



PA-STARNet Delivering Today & Poised for the Future

PA-STARNet was launched in 1996 to consolidate and replace more than a dozen aging stand-alone systems operated independently by state agencies. In many cases, these systems were outdated, unreliable, and expensive to maintain and operate. Since its inception, PA-STARNet's mission has expanded dramatically and the system has evolved to become one of the most technologically-advanced public safety communications networks in the nation. PA-STARNet provides first responders the coverage, the reliability and the tools necessary to power seamless communications across the Commonwealth.

PA-STARNet ensures that the Commonwealth is poised to meet the challenges that first responders and State Agencies will confront in the coming years and decades.

COVERAGE & RELIABILITY

First Responders in every corner of the State rely on PA-STARNet to save lives and to deliver vital services. Today, this system powers more than 150,000 transmissions daily and 52 million transmissions annually for 23 state agencies. PA-STARNet provides connectivity to Regional Task Forces, every 911 Center in the Commonwealth, as well as County and Federal agencies. More than 22,000 radios are authorized to use the system.

PA-STARNet provides coverage across nearly 97 percent of the State. The original target for this system was mobile radio coverage of 95% in each of the State's 67 Counties. However, that goal was raised as a result of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks. No commercial carrier and no single public system predating PA-STARNet matches this level of coverage.

Pennsylvania terrain presents unique challenges, especially in our crowded urban areas and along the northern tier of the Commonwealth. The original design of the PA-STARNet system has changed dramatically to address these unique challenges, resulting in a documented network availability of 99 percent, an unmatched level of reliability. When a State Police Officer needs his or her radio, it works.



INTEROPERABILITY

The ability for different jurisdictions to share voice and data communications quickly and seamlessly is vital for Public Safety. PA-STARNet is on the cutting edge for providing this interoperability. Interoperability makes First Responders and citizens safer and serves as a force multiplier, allowing Dauphin County or the City of Allentown, for example, to bring in additional support from neighboring jurisdictions as needed with the turn of a knob on a hand-held radio or mobile unit.

PA-STARNet has powered life-saving rescue missions and responses to disasters such as the 2011 gas pipeline explosion in Allentown that took the lives of five people. In Philadelphia, PA State Police now respond more quickly to assist Philadelphia Police as needed by using PA-STAR-Net. In Dauphin and Cumberland Counties, First Responders have turned to PA-STARNet to engage the support of the State Police force.

No matter the system, no matter the technology, no matter the vendor, PA-STARNet is already facilitating communications across dozens of jurisdictions and agencies. The interoperability capability has already helped to save lives. As one county official told members of the PA Senate Law & Justice Committee, *"The system's abilities allow for the flexibility to connect with other counties and municipalities regardless of the system they are operating currently or will migrate to in the future."*

THE FUTURE

PA-STARNet today is more than a radio communications network. The Commonwealth has built a foundation for communications that can support the integration of virtually any new technology. PA-STARNet supports P25 advanced systems and we can demonstrate that capability presently. PA-STARNet is capable of supporting Long Term Evolution (LTE), P25 Phase II and any other new technology deemed appropriate for the Commonwealth.

For more information, please contact Roger Kohr at 717.930.1036.
