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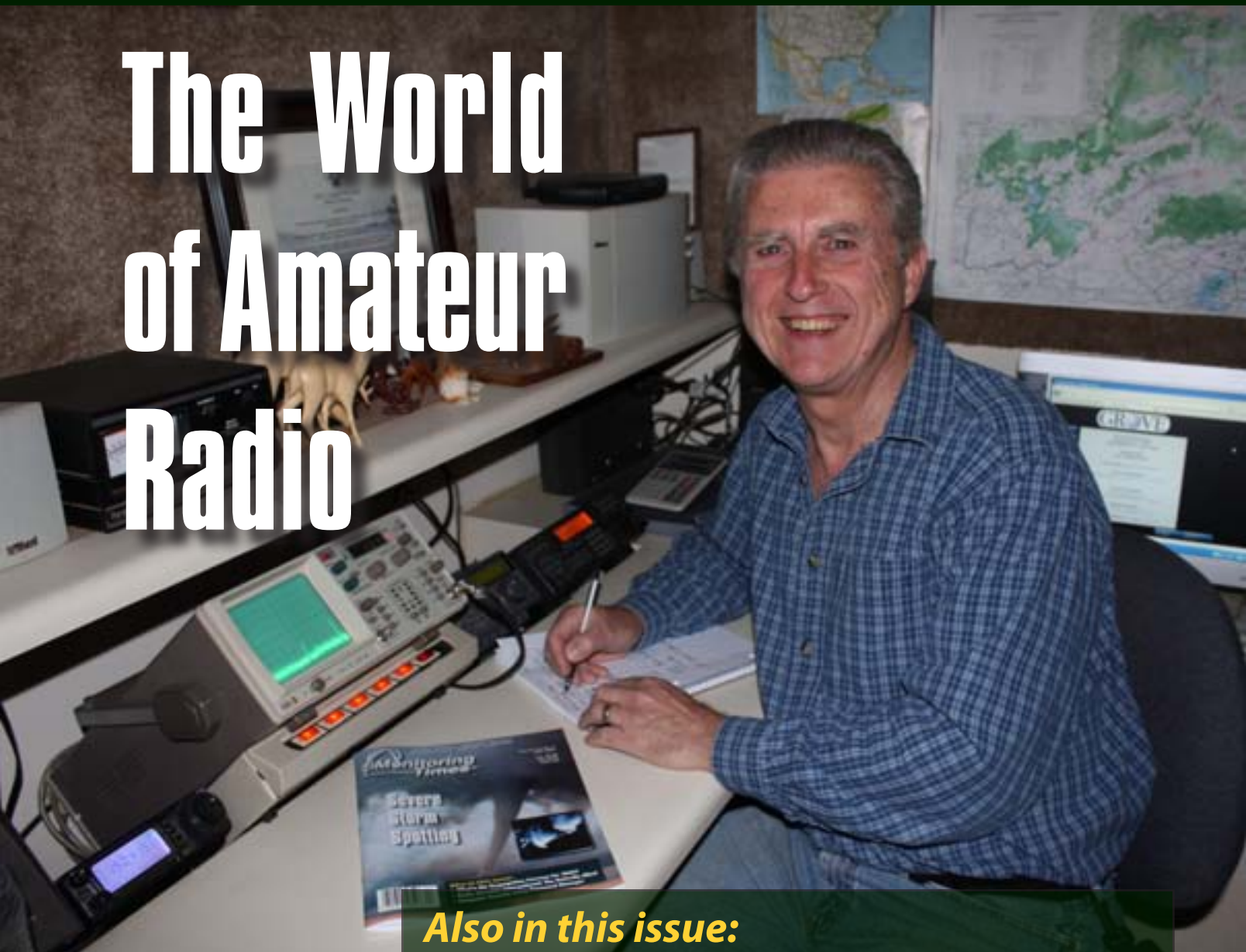
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Inauguration and Super Bowl Wrap Up

The first two months of 2009 brought us not one, but two National Security Special Events that offered great potential for scanner listeners. Both the Inauguration of the 44th President of the United States, Barack Obama, and the playing of Super Bowl XLIII in Tampa represented a huge mobilization of local, state, federal, and even military hardware and personnel for both events. Since keeping these types of events safe from potential threats is a primary goal of public safety and law enforcement these days, it seemed that no expense was spared to prepare for these potential targets.

In the case of the Presidential Inauguration, the preparation and organization of local and federal agencies was unprecedented. Almost every federal agency or office seemed to have some participation in the inaugural events in some way. Estimates on the number of people expected to pour into the nation's capitol varied up into the millions, so plans to cover every possibility were going to take many people and equipment.

As in past security events such as these, both military Combat Air Patrols and the Customs Air and Marine (CBP A&M) aircraft were busy at both events. You can find the latest news on the CBP A&M division here: www.cbp.gov/xp/cgov/border_security/air_marine/cbp_air_marine_overview.xml

❖ Presidential Inauguration 2009

Unfortunately, I was not able to attend any of the inaugural events in Washington, DC, but with the help of several sources I was able to get a handle on what was heard on some of the federal frequencies during the days of activities. One problem with monitoring in the Washington DC area is trying to figure out what is new and different in the federal bands. Some of the active frequencies that were reported may not have been related to inauguration activities, but many

probably were. It's hard to imagine any federal agency that didn't have something related to the inauguration going on!

Some new sources of active radio traffic related to the inauguration were found on the 380 MHz P-25 UHF trunked systems in the DC Military District. These new P-25 trunked sites have been showing up all around the Washington area like so many dandelions lately. I am looking forward to some aggressive analysis of these new trunked systems in a future trip to the DC area.

As was expected, many of the federal law-enforcement channels were using encryption, but some were not, or were not using it 100% of the time. Even small bits of clear traffic can sometimes reveal some information about the possible user agency, so don't give up on some of those encrypted channels. In the listings below, I did not include any traffic heard on the DC area UHF federal and military trunked systems, as that would take up more room than I have in this column. Channels that have no user information listed did not provide enough information to positively identify them at this time.

N = P-25 Network Access Code
D = DCS Digital Coded Squelch
C = CTCSS Analog Tone Squelch
CSQ = Carrier Squelch

Freq.	Code	User / info
162.0500	N293	
162.0750	N201	Secret Service Uniformed Division
162.1250	N293	
162.2500	173.8	US Capitol Police F4
162.3125	N211	Secret Service uniformed Division
162.6125	C127.3	US Capitol Police F5
162.6125	D031	
163.0250	N4C5	
163.1000	N167	Federal Itinerant, FBI
163.1125	N001	
163.2125	N100	
163.3125	N202	Secret Service Uniformed Division
163.3750	C210.7	US Postal Service
163.6500	N081	DHS Immigration and Customs Enforcement
163.7250	N073	DHS Immigration and Customs Enforcement
163.7750	167.9	FBI, JHAT (Joint Hazard Assessment Team)
163.8875	N167	FBI
163.9375	N167	FBI, possible input to 167.4625 MHz
164.1750	N011	Secret Service Uniformed Division
164.4000	N001	Secret Service PAPA
164.4375	N212	Secret Service Uniformed Division
164.5750	N4C5	Possible input to 170.5125 MHz
164.6750	N075	
164.8875	N001	Secret Service OSCAR
165.1875	C156.7	Arlington National Cemetery
165.2125	N001	Secret Service MIKE

165.2375	C100.0	DHS Customs A&M OMAHA air assets
165.2875	N650	BATFE NET 1
165.3750	N001	Secret Service CHARLIE
165.4125	C210.7	Mall area
165.5375	C146.2	US Capitol Police F2
165.5875	C167.9	FBI Washington Field Office
165.7875	N001	Secret Service BAKER with EV-ERGREEN (Hillary Clinton)
165.9250	C127.3	
165.9750	C127.3	
166.0875	N754	clear; "this side of Mall"
166.3250	N546	
166.4375	C100.0	DHS Customs & Border Protection, input to 165.2375 MHz
166.4625	N001	DHS & Treasury Common
166.5125	N001	WHCA SIERRA
166.7250	C127.3	US Park Police F1
166.9250	C127.3	US Park Police F2
166.8500	C127.3	US Park Police F4
167.0125	N001	Secret Service
167.0375	N001	Secret Service
167.0750	C127.3	US Park Police F3
167.1875	N001	
167.2125		FBI
167.3125		FBI
167.3625		FBI
167.3875		FBI
167.4125	N167	FBI
167.4375	C167.9	FBI
167.4375	C167.9	FBI
167.4625	N167	FBI
167.4875		FBI
167.5375		FBI
167.7875		FBI
167.9500	C167.9	FBI, reported as DC Field Office Intelligence Teams
168.1250	C167.9	FBI
168.1750	N293	
168.2625	N71F	
168.4250	CSQ	"Command Center"; "west lobby 1"; "east lobby 1"
168.4250	N293	National Capital Parks
168.5875	N001	Secret Service
168.8625		
168.8750	N653	DC INTEROP 2, patched with 866.5125 MHz
168.9000		
168.9750	C167.9	FBI
169.2250	C110.9	US Capitol Police F1
169.4500	C100.0	DHS Customs NET
169.5000	C103.5	
169.7750	N4C5	US Parks Service - George Washington Parkway
170.0000	NFFB	Secret Service Washington Field Office
170.1000	C103.5	
170.1750	C156.7	US Capitol Police F3
170.4750	N653	
170.5125	N4C5	US Parks Service
170.7500	N293	US Marshals
170.7875	N001	
170.8000	N098	
171.3625	N293	
172.1500	N001	TSA (DCA)
172.1500	N002	TSA (DCA)
172.4750	N4C5	National Parks Service National Capital Parks - Central
172.5375	N001	
172.5500	NE04	Radio tests
172.5875	N077	
172.7500	C229.1	National Parks Service, reported White House Maintenance
172.9000	N003	TSA (DCA)
172.9125	N293	FAA DCA NAVCOM and POTOMAC SOC



Courtesy of the Secret Service

173.0000	N293	
173.5250	C167.9	Capitol Police
173.5500	N71F	
173.6375	N293	US Supreme Court Security
173.8125	N167	FBI, reported as HRT/TSR operations
260.9000	AM	NORAD
345.0000	AM	DHS Coast Guard air units GUARDIAN
350.0250	AM	CBP Customs A&M units GUARDIAN
350.2500	AM	GUARD DOG
406.5500	C210.7	National Gallery of Art - Security
406.6000	C167.9	Justice Department - FBI Headquarters
406.8625	N312	Disaster Medical Assistance Teams
406.9375	C77.0	
407.2500	N003	Called HAZMAT 3 or OPS 3
407.6000	N0F0	US State Department
407.6625	N312	
407.7250	N482	US Postal Inspectors
407.7750	N482	US Postal Inspectors
407.7875	D364	
407.8625	N0F0	US State Department
408.2625	N312	
408.2750	C167.9	
408.4000	C167.9	
408.5125	D632	US Capitol
408.6000	N0F0	US State Department-building security FOGHORN
409.0000	N293	Disaster Medical Assistance Teams
409.3375	C114.8	Federal Interoperability
409.3750	D606	
409.4000	N265	US Capitol Police?
409.5125	D073	Government Printing Office
409.5500	C100.0	National Parks Service
409.7125	N0F0	US State Department
409.8375	C77.0	US Capitol Police
409.8625	C141.3	FEMA
410.4625	N312	FEMA
410.6625	C141.3	FEMA
411.1250	N156	Drug Enforcement Administration
411.2750	N202	DHS Federal Protective Service
414.4750	N203	DHS Federal Protective Service
415.2000	N201	DHS Federal Protective Service
417.2000	N201	DHS Federal Protective Service
417.8875	N295	
417.9500	C127.2	
419.2500	C167.9	FBI Headquarters - HOOVER CONTROL
419.4875	D624	VISITOR CENTER

Some observations about some of the frequencies shown above – several previously unidentified VHF frequencies were observed using a NAC of N001. This has become a common NAC used by the Secret Service (and some other agencies). While there wasn't enough clear traffic to identify the user, these frequencies definitely need a second look when the Secret Service is in town. Also, it should be noted that the Uniformed Division of the Secret Service are apparently not using NAC001 on their frequencies in DC.

Special thanks to all the listeners in the Capitol region who shared their findings, but wished to remain anonymous.

❖ Super Bowl XLIII

The 43rd Super Bowl was played in Tampa, Florida, at Raymond James stadium on February 1st. I was on location to help with the international television coverage of the event. The two weeks leading up to the big game were a chance for me to sweep the radio spectrum and see what was going on in the Tampa area.

Where the Secret Service was the lead federal agency at the Presidential Inauguration, the FBI was in the lead in Tampa. Along with the FBI, nearly 20 local, state and federal agencies

were operating at the Tampa Operations Center, or as it was referred to on the radio, TOC. Encryption was used very consistently on many of the monitored P-25 communications, but some clear traffic was heard. But overall, it appeared that radio traffic in general and the number of active frequencies at Super Bowl XLIII was down from past bowls, such as at Phoenix or Miami.

So, here is what was heard in the Tampa area over the two weeks I was based there. Some traffic may not have been directly related to Super Bowl operations, but much of it was:

Freq	Mode/Code	User / comments
119.0500	AM	Tampa airport tower, discrete frequency used over the stadium
136.3750	AM	CBP A&M OMAHA42B with JACKPOT
139.8000	AM	Thunderbirds air-to-air
140.7000	AM	Thunderbirds air-to-air
148.1500	C110.9	Civil Air Patrol repeater
157.0500	CSQ	US Coast Guard Operations
162.0250	CSQ	US Coast Guard Operations
162.1250	CSQ	US Coast Guard Operations
162.1375	P-25	
162.2125	C179.9	
163.0625	P-25	
163.0875	131.8	VAMC Maintenance
163.2375		
163.2625	D464	
163.3625	N131	VAMC Security
163.8625	N167	FBI
164.4375		
164.5500	N780	
164.5500	N167	
164.8250	123.0	
164.9625	100.0	CBP A&M air operations TAC 21
165.0750		
165.2375	100.0	CBP Customs NET 1
165.2875	N650	BATFE NET 1
166.3000	100.0	
166.4625	N167	DHS Common, called CHANNEL 3
167.3750		
167.4375	N167	FBI
167.4625	167.9	FBI
167.4875	N167	FBI
167.5125	N167	FBI
167.5375	N167	FBI
167.5625	167.9	FBI
167.5875	N167	FBI
167.6875	N167	FBI
167.7875	N167	FBI
168.5250	CSQ	Paging - VA Medical Center
168.8250	N167	FBI
168.8500	151.4	DHS CBP Border Patrol
169.4750	CSQ	Data?
170.1250	D371	US Postal Service operations
170.6750		
170.7875	N272	
171.0125		FAA Data
171.0750	100.0	CBP Customs
171.6875	N293	
172.1500	P-25	DHS TSA at Tampa International Airport
172.2125	P-25	
172.8750	N293	FAA at Tampa International Airport
172.9000	N001	DHS TSA at Tampa International Airport
173.0125	N650	BATFE TAC 3
228.9000	AM	CBPA&M OMAHA39 with HUNTRRESS (NORAD)
260.9000	AM	OMAHA39 & OMAHA42B with HUNTRRESS
345.0000	AM	US Coast Guard JEDDA or JEDDAH
349.0000	AM	Thunderbirds
350.0250	AM	OMAHA42B with JACKPOT
364.2000	AM	NORAD

Unfortunately, I was not able to catch much good stuff in the federal UHF band. Most of the time I was searching while in the stadium area, and there were hundreds of UHF business band radios running around me all the time, so images

and signal overload was a constant problem. However, I was able to get some frequencies logged while at my hotel in Tampa:

Freq	Code	User / comments
406.0250	203.5	
406.1375	D371	US Postal Service - Truck operations
406.5625	N127	MacDill AFB TRS
406.7625	N127	MacDill AFB TRS
406.9625	N127	MacDill AFB TRS
407.1375	N482	US Postal Inspectors
407.3625	N127	MacDill AFB TRS
407.5625	N127	MacDill AFB TRS
407.7625	N127	MacDill AFB TRS
407.9625	N127	MacDill AFB TRS
408.1625	N127	MacDill AFB TRS
408.3625	N127	MacDill AFB TRS
408.5625	N127	MacDill AFB TRS
408.8500	D506	
409.1625	P-25	
409.4750	CSQ	
409.9500	D432	
414.7000	136.5	
415.0500	N482	US Postal Inspectors
415.1375	D371	US Postal Service - input to 406.1375 repeater
416.1735	N482	US Postal Inspectors - input to 407.1375

An interesting side note to the activities at the stadium occurred just prior to the big game. The New York Yankees spring training facility, George Steinbrenner Stadium, is located across the street and was designated as our emergency evacuation area in case of an emergency at the stadium.

On the Friday evening prior to Super Sunday, I heard, but could not see, a large helicopter land at what appeared to be some sort of designated staging area at Steinbrenner Stadium. Early Saturday morning I was able to get a look at what had landed. It turns out there were not one, but two Bell 412 twin-engine, four rotor helicopters – one was a very dark green and the other a dark maroon color. Both were unmarked, except for the N number along the tail boom. Both took some orientation flights around the stadium on Saturday, with some of their personnel hanging their legs out of the open side doors on the aircraft. All appeared to be wearing dark green flight suits or BDU-type uniforms. No radio traffic was identified specifically with these two choppers, but there was some reference to perimeter security around the field they had landed in.

According to Wikipedia, one of the federal agencies operating the Bell 412 helicopter is the US Department of Energy. Could this have been a NEST team on location?

Special thanks go to all those folks listening in Washington DC and Tampa who were kind enough to share what they heard with me – you know who you all are!

That's all for this month and the *Fed Files*. But we will return in July!



Courtesy of the FBI