



Greetings:

May 30, 2008

As you know, the Mutual Aid Box Alarm System (MABAS), Illinois Emergency Services Managers Association (IESMA), Illinois Law Enforcement Alarm System (ILEAS) and the Illinois Terrorism Task Force (ITTF) have worked together for several years to provide equipment, training, planning and support to local first responders and emergency managers in Illinois. Part of that support was the provision of over 2,000 StarCom21 radios to local agencies.

Recently, in an agreement between Sprint/Nextel and the Federal Communications Commission, it has been determined that all the StarCom21 radios that ITTF issued through MABAS, ILEAS and IESMA in recent years, need to be physically reprogrammed. The reprogramming, which you may have heard referred to as "rebanding," must be done by a radio technician at Sprint/Nextel's expense. If a Starcom21 radio is not rebanded by the local agency, the unit will be unable to access the Illinois interoperability platform. Motorola has been contracted to do all the technical reprogramming work. As you can imagine, coordinating this rebanding is a major effort that will involve virtually every first responder and emergency agency in the State.

ILEAS has received a contract from Illinois Department of Central Management Services to coordinate the rebanding of StarCom21 radios possessed by local agencies and ITTF. However, ILEAS is working with and is supported by MABAS, IESMA and ITTF in this effort. Besides the logistical coordination of getting all the radios rebanded, ILEAS will be responsible for sending a check to each agency ranging from \$88.18 to \$119.70 per radio to offset their costs for simply bringing it in to get rebanded.

The rebanding for State agencies started this month. Rebanding for local agencies will start in August. It is imperative that all local agencies that possess a Starcom21 radio from the ITTF participate in this project as requested. You will receive more information as we get closer to August but some things are known already:

- Rebanding will be conducted at Motorola Service Centers (MSC's) in Illinois
- StarCom21 radios that are base stations, consolettes, mobile command posts, ITECS trailers, armored vehicles and otherwise difficult to bring to a center will be rebanded on site. Arrangements will be made later for that to occur.
- A website is being developed with all the information you will need to get your radio rebanded and collect your fee. That address is www.illinoisrebanding.org. The site is NOT yet active and is currently being built. Please put on your calendar on June 15th to check the site for more information.
- Over The Air Programming will be added to some of the radios so that future reprogramming can be done without physically bringing the radio into a service center.

At this point, you do not have to do anything besides locate your StarCom21 radio so that it is ready to go. You will be receiving more information in the coming weeks. We look forward to working with everyone!

Mark Beckwith

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