and local system failures.

BAPERN Agencies by Type

166 member agencies use the Area-Wide Channels:

- ▶ **130 Local Police**
- ▶ **19 College/Hospital PDs**
- ▶ **8 Federal Agencies**
- ▶ **5 Sheriff’s Departments**
- ▶ **4 State Agencies**

(Population of 3.9M (half of MA pop.), Land Area of 2,000 Sq. Mi. (25% of MA), Total Law Enforcement over 11,000 personnel)

Using Area-wide 3 (formerly BAPERN 3)

- ▶ Pursuits heading out of your district.
- ▶ Pursuing units should switch channels
- ▶ BOLO’s for serious crimes.
- ▶ Advise your units that you’re going to Area-wide 3



BAPERN District Channels

- ▶ **District Channels 5-11** – District Channels provide communications for specific and relevant law enforcement notifications that are of interest **within a local district only**.
- ▶ The seven District Channels are:
 - ▶ North District (5), South (6), West (7), Central (8), Northwest (9), Southeast (10), Southwest (11) *The Bristol County Sheriff's Department currently operates the Southwest District Channel, not GBPC.
- ▶ **Channel 12** is used for the District Digital Tactical channels.

BAPERN Districts

166 Members

- ▶ 44 Central
- ▶ 33 North
- ▶ 30 Northwest
- ▶ 21 South
- ▶ 22 West
- ▶ 16 Southeast

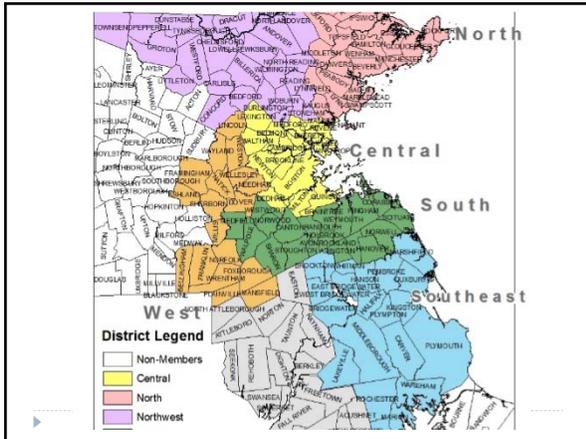


Using the District Channel

- ▶ Events along your border
 - ▶ Foot pursuits, searches, major accidents (in a fixed area in your District)
- ▶ Pursuit heading deeper into your district
 - ▶ Pursuing units should switch channels
- ▶ To hand off a 911 cell caller in motion

Working with PD's in other Districts

- ▶ When working along the border, move to ONE of the two district channels
- ▶ Move ALL units working the event from BOTH departments



Network Infrastructure

- ▶ 22 Simulcast Sites
- ▶ 32 Receive Sites



BAPERN Radio Procedures

- ▶ Use plain English - no "10 codes".
- ▶ Use a call sign including the city/town, agency, and user assigned ID.
 - ▶ **Waltham 431**
- ▶ Filling details is prohibited on BAPERN channels 3 - 9.
- ▶ Misuse of BAPERN should be immediately reported to GBPC for investigation.

BAPERN Radio Procedures, Cont.

- ▶ Transmit only when there is no other traffic on the channel.
- ▶ When entering a cruiser, turn your portable off.
- ▶ The emergency switch is only to be used in cases of extreme personal danger; when you are unable to transmit your message audibly.

BAPERN Radio Procedures, Cont.

- ▶ There is a delay when you Transmit on your District or Area-wide channels.
- ▶ Pause momentarily after pressing the transmit button to avoid cutting off the beginning of your transmission.
- ▶ Repeat your department throughout all transmissions and use BAPERN format:
 - ▶ Waltham Control to surrounding cities and town; Just occurred in Waltham
- ▶ Don't use "this town" or "our town"

Best Practices

- ▶ Begin your shift with a checklist
- ▶ Put ALL calls over the radio
- ▶ Use the radio (not the Nextel, Cell Phone or Land Line)
- ▶ Call format
 1. **Location**
 2. **Nature of the Call**
 3. **Details**

Best Practices, Continued

- ▶ Provide street addresses for all calls
- | LOCATION | NATURE | DETAILS |
|--|--------|---------|
| ▶ 256 Moody Street, alarm, ADT reports motion on the second floor. | | |
| ▶ 1060 Lexington Street, investigate a B&E, the resident came home and found her door kicked in. She's outside in her car. | | |
| ▶ 210 South Street, medical, man awoke to find his wife unconscious. We're giving CPR instructions by phone. | | |

LOCATION	NATURE	DETAILS
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Best Practices, Continued

- ▶ Vehicle descriptions:
 - ▶ Give description first, then run the plate
 - ▶ Model and color FIRST, then plate number
 - ▶ **Vehicle was a red Honda, Mass reg 123-ABC**
 - ▶ Broadcast the description FIRST, then run the listing.

Hot Calls

- ▶ Use Alert Tone
- ▶ Broadcast the information without calling a specific unit.
- ▶ "More to follow"
- ▶ Use station intercom

Two-Car Calls

Dispatch primary unit first, then back-up or second unit

- ▶ **Waltham Control to Waltham 432.**
 - ▶ 432 Main at Moody
- ▶ **Moody Street at High Street, a two car crash with injuries, fire and AMR en route.**
 - ▶ 432 Roger.
- ▶ **Waltham Control to Waltham 450**
 - ▶ 450 Newton and High
- ▶ **Assist 432 with the crash Moody Street at High Street...**

Broadcasting BOLO's

- ▶ Transmit emergencies right away – **"More to Follow"**
- ▶ Non-emergencies – Announce that a BOLO is coming
 - ▶ **Waltham Control to all units, stand by to copy a BOLO out of Boston**
- ▶ Confirm by calling units in numerical order:
 - ▶ **431?** 431 has it **433?** 433 Roger
 - ▶ **432?** 432 has it Continue....
 - ▶ **Units have it at 1432 hrs**

Use of BAPERN and District Channel
by Field Units

- ▶ Pursuing units should switch channels themselves.
 - ▶ Don't patch – Or units will outrun their radios
- ▶ Field Units should have authority to broadcast BOLO's from the scene
 - ▶ Preface BOLO's with announcement:
 - ▶ **Waltham 440 to the cars, switching up to AREAWIDE 3 for a BOLO**

Plainclothes Units

- ▶ Announce that plainclothes units are en route or have signed off.
- ▶ Broadcast a caution if additional units are assigned.
 - ▶ *453 to Waltham Control in foot pursuit back yards near 120 Charles Street*
 - ▶ **All units we have a plainclothes officer foot pursuit area of 120 Charles Street, go ahead 453.**

Policies and Procedures

- ▶ **The success of BAPERN requires all members to adhere to the MOU and BAPERN Policy and Procedure, including:**
 - ▶ Training of Personnel
 - ▶ Adherence to the Channel Plan
 - ▶ Monitoring of BAPERN Channels
 - ▶ Participation in Roll Calls
 - ▶ Proper Use of BAPERN Channels

Roll Call Procedures

All members are required to simultaneously monitor Area-Wide 3 AND their District Channel.

Two types of BAPERN Roll Calls:

- ▶ Area-Wide 3 Roll Call
 - ▶ Area-Wide 3 Roll Calls are conducted every Monday at approximately 1030 hours.
 - ▶ The tests rotate to reach all of the 6 BAPERN Districts, with only one District is tested each week (there are no tests for the SW District)
 - ▶ Your District Coordinating Department will test your District only once every 6 weeks.
- ▶ District Channel Roll Call
 - ▶ Your District Coordinating Department conducts one scheduled & one random District Roll Call every month.

Roll Call (Radio Test) Procedures

Policy Says That After 3 Missed Roll Calls:

- ▶ Coordinating Department will advise the agency of their failure to participate;
- ▶ Determine the reason for the failure; and
- ▶ Institute a plan for resuming consistent monitoring.

Radio ID Number Assignments

- ▶ The Greater Boston Police Council maintains the listing of ID numbers used by local police agencies.
- ▶ Prior to reprogramming your existing radios, you will need an ID assignment.
- ▶ To get your ID assignment, e-mail Diana Chidsey with the following information:
 - ▶ # of Portable Radios
 - ▶ # of Mobile Radios
 - ▶ If you are planning to add radios in the near future, please factor those numbers into your estimates. If you will be taking the old radios out of service, do not include those radios in your counts.

BAPERN Channel Plan

- ▶ **Member Agencies are required to simultaneously monitor Area-Wide 3 and their District Channel.**
- ▶ All members shall have their portable radios, cruiser radios and consoles programmed with the BAPERN Channel Plan.
- ▶ Standardizing the position on all radios will ensure that each channel is assigned the same channel number on every radio connected to the BAPERN System.

Radio Programming Guidelines

- ▶ Radios must be programmed with BAPERN Channel Plan.
- ▶ We recommend District Channel in slot #2
- ▶ Additional channels at your discretion.
- ▶ Radios must revert to Channel 1 when the emergency button is pressed.
- ▶ Radio "time-out" is to be set for no longer than ninety seconds.
- ▶ Push-To-Talk ID transmission shall be programmed to occur at some point during the transmission. For direct/simplex operation, this function should be disabled, if possible, in order to reduce annoyance.

BAPERN Programming Options

1. **Option One: Analog**
 - ▶ 16 channels (Nine Channels (3-11) reserved for BAPERN)
2. **Option Two: Digital, Single Zone Radios**
 - ▶ 16 channels (Ten Channels (3-12) reserved for BAPERN)
 - ▶ Includes your District Digital Tactical Channel (Ch. 12)
3. **Option Three: Digital with 3+ Zones**
 - ▶ Zone A: Local Zone (Channels 3-5 reserved for BAPERN)
 - ▶ Zone B: BAPERN Zone (Same layout as Option Two: Digital)
 - ▶ Zone C: Interop Zone (Channels 2-5 reserved for BAPERN)
 - ▶ Zone D (if possible): State Tactical Interoperable Communications Plan

BAPERN Usage – Best Practice Examples

Pursuit: Plymouth to Brockton

- ▶ Clear on-air announcements
- ▶ Information put out quickly on AW3
- ▶ All relevant agencies were monitoring and were then able to pre-position stop sticks
- ▶ Pursuit activity reported directly by involved officers

BAPERN Usage – Best Practice Examples

2013 Boston Marathon Bombings

During the week following the Marathon, BAPERN was used for:

1. Coordination of Personnel and Resources
2. Critical Law Enforcement Notifications
3. Communication of Tactical and Operational Information

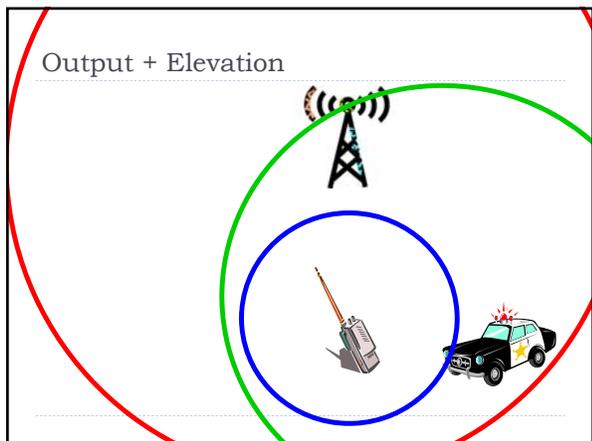
Additional Core Benefits Realized:

1. Impact of Monitoring BAPERN Channels from Afar
2. Availability of Multiple Channels (6 BAPERN channels were used simultaneously and patched with other critical channels)
3. Event of a Long Duration

Final Thoughts

- ▶ BAPERN is YOUR system, you designed it, you paid for it and you maintain it (through dues).
- ▶ The value of BAPERN is irrefutable.
 - ▶ It is the quickest method for communicating critical crime information. The sooner information is out there the quicker subjects can be located.
 - ▶ There is no other method for reaching a large number of officers immediately (telephone is not comparable).

Action Item: Make sure your officers know **how** to access BAPERN AW3 and District Channel, and what each is used for.



Dedicated icons are channel specific (Do not have channel steering or volume)
Area-Wide 3 and the local District and Tactical channel

Secondary icons have other BAPERN District and Tactical channels

Do NOT use scanners or multi-channel mobile radios for the Area-Wide 3 and local District channel !

Contact Information

Greater Boston Police Council
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Waltham, MA 02451
Phone: (781) 899-3331 (voice mail)
Fax: (781) 647-9501
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