

1/8/2016

This update on DaneCom is definitely long overdue and I apologize for the lack of information over the past months. However, past experience with the project resulted in a great abundance of caution in passing along information that could change at the proverbial drop of a hat. Specifically, past experience made me hesitant to declare much about system progress with a great amount of confidence. Now, tangible progress is viewable, some of which can be seen in the attached pictures! I'll try to include better pictures in future communications as well.

In 2014, groups of future users of the P25 voice subsystem of DaneCom performed extensive coverage testing. This user testing included taking a portable radio inside certain buildings around the county to verify that in-building coverage was acceptable to the users. The results of this testing did not live up to user expectations (although Harris provided the coverage for which we had contracted) and their concerns were voiced to the County.

The County not only heard those concerns, but also took action to improve overall DaneCom coverage. Several new towers are being added to the DaneCom system. O&M costs associated with those new towers will be paid for by the County and will not be borne by the users. In addition, one tower is being switched to another site. That particular old tower has a very high monthly lease cost. Changing that tower will save around \$100,000 in yearly O&M lease costs alone! Additional savings will be enjoyed since users will not be paying for other costs, such as electricity, for this site. These O&M costs are what the users would be paying 70% of the costs for. Even though one tower is 'going away', enhanced coverage will still be enjoyed in the affected area. That enhanced coverage will be provided by two of the new towers mentioned below.

Updated DaneCom information at a glance:

- “Go live” of the entire enhanced DaneCom system is currently predicted to happen in late **November 2016**
 - Early adopters may be able to utilize the system beginning sometime in **October 2016**
- O&M costs for the new DaneCom tower sites used to enhance coverage **will not** be passed on to the users
- If you have already programmed your DaneCom-capable radios, unfortunately, they will need to be programmed again. The DaneCom P25 system parameters - including some frequencies – are changing. An additional Analog Tactical channel is also being added. This was all done to provide users with an improved experience overall.
- Coverage enhancements are being provided to the following DaneCom subsystems:
 - P25 voice subsystem (additional sites and one relocation)
 - Paging subsystem (additional sites and one relocation)
 - Analog Tactical subsystem (1 additional channel, additional sites, and one relocation)
 - Mutual Aid subsystem (a re-work of the transmitters and receivers)
- New DaneCom tower locations:
 - DeForest (State Patrol HQ) – P25, Paging, and Analog Tactical subsystems
 - Rockdale (near Rockdale / Cambridge) - P25, Paging, and Analog Tactical subsystems
 - WJJO tower (Deerfield) - P25 and Analog Tactical subsystems

- Stoughton Water Tank (Racetrack Rd) - P25, Mutual Aid, Paging and Analog Tactical subsystems
- Remaining DaneCom tower locations:
 - Sun Prairie (Thompson Rd) - P25, Paging, and Analog Tactical subsystems
 - Roxbury (Springfield Hill) - P25, Paging, and Analog Tactical subsystems
 - Eisner (just outside Mazomanie) - P25, Mutual Aid, Paging, and Analog Tactical subsystems
 - UW (near the Target off Mineral Pt Rd) - P25, Mutual Aid, EMS-B, Paging, and Analog Tactical subsystems
 - Verona (Wesner Rd at the Dog Park) - P25, Point to Point, Paging, and Analog Tactical subsystems
 - Deerfield (I94 at Hwy 73) - Mutual Aid, Paging, and Analog Tactical subsystems
 - WMGN tower (Fitchburg) - P25 subsystem
 - McKee Rd Water Tower (Fitchburg) - P25 subsystem
 - Brigham Park (Blue Mounds) – Mutual Aid and Analog Tactical subsystems
- Removed DaneCom tower at:
 - Stoughton - AT&T (a few miles outside of Stoughton – replaced with Rockdale and Stoughton Water Tank)

Ground has been broken at some of the new sites. Concrete is being poured and at least one tower is being rehabbed to ensure it's ready to house the new DaneCom equipment. In short, work is in progress even during these cold, snowy winter days.

Please pass this message along to anyone inside or outside your organization that is interested or would benefit from receiving updates such as this. I can also add those people to this email list – just let me know!

These updates will become more regular as work continues to bring the enhanced DaneCom system to life. If you have any questions, please let me know.

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