



*LeGrande Technical and
Social Services, LLC*

**STATEMENT OF ROBERT LEGRANDE, II
PRESIDENT AND CEO OF
LeGRANDE TECHNICAL AND SOCIAL SERVICES, LLC**

**BEFORE THE
UNITED STATES HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY'S
SUBCOMMITTEE ON EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS,
PREPAREDNESS, AND RESPONSE**

HEARING ON

**“INTEROPERABILITY IN THE NEXT ADMINISTRATION: ASSESSING
THE DERAILED 700MHZ D-BLOCK PUBLIC SAFETY SPECTRUM
AUCTION”
REPORT/ORAL TESTIMONY**

SEPTEMBER 16, 2008

Good afternoon Mr. Chairman and members of the Subcommittee. My name is Robert LeGrande and I am the former Chief Technology Officer of the District of Columbia Government and former Program Executive for the National Capitol Region's Interoperability Program. In this role, I led the District's Land Mobile Radio (LMR) network upgrade and, as a result, the District of Columbia's First Responders have one of the best interoperable LMR communications systems in the country. In addition, I also led the development of the nation's first city-wide 700 MHz broadband wireless network for first responders. This pilot network is considered a model for the nation (http://www.ntia.doc.gov/ntiahome/press/2007/WARN_060807.html) and serves as a test bed for how applications can be shared securely among Public Safety agencies.



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I recently resigned from the District of Columbia and formed LeGrande Technical and Social Services, LLC. My firm is leveraging lessons learned in the District to deliver similar high-quality technology solutions and services to government and commercial clients throughout the country and abroad. In this role, I continue to support Public Safety in the development of the national 700 MHz broadband wireless network.

I appreciate the committee's ongoing efforts to address this critical issue and thank you for the opportunity to present my views on "Interoperability in the Next Administration: Assessing the Derailed D-Block Public Safety Spectrum Auction". Given the complexity of this issue and time allotted, I will keep my comments brief and focused on three key areas: What can we learn from what went wrong, what we are doing about it today, and what can we do today to ensure success tomorrow?

What can we learn from what went wrong?

I have noted 3 lessons learned: (1) We must fund the PSST- The job of figuring out how to solve America's most pressing communication problem by leveraging a complex public/private solution is hard enough... Trying to accomplish this while finding funding drains the PSST's resources and reduces their ability to focus on the real issue: Public Safety Communications.



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(2) We must have a backup plan- Thirteen months have passed since the rules were set in place for the national network. These rules prohibited States and Local jurisdictions from deploying and operating their own 700 MHz networks using standard commercially available technology. We “Put all of our Eggs in one basket” (reference LeGrande Testimony 08-16-08 Attachment 1.0), and, as a result of the failed auction, we are in a worse place than we were thirteen months ago. We are worse because the need and drive toward broadband communications for first responders has not stopped and, as a result, States and Local jurisdictions are either deploying non-700MHz broadband networks or leveraging commercial networks. “The eggs are leaving the basket”.

(3) One size may not fit all- Several large jurisdictions have stated their desires to build and operate a private 700MHz broadband network which would be seamlessly interoperable with a national or regional commercial networks. It appears that in the forthcoming “Further Notice For Proposed Rule Making”, this issue continues to be ignored. Disregarding the views of the cities and jurisdictions hit hardest by terrorist and natural disasters is not sound policy.

What are we doing about it today?

Based largely on press reports, it appears that we are offering the commercial market the same basic opportunity with a few exceptions. (1) We will allow a regional commercial auction option and continue to offer a national licensee option (2) We are lowering the reserve price (3) We are lowering the Public Safety requirements. I'm confident someone will take advantage of this offer, but what will PS get? My view: PS will either get a new national commercial network or new regional commercial networks. Either way PS users will likely pay \$48.50 per user per month for commercial services with some PS priority. PS will have given \$2 Billion radio frequency spectrum; and will get what we already have in return. We will have also disenfranchised several PS customers, who have already pledged to use different services, and, worse, we will have divided the PS marketplace among the commercial carriers. Carriers will likely make PS priority adjustments in their networks and continue to compete for PS business. If they are successful, the nation's first responder's communications will be split among carriers. This is not win-win-win, this is win-win-lose, the FCC will win because it has righted the wrong of the first auction; the commercial industry will win because it will have purchased some of the best available radio frequency spectrum well below the market value, and PS will lose because it did not gain a full return off of its investment of \$2 Billion in radio frequency spectrum.

What can we do today to ensure success tomorrow?

(1) We should fully fund the PSST. (2) We should fund and allow state and local Governments to deploy and operate networks using standard commercially available technologies in advance of the national/regional network deployments. This will give immediate relief to the jurisdictions who need to start now; while keeping them all in the same “Swim lane” and Swimming in the same direction. This will also re-start the PS broadband technology marketplace, and thereby get us on the path to test and refine PS broadband wireless devices and applications. When the national or regional network is prepared to deploy and operate in that “early deployment” jurisdiction, the jurisdiction should be compensated for its network assets and turn over operations to the national or regional licensee. This also acts as a backup plan in the event that the second auction fails... (3) We are not ready for new rules... In last months “FCC En Banc” hearing, we had more questions than we had answers. We should take more time to comprehensively evaluate the best possible solution leveraging the full capabilities and investment from Federal, State and Local Governments, Public Safety Associations as well as private industry. One disturbing fact that is being ignored is that the Federal Government is working on a completely separate communications solution.



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During Katrina, the attacks of 9-11, and, most recently, the hurricanes of 2008; we deployed comprehensive Federal, State and Local responses. Shouldn't we empower the responders with a Comprehensive Communications System? We have time to find a better way, and we should take it.

In summary, I recommend that:

The FCC:

- Grant permission for early deployment operations
- Ensure reimbursement to jurisdictions that deploy early once the national or regional licensee takes over operations
- Establish an accelerated waiver process
- Take more time to find a comprehensive win-win-win solution for the national/regional network

The Congress:

- Fully fund the PSST
- Provide funding to help jurisdictions finance early deployments

The PSST:

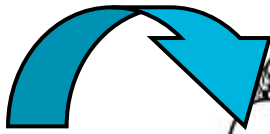
- Grant permission for early deployment operations

I sincerely appreciate the opportunity to share my recommendations and the committee's continued work on addressing this issue. I'm happy to answer any questions you may have. Thank you.


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LeGrande Testimony 08-16-08
Attachment 1.0

National Public Safety Broadband Communications: "EGGS" are leaving the "BASKET"



State and Local
Jurisdictions
"EGGS"



700 MHz Public/Private
National Network (Basket)
August 2007



ALL "EGGS" in one
Basket



700 MHz Public/Private
National Network August 2008



"EGGS" are leaving the Basket.
Non-700MHz networks are being
considered and launched throughout
the country.



700 MHz Public/Private
National Network Launch
(TBD)



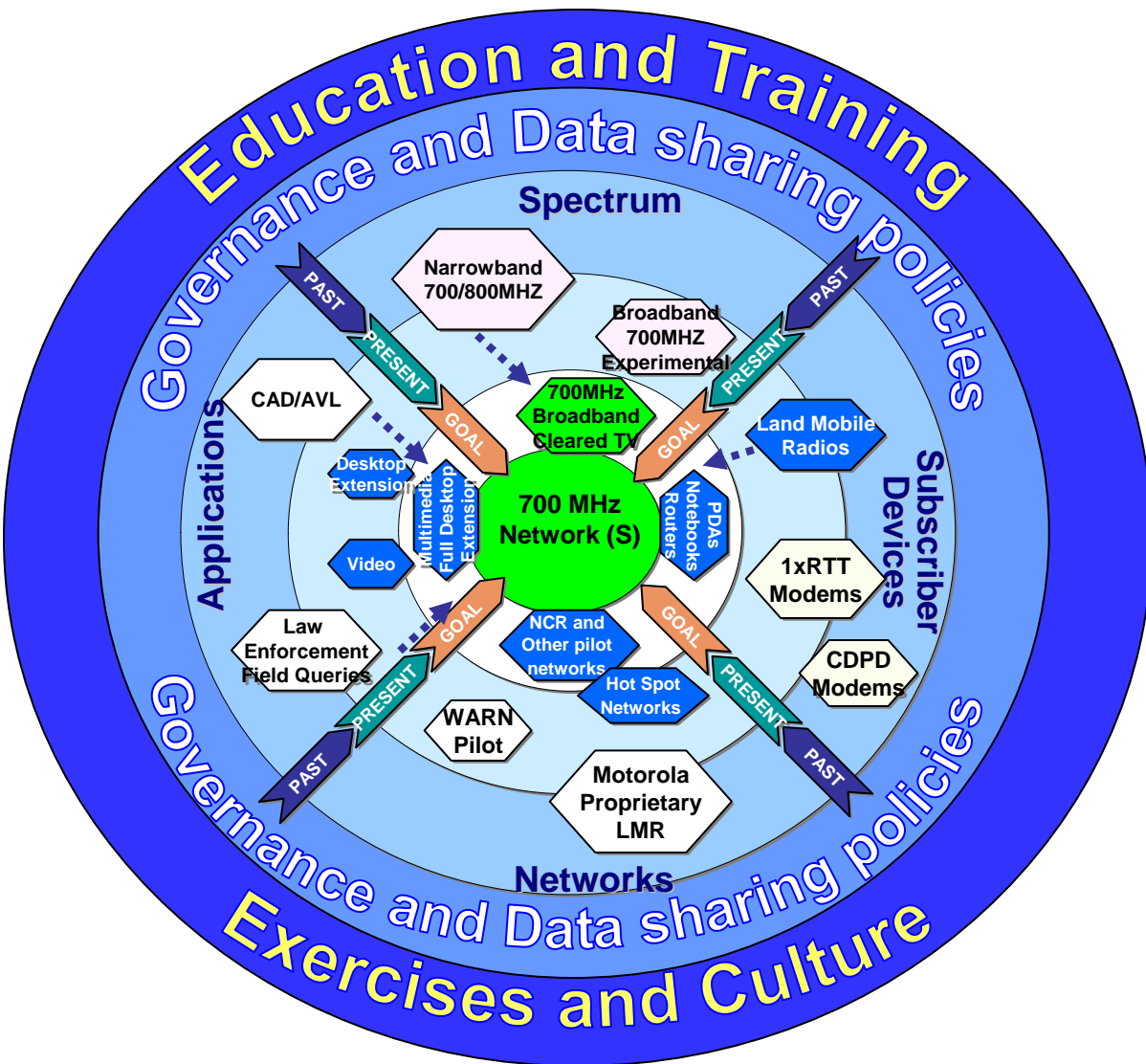
If we do not ACT, there will
not be "EGGS" in the Basket

Early deployments will keep the eggs in the basket and driving towards the same goal

Benefits of Early Deployments

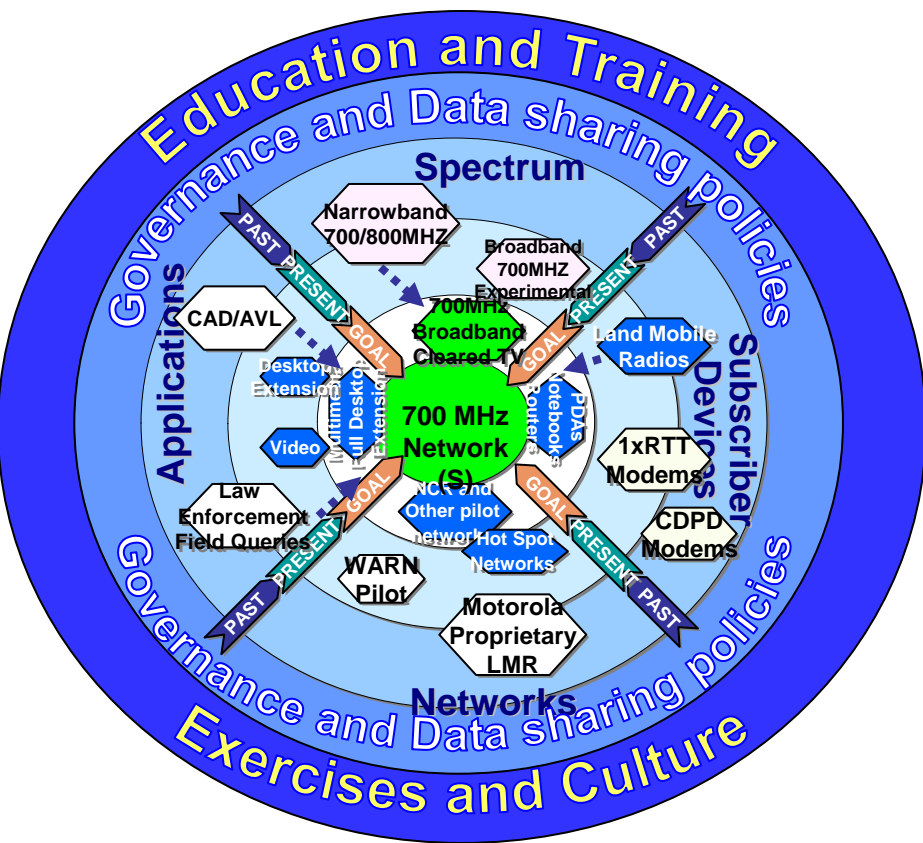
- Creates real environments for the development of Governance, data sharing strategies, policies, requirements and procedures
- Drives integration between LMR and Broadband
- Ignites the PS 700 MHz broadband device marketplace
- Allows for the maturing of existing applications for a broadband wireless world
- Drives the development of data integration platforms
- Provides an environment which the PSST will be able to derive and refine public safety network operation procedures and processes in advance of the national network
- Acts as a back-up plan that can be leveraged if the public/private national network plans fail

➤ Better protects our citizens...

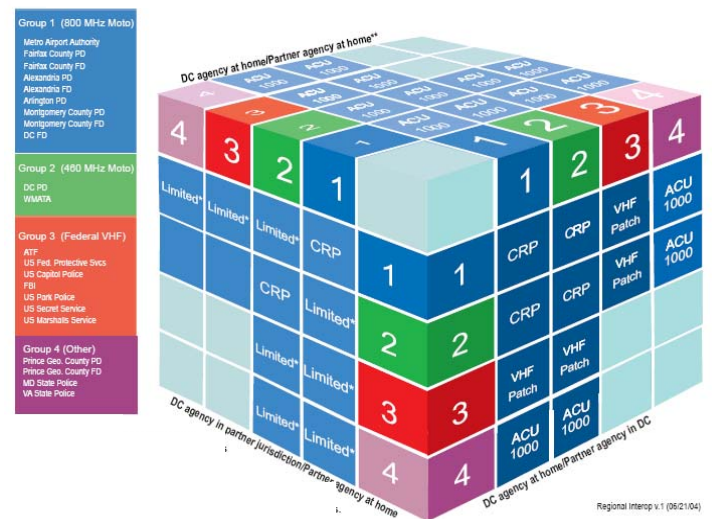


The PS Spectrum should not sit idle while the national network details are worked out and 4G technology is developed (02/12)

National Public Safety Broadband Communications: If we do not keep our "EGGS" in the "BASKET"



Land Mobile Radio Interoperability Cube



■ Many States and Local Governments will choose non-700MHz broadband solutions or competing Commercial Services

■ We will NOT become interoperable at the device level

■ We will NOT become interoperable at the data layer



WE WILL NOT BE INTEROPERABLE

What we should do while we figure out what to do about the National Network

The FCC should:

- Grant permission for early deployment operations.
- Ensure reimbursement to jurisdictions that deploy early once the National/Regional Licensee takes over operations.
- Establish an accelerated waiver process.

▪ Congress should:

- Provide funding to help jurisdictions finance early deployments.

▪ The PSST should:

- Grant permission for early deployment operations.

These steps ensure that Jurisdictions will have the best available communications for first responders and Government operations far earlier and in the event that the Public/Private and the Federal funding opportunities fail, Jurisdictions are assured of reliable, private, and secure communications starting now.

Let's get in the same "Swim-Lane" and all swim in the same direction



**LeGrande Technical and
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**INNOVATION THROUGH
INTEGRATION AND INTEROPERABLE COMMUNICATIONS**

LEGTSS is a small, minority owned business that specializes in advanced data and communications integration solutions for both government and commercial clients. Our unique team has extensive experience in solving some of America's most pressing issues, such as First responder communications interoperability, large scale Homeland Security application implementation and data integration. Members of the LEGTSS team led the District of Columbia's Land Mobile Radio (LMR) network upgrade and as a result the District's First Responders have one of the best interoperable communications systems in the country.

These advancements also led to the development of the nation's first city-wide broadband wireless network for first responders. This pilot network serves as a test bed for how applications can be shared securely among public safety agencies and provides insight to key requirements and operational issues regarding broadband technology. Cited by the Department of Commerce as a Model for the nation, LEGTSS is one of only a few companies in the country with the proven regulatory, governance and technical experience to solve America's public safety LMR and Broadband communications challenges.

The District's Wireless network is a model for the Nation
http://www.ntia.doc.gov/ntiahome/press/2007/WARN_060807.htm

STAFFING CAPABILITIES

LEGTSS provides the following types of IT and business staffing services:

- Program and project solutions delivery**
- Contract Staffing**
- Temporary to Permanent Staffing**
- Permanent Placements – Direct Hire**

PORTFOLIO OF SERVICES

We provide a spectrum of IT and Governmental services which fall within the following key service areas:

SERVICES SUMMARY	
Congressional and Regulatory, Technical advisors	Homeland Security Applications Development and Integration
Governance and operational process development	Interoperable communications solutions

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