

ianews, your connection to Icom America's Land Mobile Division! Keep up with the latest products, news and technical information in this newsletter.

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Digital in the Desert with IDAS™

To say that the new magnificent Amangiri resort in Southern Utah is isolated is an understatement. Your car is not allowed. The resort collects guests from the nearest airport in Page, Arizona with one of their fleet of BMW's.

As one visitor of the \$800 - \$3,500 per night suites said, "We arrived in the middle of the night, greeted by not one, but two Aman staff. The entire resort was bathed in candlelight, dozens of lanterns artfully cascading light along the graceful grand staircase."

The daylight reveals rooms made of solid concrete, ph-balanced and treated to match the patina of the surrounding cliffs and canyons. They are like square luxury caverns looking out at the Southwestern desert.

"Even from a short distance you can't see the resort," said Phil Smith, the Peak Mobile Communication manager tasked with the job of integrating a two-way radio communications system for the Aman Resort Group property. "It's architected to be nestled down into the valley, in and around plateaus and canyons. They did everything you can think of to make it blend in and seem absorbed by the environment."

It's a rough setting to operate wireless technology; but, a custom installation by Peak Mobile Communication engineers, and an Icom IDAS™ UHF system with F4161D portables, were up to the challenge.

"We setup and demonstrated an analog system and a digital IDAS system using the mixed mode setting in the



IC-FR6000 repeater. Clearly the digital system was the only one that would work." said Smith. "Not only were all the resort buildings built from reinforced concrete but the metallic coating on the low-e glass windows made them radio frequency shielded. Finding a communication solution that would provide adequate coverage was a challenge." Peak had to find clever ways to hide the Icom repeater components and integrate it so visitors would not know it existed. Minimizing the visual impact of the installation was paramount. Towers and antennas would ruin the guest's sensation of the place. The environmental consciousness of the client required Peak Mobile Communication to use stealth placement and concealment techniques for the system installation. Discretely placed antennas were painted to match the surrounding environment. The metal maintenance/training/operations building the resort communicates with is hidden over a mile away on the other side of a plateau. Two-way radio is the only wireless communication system available on the property so employees rely heavily on the Icom system.

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Accessory of the Month

RMK-4

Optional Dual-head Separation Kit



Icom proudly announces the release of the new optional dual-head separation kit RMK-4 for the 110W high power mobile VHF transceiver, IC-F9511HT. By installing the RMK-4 with a separation cable to the IC-F9511HT, the IC-F9511HT can be made a two controller "dual-head" configuration.

DUAL-HEAD FEATURES

- Easy installation
- IP54 protection
- Intercom function
- Monitoring function
- Power-on set mode

Continued from page 1 **Digital in the Desert with IDAS™**

No radio chatter is allowed to be heard that would disturb the serene atmosphere that the resort embodies. "Each staff member uses a two-wire earpiece so the ambiance remains like a climate controlled desert for guests," said Smith. The radios are setup into different talk groups for the front desk, bell staff, housekeeping, maintenance, and security. "Icom radios are so simple to configure and operate, Amangiri management just has to hand someone a radio and all they have to do is push-to-talk. There's little end user training involved in a properly implemented communications system." Smith said.

The IC-FR6000 repeater is located in the IT/Telecom room. Right now they have 30 portables for the 100 resort staff that support the 34 guest suites.

The Icom digital system was an important choice for the resort because they will expand the system. They are preparing to add multi-million dollar villas for sale on the 1,800 acre property. The scalability of Icom's IDAS system is a perfect match for Amangiri.

"Peak Mobile Communication, a Salt Lake City based systems integration firm, designs turnkey two-way radio systems solutions for resorts, industry,



campus, mining, hotels, ski resorts, and manufacturing clients. We stand ready to meet the challenge of this and any other unique venue," said Smith.

The magic of Amangiri doesn't happen by itself or by accident. The right mix of luxury, service, and ruggedness is what guests expect and communication systems from Icom help the staff make that happen.

For People Who Make Smart Choices

Ready for FCC Mandated VHF/UHF Migration?

Last December the FCC clarified the deadlines and the consequences in Public Notice DA 09-2589 which states that, “Operation in violation of the commission’s rules may subject licensees to enforcement action, including admonishments, monetary forfeitures, and/or license revocation, as appropriate.”

Narrowband migration is here — and now! Only one to two budget cycles remain for an agency to raise money, design, purchase and implement a new narrowband radio system. The raising-money part may be the biggest challenge, with lower tax revenues and budgets tighter than ever. Many agencies may find a “two birds with one stone” strategy the best solution when facing this situation — that is, combining their narrowband and Project 25 interoperability programs, and then funding the combined program through one of the several federal grant programs that are available.

P25 radios are required to be backwards compatible to 12.5 kHz analog operation. You could operate new P25 radios on a 12.5 kHz analog system now and migrate to a full P25 system later. Of course you could do both now and operate in a mixed mode with any 12.5 kHz analog radios you already have deployed.

Replace your radios this year and upgrade your repeaters and RF infrastructure in the future. You’ll meet your narrowband requirement before the deadline and perform a complete system interoperability upgrade in the future, when times are better. Perhaps



you are concerned about ensuring that radios purchased now will meet your needs in the future. The Department of Homeland Security’s Compliance Assessment Program (CAP) and the various manufacturers’ interoperability certifications will ensure that the radios you purchase today will be interoperable in your (and your neighbor’s) P25 system in the future.

IWCE 2010 in Las Vegas needs to be on your calendar. Government agencies facing these situations will find many answers in the conference program. Among the relevant session titles are:

- Narrowbanding - meet the myth busters
- College of technology P25: 101
- P25 CAP program and how to use it
- Migrating legacy systems
- Leveraging federal funding
- When to go all the way to 6.25 kHz
- P25 Phase II
- Federal, state and local partnerships

Come see us at IWCE!
Booth #3031

For People Who Make Smart Choices

Icom America Responds to Devastating Haiti Earthquake

Icom America, in an effort to assist the nation of Haiti following the recent devastating earthquake and aftershocks, donated over 150 communication equipment units from the Marine, Aviation, and Amateur Divisions to be distributed through Mentone Communications Education Association, Inc., a private 501(c)(3) operating foundation with close ties to the Southern Baptist Relief Convention and the American Red Cross.

“While there are numerous channels for distribution, we received a personal commitment for distribution directly to agencies that could immediately utilize the equipment for relief efforts where the existing equipment infrastructure was destroyed”, said Hiroshi Nakaoka, President of Icom America.

Mentone Communications Education Association, Inc. is a non-profit 501C corporation based in Alabama. It has,



as its mission, promotion of technical education, amateur radio communications, and includes assistance to various disaster relief organizations in the area of communications.

Icom America Inc.
2380 116th Ave NE
Bellevue, WA 98004
Phone: (425) 454-8155
Fax: (425) 454-1509
Customer Service: (425) 454-7619

Icom America Systems
Phone: (425) 586-6363
Fax: (425) 586-6321
ias@icomamerica.com

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