

Description

Background of the Invention

1. Field of the Invention

This invention relates generally to data communication systems and in particular to an improved data system for selective calling, paging and priority signalling particularly well adapted for use in multiple unit radio communication systems capable of voice and data communications.

2. Description of the Prior Art

In the prior art, multiple unit radio communications systems utilize complex signalling systems to provide both voice and data communications capability. Some provide one way status indication capability and acknowledge but with very inflexible formats which limit usefulness. Existing systems utilize structures which are very expensive to manufacture and provide for limited sensitivity in most RF environments. Further, previous systems have been organized around a coding structure that viewed the terminal device as one which responded to a set of discrete commands. The terminal was designed to perform some arbitrary set of operations when a defined command code activated it. This resulted in an inflexible system. In addition, prior art communications systems, because of inflexible format, did not have automatic selective calling, dynamic regrouping and transmit control capability.

From United Kingdom Patent No. 2005117 there is known, in a communications system having a primary station and addressable remote stations, a method of command signalling in which a remote station reports an emergency alarm condition to said primary station.

However, in this known system no facility is provided for alarm condition acknowledgement, for enabling of emergency audio transmissions, for disabling of other interfering stations or for emergency repeating.

Summary of the Invention

According to the present invention there is provided in a communications system for voice communications over a communications medium, having a primary station and a plurality of remote stations, each remote station having a predetermined station address stored in a station address register, a method of emergency calling, comprising the steps of: (a) at the remote station (i) transmitting an emergency command signal containing a predetermined emergency control code and the predetermined station address; characterized by (b) at the primary station (i) receiving said transmitted emergency command signal and transmitting an acknowledge command signal, in response thereto, having a pre-selected control code and the predetermined station address contained in the received emergency command signal; (ii) commanding the emergency calling remote station or at least one

of the other remote stations in accordance with the emergency in response to receiving the transmitted emergency command signal.

The step of commanding the emergency calling remote station or at least one of the other remote stations may comprise the primary station commanding: (i) the emergency calling remote station to enable its audio transmitter, (ii) remote stations to disable their transmitters, or (iii) another remote station to repeat an emergency message between the emergency calling remote station and the primary station.

Related inventions are the subjects of co-pending European Patent Application Nos. 83902479.1, 83902481.7 and 83902482.5.

Brief Description of the Drawings

The features of the present invention which are believed to be novel are set forth with particularity in the appended claims. The invention, together with further object and advantages thereof, may best be understood by reference to the following description when taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings.

Figure 1 is a block diagram of a multiple unit radio communications system which may utilize the present invention.

Figure 2 is a diagram of the preferred data pack structure.

Figure 3 is a diagram of the preferred encoded data packet structure.

Figure 4 is a block diagram of a base unit data communications controller that may advantageously utilize the invention.

Figure 5 is a block diagram of a mobile unit control circuit that may advantageously utilize the present invention in conjunction with the base data communications controller of Figure 4.

Figure 6 is a flow diagram of the RESTART routine of the base unit computer program.

Figure 7 is a flow diagram of the PSK RECEIVE routine of the base unit computer program.

Figures 8A and 8B form a flow diagram of the PACKET PARSING routine of the base unit computer program.

Figures 9A, 9B and 9C form a flow diagram of the KEYBOARD HANDLER routine of the base unit computer program.

Figures 10A, 10B and 10C form a flow diagram of the COMMAND routine of the base unit computer program.

Figures 11A and 11B form a flow diagram of the COMMAND TRANSMIT routine for the base unit computer.

Figure 12 is a flow diagram of the RETRANSMISSION routine of the base unit computer program.

Figure 13 is a flow diagram of the POLL EXIT routine of the base unit computer program.

Figure 14 is a flow diagram of the DATA TRANSMIT subroutine of the base unit computer program.

Figure 15 is a flow diagram of the PROM PROGRAMMER HANDLER routine of the base unit computer program.

Figure 16 is a flow diagram of the START routine of the mobile unit computer program.

Figure 17 is a flow diagram of the EXT routine of the mobile unit computer program.

Figure 18 is a flow diagram of the TRANS-EMERG routine of the mobile unit computer program.

Figure 19 is a flow diagram of the P1CHK-HUBCHK routine of the mobile computer program.

Figure 20 is a flow diagram of the TIMCHK routine of the mobile unit computer program.

Figure 21 is a flow diagram of the EMRMON routine of the mobile unit computer program.

Figure 22 is a flow diagram of the TONES routine of the mobile unit computer program.

Brief Description of the Preferred Embodiment

In Figure 1, is illustrated the preferred embodiment of a multiple unit radio communications systems that communicates both data signals and voice signals between dispatchers at primary stations 50, 52, (i.e., base stations) and secondary radios (i.e., mobile in the preferred embodiment) which may utilize the invention. The radio system illustrated provides enhancement to normal voice RF systems but the invention is not limited to RF systems. The system is processor based such that all the control operations and signalling are performed in software, allowing a portable and modular system that is flexible, reliable, and inexpensive to manufacture.

As illustrated by Figure 1, the system configuration is highly flexible. Each station includes a dispatcher control console 44, 46, 48 and a base data controller 40, 38, 36 and 34, each having a 12 key keyboard and a four digit display (not shown). A base data controller 40, 38, 36, 34 is coupled to each console unit 44, 46, 48, 32, as shown. Data and voice signals are coupled from the console 44, 46, 48, 32 to a base station 50, 52 by wire lines. The base stations 50, 52 each include a radio transmitter and receiver for communications via a radio frequency (RF) channel to remote (mobile) radios 60, 62 and 64. The mobile radio 60, 62 and 64 may be any suitable conventional radio such as an FM radio in combination with a mobile data control unit (not shown).

Voice communications with the mobile radios 60, 62, 64 is established by means of the dispatcher console 44, 46, 48, 32 while data communications are established by means of the base data controllers 40, 38, 36, 34. Received data signals can be displayed on the four digit display of the base controller. Data signals transmitted by the base data controllers 40, 38, 36 and 32 may be entered from the keyboard or may be automatically generated as, for example, in the case of automatic acknowledgement signals.

The base data control unit may be utilized in numerous configurations. As shown, data controller 40 is coupled to the second data controller 38, which are individually coupled to a dispatcher console 44 and dispatch console 66, respectively. The consoles 44, 46 are both coupled as shown, to

the base station 50. Thus, several base data controllers can function in configuration with several console units using a single base station. An alternative configuration is shown with the data controller 36 coupled to a single console 48 which is coupled to the base station 52. All three data control units are coupled via a bus 42, as shown, to a master console 32 permitting each base data controller and base station to be monitored with the master console 32 and a base data controller 34 coupled thereto. A conventional printer 30 is provided to permit logging of any of the data information desired.

The radio communications system in Figure 1 is particularly well adapted for dispatch type applications, where a dispatcher at a base station communicates with operators of a fleet of mobile radios. In such dispatch radio communications systems, there may be one or more RF channels that are shared by several hundred mobile radios. Therefore, it is desirable that some of the communications between the dispatcher at the central station and the operators of the mobile radios be provided by means of a data communications so that use of each RF channel is more efficient.

The data signals communicated between the base stations 50 and 52 and the mobile radio 60, 62, 64 include a bit synchronization portion, a synchronization word, and an information word. The bit synchronization portion may consist of a 1, 0 alternating pattern for allowing a receiver to attain clock synchronization. The synchronization word may consist of any suitable correlatable bit pattern. The information word may consist of an address, commands, and/or status information. Coding techniques are used for error correction and detection to provide low falsing rates and high sensitivity. The preferred embodiment of the signalling system utilizes PSK modulation of 600 bits per second with a 1500 Hz carrier using coherent detection. The data transfer is accomplished using a 32 bit data packet, as illustrated in Figure 2. The 32 bit data packet is encoded to a 176 bit encoded data packet before transmission, as shown in Figure 3. This encoded data packet includes 24 bits of data modulated to allow for clock recovery synchronization as shown in block 74 of Figure 3, and consists of alternating ones and zeros. In addition, a 40 bit fixed synchronization code word is appended as shown in block 74 of Figure 3. The 32 bit data packet is encoded by first generating a 48 bit inner code word by appending a 16 bit cyclical redundancy check code to the 32 bit data packet, as shown at 72 of Figure 3. This 48 bit inner code word is further encoded using a half rate convolution encoder. This produces a 112 bit coded word. Thus, a 176 bit encoded data packet is generated as illustrated in Figure 3.

Upon reception, an exact copy of the original 32 bit data packet is extracted from the 176 bit encoded data packet using conventional decoding methods. The structure of the codes ensures that the information can be extracted correctly even if some of the encoded data packet has been

corrupted by channel disturbances. Bit synchronization is obtained using the 24 bit preamble providing a pattern to permit extraction of bit clock information. The word synchronization is accomplished by continuously comparing the last 40 received synchronization bits with a fixed synchronization code word and when a predetermined number (35 in the preferred embodiment) of the 40 bits match the synchronization code word bits synchronization is detected. Detection of the synchronization word indicates that the 112 bits of the encoded data word follow immediately. The next 112 bits of the encoded data are stored and then decoded. Transmission time for the basic 176 bit encoded data packet is 290 milliseconds in the preferred embodiment.

The general format of the information word (i.e. command data packet) is shown in Figure 2, which includes a general description of each field. This basic command packet is only one of several formats that can be used, for example, a simple data block is another possible format in which the first 31 bits are free formatted. In the command packet bit 31 (see Figure 2) is a data command indicator bit used to identify the packet as a command or control format or a free format data packet. If the bit is zero, the packet is considered to be a command or control packet and follows the format of figure 2. If the bit is 1, the packet is a free format data packet. Free format data packets are preceded by a "header" packet of the command type identifying the source or destination of the free format packet and containing the proper OP code and format for the packets that follow. Thus, data packets with 31 bits of data may be concatenated for intense information transfer, such as text.

The bit indicated in Figure 2 as bit 30 is the acknowledge/no acknowledge bit. This bit is used by the destination unit of acknowledgement purposes and is OP code dependent. If the acknowledge/no acknowledge bit is equal to zero, the destination unit will not acknowledge the command, but if the acknowledge/no acknowledge bit is one, the unit should acknowledge unless the OP code indicates a request or interrogation type command. Thus, certain commands transmitted from either the base or the mobile unit of the preferred embodiment are automatically acknowledged by the receiving unit. In addition, in the preferred embodiment, automatic re-transmission is provided for a programmed number of times in situations in which no acknowledge has been received.

The next indicator bit, indicated in Figure 2 as bit 29, is the outbound/inbound bit (O/I) used to route data packets. If the O/I bit is zero, the data packet is inbound directed and if the O/I bit is a one, the data packet is outbound. Both the mobile and the base units of the preferred embodiment utilize both states of the O/I bit.

The OP code field of the command packet, shown as bits 24 through 28 of Figure 2, is used to address a specific internal register of the destination address thereby making it possible to specify

a particular command or control operation. Any specific set of instructions may be defined up to 64. In the preferred embodiment, there are several command instruction codes defined and several data type codes.

Each command data packet also contains an argument field, indicated in Figure 2 by bits 16 through 23, used primarily for data transfer. For example, in the preferred embodiment, status, data, or control information is transferred in the argument field. It is also used as a specific command/control operation when combined with the OP code field, so that up to 256 unique commands can be implemented with each OP code.

The remaining 16 bits of the command data packet, bits zero through fifteen in Figure 2, are the address field of the 32 bit packet. The address field is partitioned into four hexadecimal digits, as shown. This provides up to 65,536 unique addresses, identifying the sending unit for inbound packets, and identifying the destination unit for outbound packets. In the preferred embodiment, ten thousand unique unit identification codes are used permitting system to be partitioned into ten fleets with up to 100 unique codes per fleet. Each mobile unit is pre-programmed to contain a unique unit, group and fleet identification code.

An outbound wild card mode of addressing, permits a flexible method of group, fleet, and all addressing that may be dynamically configured. In this mode, the hexadecimal F is used in any address partition to signify a match or wild card. When encountering a wild card in any of the four hexadecimal positions, the unit decoder will match that position with the same position of the pre-assigned unit identification address. Thus, for example, an address of ZFFF could be a fleet call to fleet 2, and FFFF could be an all call.

An outbound direct addressing mode permits addressing group and fleets while allowing units to be members of any group or fleet. In this mode, the hexadecimal E is placed in the most significant digit position of the address field (digit 3) and the fleet address is placed in the next digit position (digit 2) followed by a two digit BCD group number to address a group. The hexadecimal F can be placed in the group position to address a fleet and FFFF can be used to address all fleets.

In the preferred embodiment, the base unit has the capability to re-group mobile units at any time such that the group code becomes, in effect, a soft identification number. For example, suppose the dispatcher wishes to have a conversation with a particular group. But, that there is one member of that group he would like to exclude. He may temporarily move that member to another group, proceed with the conversation, and then return the individual to the group. Each mobile unit may default to the fixed preprogrammed group code on power on.

In the preferred embodiment, the argument field is often used for transmission of status

information wherein there are two levels of status used. The first level is called operator status, since it is generally associated with the operator of the mobile unit. The second level is called alternate status and requires an optional interface circuit in the mobile unit. Operator status may be initiated from the mobile unit by various methods. A change in a set of status switches may initiate the transmission of status in cases in which the status switches are exclusive and interlocked. Current status is also sent with every voice transmission and priority alter transmission. Each base unit is equipped with status keying, which allows for display and audio selectivity based upon the received status of a mobile unit. The key may be dynamically configured by the base operator so that, for example, the base audio may be selected to unmute for a particular mobile status. The status switches may also represent message transmissions wherein message transmissions use momentary switches to indicate a transient condition while status transmission uses interlock switches to indicate a held condition. The base operator may also interrogate any mobile for circuit operator status.

A total of eight independent operator status bits are available for each mobile unit. Thus permitting a total of 128 operator status states. The alternate status option provides up to 7 bits of independent alternate status which are readable and settable from the base unit.

The system also provides enhanced selective calling and paging, which can be automatic. With this feature, each call to a unit, group or fleet contains a preamble and a postamble code to unmute and remute, respectively. The base operator therefore simply enters an identification code and then talks as normal to the mobile unit which will automatically reset after the conversation. Or a mobile operator may transmit a voice message which will display the unit number on the console where the base operator then simply presses the transmit switch to selectively respond to the calling mobile. This mode of operation is referred to as AUTO SEL CALL. Paging activates internal and external alarms at the mobile such as light, horns, and tones.

A priority alert capability exists in which the mobile unit can be activated to the priority alert by an external switch which has priority over any other radio functions. Priority alert will transmit immediately upon activation regardless of activity on the channel and up to twenty data packet retransmissions will occur if the mobile unit does not receive an acknowledge. The base unit will give special treatment to this priority alert transmission. When a priority alert transmission occurs, the current operator status of the initiating unit is forwarded to the base unit automatically. There are, in addition, two possible acknowledge packets that can be used with priority alert. The first is the normal acknowledge which simply handshakes the original unit. The second also handshakes the originating unit, but, in addition, enables the mobile transmitter for a preset period

of time permitting the base operator to monitor that unit. This feature is referred to as emergency monitoring. An emergency monitor acknowledge also disables any other mobile units on the channel from voice transmissions for the duration of the preset period.

There are a number of major options and configurations which are possible in the preferred embodiment based on the signalling system described. These options and configurations are selected by means of a PROM code plug which is in both the base and mobile units. Various system parameters are also contained in the code plug.

Referring now to Figure 4 there is illustrated a preferred embodiment of a base unit data controller. This base unit of Figure 4 utilizes a microcomputer (MPU) system in conjunction with system firmware and peripheral devices to provide a terminal system for mobile and portable applications. The microcomputer 100 performs all of the necessary control and interface logic as well as all of the signalling functions including modulation and demodulation, encoding and decoding, display control, keyboard handling, printer interfacing and mobile code plug programming.

As shown in Figure 4, the base unit includes an MPU 100, which in the preferred embodiment, is an eight bit microcomputer (e.g., a Motorola MC6803). Internal to the MPU 100 is a clock utilizing a crystal 120, coupled as shown to the MPU 100, to produce a system clock frequency of 4.9152 megahertz in the preferred embodiment and which is divided internally to yield an MPU frequency of 1.2288 megahertz. A keyboard system is coupled to the MPU 100 consisting of a 12 key keyboard 102 coupled to a key encoder 104 which is coupled, as shown, to the address bus 108 and the data bus 106, as shown. The key encoder 104 includes a storage function and provides interrupts to the processor while including key debouncing circuitry. The system firmware consists of all the software necessary for the system operation which is stored in a read only memory (ROM) 112 which is coupled to the address bus 108 and the data bus 106, as shown. A random access memory (RAM) 114 is coupled to the MPU 100 via the data bus 106 and the address bus 108, as shown, for use as a serial interface buffer and for identification memory. A system code plug 110 is coupled to the MPU 100 via the address bus 108 and the data bus 106 to store system variables and particular operational characteristics and options of individual units. A real time clock 86 together with a crystal 88 is coupled to the output ports 96, 92 and to the input port 94, as shown, primarily to provide time information for logging. Interface circuitry consisting of a PSK bandpass filter 126, a limiter 124, audio muting relay 132, mic muting relay 134, audio alert generator 136, multi-terminal control logic 140 and external interface logic 130 is coupled, as shown, to the MPU 100. Additional interface circuitry is provided by the RS 232 serial interface 84 coupled with voltage converter 82

and power supply 80 to the MPU 100, as shown. A PROM programmer interface 90 is provided to permit programming identification codes of mobile units and is coupled, as shown, to the output port 92 and the input port 94. Also provided is display circuitry 98 which consists of a display controller for seven segment LED displays and eight LED status indicators (not shown). This base unit structure as shown in Figure 4, provides the capability to directly interface to a wide variety of RF communication systems.

The display system 98 consist of a four digit LED display and eight individual LED indicators. The display is used for data display of all inbound and outbound identification codes including unit, group, and fleet. The display is also used in editing, data entry, code plug programming, status retrieval and setting as well as displaying any inbound data. The display is driven from the microprocessor system and will accommodate multiple controllers for console applications.

The keyboard system is used for data entry, display editing, command entry and execution. Any and all terminal control is accomplished through the keyboard system and the microphone push to talk switch. The keyboard 102 has two basic keyboard entry modes; upper and lower case. The lower case mode is used to enter identification code numbers and command data. The upper case mode is used in command entry and eventual execution. The base operator has complete control of the data system through the keyboard system.

A real time date clock 86 provides time and date to permit display of the time and date of any and all of the transactions that occur on the system. It is primarily used in the logging system but may also be used as a clock or event scheduler. A specific program necessary to define the particular characteristics of each individual system is contained in a PROM code plug, 90. There are many variables related to a particular system which are defined by the data in this code plug. All the key command definitions to be used in the system are defined by the data in the code plug which must be programmed prior to use. The functions defined by code plug data will be discussed in greater detail hereinafter.

Data squelch is provided for the system so as to blank the audio of data transmissions. The data muting function is provided by software in the MPU 100 and by the audio muting relay 132. In addition to data squelch, the audio muting relay 132 is utilized to perform conventional audio muting. The mute and unmute operation may be keyed off a particular status or identification code.

Each base unit is capable of addressing unit ID codes from 0 to 9999. In addition, a shared system can be structured in which the range is from 0 to 999 wherein the most significant digit is used as a fleet identification, thus allowing up to 10 fleets or a signal channel. In systems which use multiple base units to accommodate multiple dispatchers, each base unit can have keyboard programmable upper bound and lower bounds of accessible ID

codes and the range of codes may be dynamically allocated. The base operator thus, would not be allowed to access any codes outside of the current range setting, nor will any inbound data be processed outside the range. In addition, audio muting may be used so that a particular operator will only hear transmissions with ID codes within the selected range.

Many multiple unit communication systems have multiple transmitters which are not always co-located. The base unit provides PTT identification at the beginning and/or end of either a voice or a data transmission. The system code plug determines the desired mode and also contains the four digit ID code. Thus, a particular base unit can identify all mobile and base transmissions and the ID code can be used in logging to indicate which unit received or transmitted data. In systems where multiple units are used on the same RF channel, control is provided by means of code plug data to prevent multiple simultaneous acknowledge transmissions to mobile units. One unit is designated as the master and the remaining units are designated as slaves, such that the master is programmed to transmit all acknowledge data packets. The acknowledged transmissions can also be programmed to be dependent on the keyboard defined unit code bound and status key. The normal mode of operation for base unit commands utilize the automatic acknowledge feature with re-transmissions. However, the system may also be used with one way modes where the base unit is configured by the code plug to transmit commands only once and not to expect an acknowledge when the mobile units in the system are set up in the same configuration mode.

The transmission time of a base data packet is approximately 325 milliseconds providing the radio transmitter turn on delays. However, most systems have inherent delays associated with repeaters tone remote and others that must be anticipated before the actual data packet can be transmitted. To allow for these variable delays, the base unit will generate based on the code plug information, transmission delays from 100 to 1500 milliseconds in 100 millisecond increments. The transmitter will send silent carrier during the delay to minimize data noise on the channel and allow easy interfacing into tone remote systems. All mobile and base units in a given system must have the same system delay.

The base unit will display all incoming PTT identification codes and status indications. The status indicators will reflect the current status of the particular unit. The PTT ID transmissions have display priority over any commands in progress. For example, if the base operator is in the process of entering a number and a PTT ID is received, the display will show that ID. The same is true for commands. Any command in progress will be aborted if a PTT ID is received. This mode of operation will only occur if a PTT ID receive option is selected in the code plug. When an ID is received and properly decoded, it is tested

against the current bounds. If the code falls within the bounds, the ID will be displayed and put into memory for further processing and sent to the logging system for printout.

A priority alert transmission mode is provided which has absolute priority over any terminal transactions. The base unit will display the unit code of the mobile generating the alert. The display will flash the ID code and any status indications as well as sound an audio tone. To clear the system of a priority code the base operator must press the clear switch. Priority alert may be stacked in a LIFO memory and recalled by a recall command so that multiple priority alerts may occur simultaneously without loss of data. However, if the base unit is currently in the priority mode and a new priority is received, the new priority ID will take over the display. The previous priority may be later recalled from memory. Even though a priority alert will lock out the display from any further use, data packets can still be received and acknowledged. All data will also continue to be sent to the logging system.

The base unit can also include an emergency monitor feature which is code plug selectable. When a priority alert packet is received, the base unit will go immediately into a priority mode and acknowledge the mobile unit and terminate any retransmission sequence. The base operator may then activate an emergency monitor sequence which will transmit a data packet to the mobile unit which enables the radio transmitter for ten seconds. At the end of the ten seconds, the mobile will send another priority alert packet. The base will continue to send an acknowledge packet which will enable the transmitter. The cycle will continue until the operator at the base clears the emergency monitor feature with the clear key. Thus, the base operator can voice monitor the activity of the mobile unit in the priority mode.

The base unit is capable of storing up to 64 mobile initiated inbound data packets. Whenever inbound data packets are received and properly decoded, the unit code and status information is placed in the memory. The method of storage is last in, first out, (LIFO) which is essentially a stacking operation. As a new ID is received, it is placed at the top of the stack and the ID codes currently in the memory are pushed down the stack. The operator may use a recall key to advance the stack pointer and display the next entry. A clear key is used to position the pointer at the stack top which displays the most recent ID and status. This feature is provided as a review mechanism in situations where several data packets are received in quick succession to enable the operator to keep track of all unit numbers.

The base unit also provides memory capability to queue up operator status packets as they arrive in time, up to 128 operator status data packets. The method of storage is essentially a queuing operation of first in, first out (FIFO). If there are any data packets in the queue, the operator may display the next ID code and status and remove the previous display. One of eight status indi-

cators is used to show an active or inactive queue. If the queue is active the operator may also, by pressing a clear key, display the first packet in the queue. In addition, a status queue control allows the terminal operator to enable or disable entries to the queue. Only operator status packets are queued. PTT ID transmissions and priority alerts will be displayed when they occur but will not affect operation of the queue. If the queue is disabled, any received operator status packets will be immediately displayed or if the terminal contains a LIFO stack, it will be placed on the LIFO stack. If the queue control is enabled, an operator status packet will be queued without affecting terminal operations including the display. However, a short beep will be heard to inform the operator of an arriving status.

Polling of a limited number of mobile units for operator status and alternate status is provided by the base unit. This feature allows the operator to scan the system and produce a status list of a select group of mobile units. The operator may also select a particular status by entering a beginning unit number from the keyboard and then initiating the poll and entering a unique status where the poll is to stop. The poll will start at the entering number and sequentially interrogate the mobile units for status. Each time the status packet is received, the unit will perform a match operation and if a match exists the poll will stop. If there is no match, however, the poll will continue until the upper ID limit is reached or the poll count, which is preprogrammed to a desired value, such as ten, is depleted.

All of the base units are equipped with control logic to prevent simultaneous channel access by multiple units connected in parallel. The same logic is used to inhibit inbound transmissions when the RF channel is busy. Each unit has a busy output and an inhibit input which are normally connected together, forming a signal coupled to the external interface 130, that becomes both a sense and a control line. Before any commands are executed by the unit, the inhibit line is tested for activity. If the line is clear, the command is transmitted and the unit asserts a high level on the busy line indicating use of the channel. The line will remain busy until an acknowledge is received or the retransmission cycle is complete. If the channel is busy at the command time, the unit will wait until a line becomes clear and hold will be displayed indicating to the operator that the line is busy. When the inhibit line clears, the unit will not transmit immediately. Each terminal in a multi terminal system contains a priority number from 0 to 254 in its code plug. This number is used to generate a delay proportional to the priority number. The terminal will wait out this delay and then re-sample the inhibit line. If the line is still busy, the wait process will continue until access can be obtained. A random packet delay cycle is also used in the delay process if a simple data command is being performed. If the line is clear, the unit transmits as described above. The inhibit input line may be connected to

the busy output line because each unit knows if it is busy or not. Thus, a simple twisted pair is all that is needed to connect multiple terminals. Another feature involving multiple terminals in the same channel relates to command overlap. Each and every command that is executed by a particular unit will affect only that unit. If a unit interrogates a particular mobile unit for status, for example, the status packet that the mobile returns will be displayed on that unit only and will not affect other units on the channel. This feature allows independent control by multiple operators but only applies to outbound commands. Any inbound data such as operator status and priority alert will be displayed on all terminals on that channel. This may be defeated by using the status matching technique or dynamic range selection discussed hereinabove or by simply defeating the particular receiver function via the code plug.

A mode of selective voice calling (AUTO SEL CALL) is available on all base units selectable by coding the code plug. This feature allows for simple dispatching in a selective manner. The operator enters the desired ID code, the system will wait for the microphone PTT switch to be depressed. When it is, an unmute data packet will be transmitted signalling the selected mobile units to unmute their receiver audio. When the PTT switch is released, a mute data packet is sent. During this period of selective voice calling (AUTO SEL CALL) transmission, the base unit display will read CALL, indicating to the operator that SEL CALL is being made. By means of the keyboard, the AUTO SEL CALL mode may be enabled or disabled. If disabled, no selective call will be made when the microphone PTT switch is depressed. The logging system can record both SEL CALL and normal voice transmissions. If a mobile unit makes a voice transmission to the base, the unit ID code will be displayed on the base unit. The base operator may simply press the microphone PTT switch and talk. No other key entries are necessary and the mobile unit will be selectively called.

Each time a command transmission is performed by the base operator, the receiving mobile unit may send an acknowledge packet. If the decoded data packets are correct indicating that the handshake is successful, the base unit will display an acknowledge indication that the mobile received the command. If the command happens to be an interrogation for data, such as operator status, and the handshake is successful, then the display will show the received data and no acknowledge will be displayed. If the handshake was not completed on the first transmission, the unit will automatically retransmit the command in a random fashion for a number of times determined by the code plug unless an acknowledge packet is received within this interval. An acknowledge will terminate the sequence. If no acknowledge is received after the total number of transmissions allowed have occurred, the display will show a fail indication and the operator may re-initiate the command. The base

unit code plug can be programmed so that the channel sense is used to automatically monitor the channel before transmissions and re-transmissions. The same inhibit control line is used as that used for multi-terminal control. If the channel is busy, the data is inhibited. However, when the channel clears, a random clock will begin to sample the channel for activity when the clock times out. If the channel is still busy, the random cycle/sample process will continue. However, if the channel is clear, the command data packet will be sent to the mobile unit and an acknowledge will be received.

A closed loop signalling system test can be performed on selected mobile units by all base units. The test performs a series of radio check commands which include mobile acknowledgement. It is normally used at system start up, but may also be used in system diagnostic tests. When the operator enables the test mode, the terminal will prompt the operator for the unit ID code of the mobile to be tested and the number of individual tests to be performed (9,999 maximum). When the test is completed, the display will indicate the number of successful closed loop tests. The logging system will also be used to show all the data relative to each individual series of tests. The results of the test will reflect the statistics of the RF path mobile and base radios, etc. and may be used to correct any system problems.

An optional code plug module is available for the base unit to allow programming of mobile unit, group, and fleet ID codes, selective calling muting modes and system delays. The system delay contained in the base unit code plug is also automatically inserted for all mobile units regardless of shared or dedicated configurations. When the module is connected to the base unit, the unit is automatically placed in the program mode. The programmer provides both a read and a program command. If the read command is executed, the terminal will display all relevant data to the operator. Error control is provided to test the ID codes for proper values and inform the operator of an improper code plug. If the program command is executed, the terminal will prompt the operator for the necessary data, attempt to program the code plug and then display the contents. Error control is also provided in the program mode to prevent the programming of invalid codes.

The base unit performs a limited diagnostic test of the hardware, software system on power. Real time clock, random access memory, code plug, control ports and other various circuits are tested and any errors are reported via the display system and the audio alert. Also, a command key is available to test the four digit display and the eight status indicators.

Referring now to Figure 5, there is shown a block diagram of a mobile unit control circuit for use in conjunction with a mobile transceiver, that may be advantageously utilized with the present invention. The mobile unit of Figure 5 consists

primarily of a microcomputer 150 (e.g., Motorola MC3870) and associated peripheral circuitry. The processor performs all of the PSK modulation, demodulation, encoding and decoding of the signalling system. It also performs all control logic and management functions of the mobile system.

Incoming data is applied from a receiver detector in analog form to the discriminator input 190 to remove unwanted signals and receiver noise. The signal is then limited through the limiter 192 and then processed by the MPU 150. The computer performs coherent detection of the signal resulting in various data packets which provide the command and control information for the unit.

Data to be transmitted is prepared in data packets in the MPU 150 and presented as PSK modulated packets at the output 178. The data packet is then filtered using the same bandpass filter 190 as in the receiving mode to remove undesirable low frequency energy from the PSK data. The signal is then coupled to the microphone output 188 to the radio transmitter. The microphone is muted during data transmissions to prevent any voice interference. All of the transmit control, audio muting, tone generation and channel sensing is performed by the MPU 150. A code plug 152 is coupled as shown to the MPU 150 and contains all of the system information and selected options of the unit. The data in the code plug 152 is read by the processor 150 and then used in the control of operation of the unit. A watchdog timer 156 is coupled to the MPU 150 to monitor a known signal out of the processor and reset the machine in the event of processor failure or transient conditions. An emergency switch, 158, is coupled directly to the MPU 150 as shown as are a set of eight status switches 162. A number of input and output switches and indicators, such as the horn and lights, are coupled to the MPU 150, via the interface circuit 164 and the conductor 172, as shown. A data cycle output 160, a muting input and two tone outputs are also provided, as shown. The mobile unit system also requires a five volt power supply 170 and a 9.6 volt power supply 168.

The unit, group, and fleet ID code of each unit are stored in the code plug, as well as individual system functions such as ID, status, priority alert and select call.

A unique unit identification code is transmitted with every voice transmission and is triggered off the microphone PTT switch which is input to the MPU 150 at input 180 of Figure 5. The system can be programmed so that the ID is sent at key-up or key-down or both or the ID may also be message oriented where only a single transmission occurs after, for example, the removal of the microphone from the hang-up box. The transmission time of a mobile data packet is approximately 325 milliseconds including the radio transmitter turn on delays. However, to allow for the variable system delays the mobile unit also generates,

based on the code plug data, the transmission delay for the system. The PTT ID transmission may also be programmed via the code plug to send start/end status with voice transmissions such that the base unit will provide automatic voice unmuting and muting control, indication of an active transmission and logging of transmission duration.

A very flexible status option can be programmed into the system via the code plug which allows various arrangements of status and message to reside in the system. Two levels of status are available, operator status and alternate status. The alternate status requires an optional external interface card 154 of Figure 5 which is coupled via an external bus to the code plug 152.

There are three distinct types of operator status available in the mobile unit; new operator status, current operator status and messages. New operator status requires a positive action by the mobile operator. This may be a change in status in which case the operator will physically change a set of switch settings and send off the new status to the base. The mobile unit may have up to nine switches which may be momentary, push push type, interlocked or thumb wheel type switches, depending upon the requirements of the particular system. Current operator status always reflects the most recent setting of the status switches but does not require any action by the mobile operator. The base unit is capable of obtaining the current operator status of any mobile unit without any action by the mobile operator. And, in addition, current status can be automatically transferred to the base on every PTT ID transmission. Messages are status of transient nature. To send a message, the mobile operator must activate a switch and the base unit will automatically display the message each time it is sent. However, the base unit is not capable of obtaining messages from a mobile unit, nor will any messages be sent along with voice transmissions. New operator status and message transmissions may be manually sent with the operator monitoring the received channel before transmission or may be automatically sent with the channel being sensed for traffic before transmit.

Manual status transmissions involve a sequence of simple operations. This type of status is used in systems where channel sensing is impractical or impossible such as in radio systems where no radio signal is available for sensing channel activity. When the mobile operator decides to transmit a status to the base unit he sets the proper status switches and the radio is automatically placed in the monitor mode. He waits for the channel to become clear if it is busy, then presses a momentary send switch at which point the data packet containing the status information will be transmitted immediately and the base unit will acknowledge. Lock out is provided so that multiple sequences will not occur if the send switch is not released.

With automatic status, no channel monitoring

by the operator is necessary since the channel is sensed for any ongoing traffic, data or voice. If the channel is busy, the data transmission is inhibited until the channel clears, when a random clock will begin and the channel will be sampled for activity when the clock times out. If the channel is still busy, the random clock cycle will continue. If the channel is clear, the data packet containing the status will be transmitted to the base unit and an acknowledge will be sent back to the mobile unit. This prevents overlap of several units pending transmission. The optional automatic monitor mode can be used in any status configuration. Messages are sent in the same manner as operator status except momentary switches are used.

There are three code plug selectable status/message transmission modes available in the mobile unit; single without acknowledge, single with acknowledge, and multiple with acknowledge. The single without acknowledge mode is intended for one way systems without receiving capabilities. Each time a status or message transmission is initiated by the mobile operator, the data packet is transmitted once and there is no acknowledge transmission by the base unit. This is a global mode applicable to all options in the mobile unit. Thus, if no acknowledge is selected for the status mode, there will be no acknowledge for all data packets. Since there is no acknowledge sent for data transactions there can be no operator feedback of the successive transmission.

The single with acknowledge mode allows for all status and message transmissions to be acknowledged. If the handshake is successful, the mobile unit will produce a short audio tone indicating that the status or message was received at the base. If the handshake was not complete, meaning that the mobile did not receive the acknowledge, a no-acknowledge indicator will flash indicating to the mobile operator a bad transmission sequence and permitting the operator to then re-initiate another sequence. Thus, the mobile operator is given both positive feedback and negative feedback on status and message transmissions.

The multiple with acknowledge mode is identical to the single with acknowledge mode except retransmissions will automatically occur if the initial transmission was unsuccessful. This is an extremely reliable mode of operation. Thus, if an acknowledge from the base unit is not received within a random time interval, the mobile unit will automatically sense and re-transmit the status data packet. This process will continue until an acknowledge is received or a programmed number of retransmissions have occurred. As in the single with acknowledge mode a short audio tone will alert the mobile operator of a successful sequence.

There are eight possible status switch inputs for a mobile unit. A common configuration would be a seven button status system where all of the seven status switches are mechanically interlocked. Each time a status change is desired the

operator pushes the desired switch which will lock into position and remove any previous setting. The status may be automatically transmitted at that point or be initiated by a ninth switch, the momentary send switch. To send the same status, the operator must use the send switch independent of manual or automatic transmission. Many other configurations are possible including various select call switch combinations with status. The status system is also capable of supporting momentary message switches along with interlocking status switches. The message switch being momentary, will transmit a transient message. If a system involving more than one message switch is needed, the mobile unit can have up to eight unique messages. The message switches are all momentary switches and the send switch is therefore unnecessary. A powerful feature of the mobile unit status system is that each of the status positions are independent.

Another important feature of the status system of the mobile unit of Figure 5 is the ability of the base unit operator to inform the mobile operator to update his operator status. This is done by the use of a command in the base unit which will cause the no-acknowledge indicator to be activated at the mobile, signalling the mobile operator to update his operator status switches.

Alternate status is a general purpose status function providing an alternative or extension to the operator status. Its operation is different from operator status in that the mobile operator may not initiate an alternate status transmission in the basic system. In a system containing the priority alert option, the priority alert data transmissions will also send the current alternate status. Since the alternate status is sent along with priority alert, the status may be used as location information, extended priority levels, vehicle switches, etc. In these situations, the alternate status may be initiated by the mobile unit. The alternate status option requires the optional interface 154 of Figure 5. The mobile code plug is required from the mobile unit and inserted on the external interface 154. A ribbon cable connector is placed between the code plug socket on the mobile unit and a similar socket on the interface card. The data and address bus of the code plug is then multiplexed with alternate status. Seven parallel inputs and seven independent parallel outputs are provided with the alternate status option.

The base unit may interrogate any mobile unit for alternate status. The base is also capable of setting any combination of mobile alternate status outputs. The seven status inputs may be connected to switches as in operator status thereby providing extended status capability. In a configuration using seven status switches and seven message switches, the message switches are momentary and the status switches are push-button type or interlocked. When a message is transmitted, the status is not sent along. Instead, the base operator will manually interrogate the mobile unit or the base unit can be programmed to automatically retrieve the alternative status

when a message is received. If the alternate status outputs are used as indicators in the same system, the indicators may be used as base status. If alternate status is used to represent vehicle status, the seven inputs can be connected to sensors in the vehicle, for example, oil pressure, fuel, temperature, etc.

The priority alert option is independent of the other options and may be enabled in any mobile system configuration. The priority alert is normally to be activated by an external switch such as emergency switch 158, Figure 5. When activated, this normally closed switch will trigger a sequence of special data packet transmissions that have absolute priority over any other mobile unit functions. The initial priority data packet is transmitted immediately regardless of any channel sensing logic. If an acknowledge is not received within a random time interval, the mobile unit will automatically retransmit the priority data packet. A total of 20 transmissions will occur if an acknowledge is not received, in which case the operator may re-initiate another sequence. A sequence of transmissions will terminate immediately upon receiving an acknowledge. For security purposes, the mobile operator is not informed of positive or negative acknowledge. Activation of the priority alert will lock out all other data functions until an acknowledge is received or the sequence is terminated. When a priority alert is received by the base unit, the display indicating the mobile unit number will flash and an alarm will sound. The base unit will transmit any one of two types of acknowledge packets determined by the programming of the code plug. The first type is a normal acknowledge which terminates the priority sequence in the mobile unit. The second type is an emergency monitor packet which will terminate the priority sequence in the mobile unit and then will key up the radio transmitter for a fixed period of time (in the preferred embodiment, 10 seconds). At the end of this time period the mobile unit will send another priority data packet to the base and then switch to the receive mode. The base unit will continue to send emergency monitor data packets in this cyclical fashion until a clearing operation is performed by the base unit operator. This allows the base operator to voice monitor the activity of the mobile vehicle in the event of a priority alert. The same emergency monitor data packet that is used to enable the transmitter of a mobile unit in the priority alert mode is used to disable all other mobile transmitters in the system equipped with the mobile unit control systems. This feature provides a clear-channel to the unit in the priority mode. In addition, if the mobile unit has operator status, that status will be sent to the base unit along with the priority condition, with the priority packet containing the operator status. If the mobile unit has alternate status, that status is also sent. With this feature, various levels of priority may be established within a system. In addition, the mobile unit will respond to a unique command to initiate a priority alert sequence. This

command may be issued by the base unit or by a portable transmitter, thus, allowing remote emergency systems where the mobile is used as a repeater.

A select call option is available with the mobile unit and is totally independent in operation and selection from other features. The purpose of the select call system is to allow private and/or secure voice communications and paging operations. Selective voice calling is accomplished in the mobile unit by muting and unmuting the mobile radio audio. These operations are controlled by various data packets that originate from the mobile and base units. The base unit is capable of supporting several simultaneous modes of voice calling.

An auto select call mode of operation is provided whereby the base unit operator simply enters the unit, group or fleet identification code of the terminal and uses the microphone as normal. The selected unit, group, or fleet of mobile units will automatically unmute the audio for the duration of the voice transmission and then re-mute. The auto sel call mode does not provide acknowledgement due to the fact that the voice follows the unmute data packet while holding the transmitter key. The system is automatic in that the base operator is not required to press a call switch for each transmission.

A basic switch configuration for a select call mobile unit would include a call light used in voice calling and paging to indicate that the base unit has signalled that unit, except in the AUTO SEL CALL mode where the call light would not be affected. A reset switch, which would be a momentary type switch, can be provided to clear the call light and remute the audio if the automatic muting fails. A horn and light switch are provided which are push-push type switches and are used to engage the horn and lights for external alarms. A base group, and fleet switch may be provided to permit encoding capability to the mobile unit and are part of the AUTO SEL CALL mode. The switches are preferably mechanically interlocked. With these three switches, the mobile operator may selectively voice call the base, other members of his current group, or his fleet. If the base switch is selected, all voice transmissions from that unit will be directed to the base unit. The base unit will display the unit identification code as in the PTT ID option and no other mobile units in the system will hear the transmission. If the group switch is selected, all voice transmissions from that unit will be heard only by members of the same group. The base unit will display the group identification code and no other mobile units in the system will hear the transmission. If the fleet switch is selected, all voice transmissions from that unit will be heard by members of the same fleet and the base unit will display the fleet identification code. With the group or fleet switch selected, a voice transmission by the mobile operator will display the group or fleet ID code at the base unit. However, the mobile unit code plug may be programmed so

that concatenated data packets are sent at the end of every group or fleet voice transmission to permit the base unit to display the unit code of the transmitting mobile. With this feature programmed into the code plug, the base unit will sequentially display the group or fleet code followed by the unit code. A call with acknowledge mode of voice calling is available to the base unit operator who would enter the unit, group, or fleet identification code of the units to be called. He then would press a call switch and a responding mobile unit will unmute the radio audio, light the call lamp and activate any external alarms provided, alert the mobile operator with a short audio tone and send an acknowledge packet to the base. No acknowledge packet would be command is issued to a group or a fleet. This mode does not provide automatic remuting of the audio. The mobile operator must manually reset the muting by pressing a reset switch, by coming offhook, or by initiating a voice transmission.

When the select call option of the mobile unit is used in a private line system, there are three major muting modes available: AND, OR, and none. With DPL or PL muting used in the system and the mobile unit in the AND muting mode, both the proper PL or DPL code and the correct identification code must be present to unmuting the receiver audio. When the microphone is removed from the hangup box or the monitor operate switch is placed in the monitor position, all muting is disabled. If, however, an individual or group calling is desired from base to mobile without disturbing other mobiles in the system while retaining a PL operation for general mobile to mobile and mobile to base communications, muting may be selected as an OR mode. In the OR mode, the audio will respond to either a select call or a proper PL or DPL code. If the system is to be used for external alarms and call light operation and all units are to hear all transmissions with the proper PL or DPL code, then no muting is selected.

There are two paging modes available to the base operator for which the mobile unit can respond. The first paging mode simply alerts the mobile operator with a series of audio tones, activates any external alarms or enables the call lamp. No audio muting or unmuting is performed. The base operator enters the unit, group, or fleet identification code of the units to be paged. He then presses a page switch and the addressed mobile unit will perform the above action and transmit on-acknowledge back to the base. Group and fleet page operations will not be acknowledged. A second paging mode is identical in operation to the first except that no audio tones will be produced.

All mobile units provide for group reassignment by a base unit operator. The base operator may interrogate any unit for its current group identification code and may also dynamically change that code. Since the group code may be dynamically alerted, the group code may be used in some systems as a variable identification code.

Once a mobile unit group ID has been changed, any group addressing of that unit will perform by the new ID number. When a mobile unit is powered up, the group ID contained in the unit code plug is placed in random access memory. The base unit may alter this code in RAM by use of a re-grouping command. The mobile unit will always use the current group code in RAM for group operations.

All mobile units are provided with a "radio check" function. This is activated by the base operator entering the unit ID code of the mobile to be checked followed by a radio check command. The mobile unit will then respond with a normal acknowledge. This feature may be used in system diagnostics or to test the availability of the mobile operator.

A part of the select call feature permits the base unit to selectively enable or disable voice transmission control of mobile units. The base operator may enter the unit group or fleet identification code of the unit to be enabled or disabled. He then executes the disable command and the selected unit or units will be inhibited from further voice transmissions. The command has no effect on data transmissions.

The optional external interface, 154, provides all the logic and interfacing to enable the alternate status feature and data channel selection logic. The data channel selection logic will enable a mobile unit to transmit any and all data on specific designated channels. It does this by way of the frequency selection switch of the mobile control head. An audio alert mechanism is provided to alert the operator of an invalid channel selection if any data transmissions are initiated on an invalid channel. The logic may be capable of automatically reverting to a selected data channel.

Figure 6 is a flow diagram of the RESTART routine of the base unit computer program for the microcomputer 100 of Figure 4 for implementing the invention. The program is entered at block 200 upon power up and initialisation occurs as illustrated at 202. The RAM, clock, ports, and code plug are tested at 204 and if an error is detected, an error code is displayed, as illustrated at 206, after which the system waits for restart to be initiated by the operator as indicated at 208. If no error is detected, the routine continues instead to block 210 displaying a start message on the display 98 and proceeds to 212 to test for the presence of the programmer module. If the programmer module option exists the program flow proceeds to block 214 and then to the PROM PROGRAMMER HANDLER routine. If no PROM programmer option exists, then the routine proceeds to blocks 216 and 218 to activate the printer to print a predetermined herald and log on information. The routine then transfers control to the PSK RECEIVE routine.

A flow diagram of the PSK RECEIVE routine is shown in figure 7, which shows entry to the routine at block 230. The PSK demodulator is immediately entered at 232. The PSK demodu-

lator is a separate routine for demodulation and detection of the PSK modulated signal. If a keyboard interrupt is generated, the program flow proceeds as indicated at block 234 to the KEYBOARD HANDLER routine shown at 236. Otherwise, the routine will proceed to block 238 to test for the existence of the PROM module which, if present, causes the program flow to proceed to block 240 to the PROM programmer. If not, the program flow proceeds to block 242 to test the push-to-talk (PTT) transmit switch. If the push to talk transmit switch is activated, the program flow proceeds to the TRANSMIT HANDLER routine as indicated at 244 and if not activated, program flow proceeds to block 246 to test timed vectoring. If the result of the test at 246 is positive, program flow proceeds to block 248 to get the exit vector and then to 250 to the vectored routine, otherwise, program flow will proceed, as shown, to block 252 to determine whether there has been a 112 bits detected, indicating a complete data packet. If there are not 112 bits program flow will proceed to block 254 and return to the PSK RECEIVE at block 230. If the 112 bits have been detected, program flow proceeds to block 256 to the convolutional decoder for decoding of the 112 bit encoded signal and then to block 258 where the cyclic redundancy check code is computed and to 260 where the computed CRC is compared with the detected CRC. If the results of the CRC check is negative, then program flow proceeds from block 262 to 264 to the beginning of the PSK RECEIVE routine as indicated at 230. If the CRC check is positive, the program flow proceeds as shown at 266 to the PACKET PARSING routine.

The PACKET PARSING routine is entered at block 270 of Figure 8A and program flow proceeds to block 272 to test the bounds of the ID address. If the address is outside of the bounds, then program flow proceeds, as shown, at 274 back to the PSK RECEIVE routine. However, if the ID address is within the predetermined bounds stored in memory, then program flow will proceed to block 276 where the program will test for a valid operational code (OP code) and if the code is not valid, the routine will return to PSK RECEIVE routine as indicated at 278. If the operational code is valid, then the program proceeds to block 280 where the program will proceed to the proper mode as determined by the operational code. If the OP code addresses a select call mode the program flow proceeds to block 282 and then, as indicated at 284, the program is transferred to the PSK RECEIVE routine. If a priority alert mode is addressed by the OP code then the program will proceed to block 286 where the priority alert function is activated and as indicated at 288, the status key match test is performed. If there is not a match of the status key, then the program proceeds to the PSK RECEIVE routine as indicated at 290 and if the status key matches, then as indicated in 292, the priority alert function is performed and the routine then proceeds to transfer control back to the PSK RECEIVE routine as indicated at 294. An acknowledge OP code will

cause the program to proceed to block 296 for execution of the acknowledge function. Program flow will proceed to 298 where the program will test to determine if it is waiting for an acknowledge and if not, then the routine immediately proceeds to transfer to the PSK RECEIVE routine as indicated at 300, however, if it is waiting for an acknowledge then the program proceeds to block 302. At block 302 acknowledge functions are performed and control is transferred to the PSK RECEIVE routine as indicated at 304. A current group OP code will cause program flow to proceed to 306 and as indicated at 308 a test for waiting is again performed and if no wait, then program flow is transferred directly to PSK RECEIVE routine as indicated at 310. Otherwise, program flow proceeds to block 312 which performs the group functions and then transfers control to the PSK RECEIVE routine as indicated at 314. The PACKET PARSING routine continues from Figure 8A to Figure 8B at 316. Figure 8B, indicates at 318 that if a PTT ID function is addressed by the OP code then program flow will proceed from 318 to 320 to stop polling if polling is occurring and then to block 322 to test the status key for a match. If no match exists, the program flow proceeds immediately to the PSK RECEIVE routine as indicated at 324 and if a match occurs, then at 326 the ID functions are performed and then the program transfers to the PSK RECEIVE routine as indicated at 328. If an alternate status function is addressed by the OP code, then the program proceeds to block 330 and then to 332 to test if the program is waiting and if no waiting is occurring, then the program proceeds directly to the PSK RECEIVE routine as indicated at 334 and otherwise proceeds to block 336 to test if a poll is in progress. If a poll is in progress, then the program proceeds to the POLL EXIT routine as indicated at 338 and otherwise proceeds to block 340 to perform the alternate status function and from that point the program control is transferred to the PSK RECEIVE routine as indicated at 342. If the OP code addresses a current operator status function, program flow proceeds directly to block 344 and from there to block 346 to test to determine if the program is waiting. If no waiting is occurring then the program proceeds to the PSK RECEIVE routine as indicated at 348 and otherwise proceeds to block 350 to test to determine if a poll is in progress. If a poll is in progress, the program flow is transferred to the POLL EXIT routine as indicated at 352 and otherwise proceeds to block 354 to perform the current operator status function and then transfers program control back to the PSK RECEIVE routine as indicated at 356. Finally, an OP code calling for a new operator status function (or message) will transfer control directly to the block 358 and then to block 360 where the poll is stopped, if polling is occurring. Program flow then proceeds to block 362 where the status key is tested for a match. If there is no status match, then program flow is transferred to the PSK RECEIVE routine as indicated at 368 and if a match occurs, then the new operator

status function is performed as indicated at 366 after which the program control is transferred to the PSK RECEIVE routine as indicated at 364.

The KEYBOARD HANDLER routine is illustrated in Figures 9A, 9B and 9C and is entered by means of a keyboard interrupt as indicated at block 370. The KEYBOARD HANDLER routine at 372, immediately proceeds to get the key which was activated as indicated at 374 and proceeds to test for the PROM programmer at 376. If yes, then program flow proceeds to return from the interrupt as indicated at 382. In addition, program flow proceeds from 396 if the result is negative at 378 to test for clock initiation, and if that is positive, the program flow proceeds, again, to return from the interrupt as indicated at 382. If the result of the test at 378 is negative, the program flow proceeds to 380 where the "system-test" function is examined. If the result is positive, again, program control returns from interrupt as indicated at 382 and otherwise proceeds to block 384 to determine the key activated, as indicated at block 384. At block 386, the clear key is tested and if positive, the display is cleared as indicated at 388 and program control is transferred to the PSK RECEIVE routine as indicated at 390. Otherwise, program flow proceeds to block 392. At this point, a display pending test is performed and if positive, program control is transferred to PSK RECEIVE routine as indicated at 394, and otherwise proceeds to block 396 to test if a PTT command is in progress. If positive, the routine returns to the PSK RECEIVE routine, as indicated at 398 and otherwise proceeds to block 400 to determine if a poll is in progress. If a poll is in progress, the routine transfers control to the PSK RECEIVE routine as indicated at block 402 and otherwise program flow proceeds to block 404 and from there to block 406 as indicated in figure 9B. At block 406, the program tests to see if a "system test" is in progress and if the result is positive, the program flow is transferred to the PSK RECEIVE routine as indicated at 408 and otherwise program proceeds to block 410. At 410, the program tests as indicated for a priority alert in progress and if the result is positive, the program flow proceeds to block 412 to test to determine if a function key had been activated. If the result is negative, the program flow is transferred to the PSK RECEIVE routine as indicated at 414 and if positive; the program flow proceeds to block 416. At block 416, the program tests for the emergency monitor option, if the result is negative the program control is transferred to the PSK RECEIVE routine as indicated at 418 and otherwise proceeds to block 420 where a test for the second function key is performed (two function keys are required to activate an emergency monitor command). If the result is negative, program proceeds to block 422 where the emergency monitor count is incremented and then to the PSK RECEIVE routine as indicated at 424. If the result of the test at 420 is positive, the program proceeds to the emergency monitor transmit, transmitting the emergency monitor packet as

indicated at 426. If at block 410, the priority in progress test is negative, program flow proceeds directly to block 428 where the program test of the terminal is waiting for an acknowledge packet. If the terminal is waiting, the program proceeds to the PSK RECEIVE routine as indicated at 430 and otherwise, as indicated at 432, proceeds to block 434 shown in Figure 9C. At block 434, the program tests for a command-in-progress, and if there is a command-in-progress, the program now proceeds to 448 where the test for a function key (which is used for command execution), is performed. If the result of the test is negative, program flow is transferred directly to the PSK RECEIVE routine as indicated at 450 and otherwise proceeds to block 452 to determine if the system is waiting to poll. If the result is positive, the program flow proceeds to block 454 to transmit the start of the polling sequence, and otherwise proceeds to block 456 to determine if a "system test" is in progress. If a "system test" command exists, then program flow proceeds to block 458 causing a "system test" initiation, and otherwise proceeds to a normal command transmit as indicated at block 460. If at block 434, the command in progress test is negative, program flow will proceed to block 436 and test for a pending function. If the result is positive, the program test for control vectoring is indicated at 438 and if the result is positive, the program fetches the vector as indicated at 440 and then exits to the vectored address as indicated at 442. Otherwise, at block 438, program flow proceeds to block 444 to translate the activated key to a command vector and then exists the program through the command vector as indicated at 446. If at 436, the function pending test is negative, program flow will proceed to block 462 where the key is tested for a function key and if positive, the program will set the function pending flag as indicated at 464. The function will be displayed at 466 and then the program flow returns to the PSK RECEIVE routine as indicated at 468. If the result of the test at 462 is negative, program flow will proceed to block 470 where the display buffer will be obtained (since, at this point, the key is a numeric entry) and a new key will be rotated in the display buffer as indicated at 474. The program proceeds to 476 to test for a 3 digit shared-system configuration and if the three digit mode is present, the program flow proceeds to 478 to move the code into the fleet code display buffer, to 480 to mask the most significant digit from the display buffer, and then to block 482 to clear pending flags. Program flow then proceeds to 484 where the display is updated and then transfers program control to the PSK RECEIVE routine as indicated at 486.

Figures 10A, 10B and 10C show a flow diagram of the COMMAND routine for the base unit computer program and as indicated at 492 is entered via a command vector at 490. From the entry point 490 the program flow then proceeds as indicated to one of several possible command modes. If the command is a group mode com-

mand, program flow proceeds to the group mode select at 494 and obtains the display buffer as indicated at 496. The program flow then proceeds to 498 where the display buffer is tested for valid group and if the result is negative, performs an error exit as indicated at 500. Otherwise group mode is set as indicated at 502 and program flow proceeds to the PSK RECEIVE routine as indicated at 504. If a fleet select mode is called for, the program flow proceeds directly to 506 and then to block 508 to obtain the buffer display and then to block 510 to test for a valid fleet code. If the results of the test are negative, the program makes an error exit as indicated at 512 and otherwise proceeds to block 514 to set the fleet mode and then transfers program control to the PSK RECEIVE routine as indicated at 516. A transmit command will cause the program control to proceed directly to block 518 and from there to 520 where the display buffer is obtained and tested for valid ID as indicated at 522. If the results of the test are negative, an error exit is executed as indicated at 524 and otherwise program flow proceeds to block 526 to get any auxiliary data. The program then proceeds to block 528 to obtain the command code to 530 to merge the OP code and data, and then proceeds to store the result in a transmit packet buffer as indicated at 532. The system flags are set or cleared as required as indicated at 534 and the PL or DPL and the audio muting are disabled as indicated at 536. The command logo is then displayed on the display as indicated at 538 and the program flow proceeds to the PSK RECEIVE routine as indicated at 540 (awaiting command execution).

The command subroutine continues from figure 10A to Figure 10B as indicated at block 542. If a recall or a next in queue command occurs, the program flow proceeds to 546 to get the next memory address as indicated by block 544 and 548. Once the next memory address has been obtained, the program proceeds to 550 to test for end of memory. If the result is negative, the program proceeds to block 554 to display the stack or queue position, and then to 556 to get a return address. Program flow then proceeds to block 558 for time vectoring and then exits to the PSK RECEIVE routine as indicated at 560. If the result of the test at 550 is positive, the program causes none to be displayed as indicated at 552 and proceeds, as shown, to block 566. Block 566 may also be entered by a vector return as indicated at 562 following a display of the unit ID indicated at 564. In addition, the block 566 may be entered as a result of a first in, first out queue control toggle command as indicated at 578 which results in toggling of the control flag as indicated at 580 and a display of the flag state as indicated at 582 followed by transfer to block 566 to get a return address. Program flow then proceeds to block 568 for timed vectoring and then transfers program control to the PSK RECEIVE routine as indicated at 570. The command routine is continued in Figure 10C as indicated by block 584, where if a secondary command occurs, entry

is at 586 and the program proceeds to display FNC 2 as indicated at 588 and then sets the keyboard vector flags as indicated at block 590. Then the return address is obtained at 592 and waits for the key entry by way of an untimed vector at 594. Once the key entry has occurred, program flow is transferred to the PSK RECEIVE routine as indicated at 596. Block 598 is entered via vector return and program flow proceeds to block 600 to get the entered key value and translate and then proceeds to block 602 to vector to the secondary command and then to 604 to perform the secondary command or function required. Program flow is then transferred to the PSK RECEIVE routine as indicated at 608.

A flow diagram of the command transmit routine for the base unit computer program is illustrated in Figures 11A and 11B. The program is entered at 610 and proceeds to block 612 where the audio and PL or DPL are disabled. The program flow then proceeds to a system test to determine if it is busy as indicated at 614 and if the result is positive, the program displays "hold" on the display as indicated at 616 and then computes a random delay at 618 and waits for the busy to clear as indicated at 620. The program flow continues to block 622 to get a busy return address and then to 624 for timed vectoring and proceeds to transfer program control to the PSK RECEIVE routine as indicated at 626. If the result of the test at block 614 is negative, the program flow advances the block 628 to set the busy line and the display. The program flow then proceeds to block 630 disabling the keyboard and enabling the transmit line and waits for the preprogrammed system delay as indicated at 632. The program flow then continues to block 640 where the TRANSMIT sub-routine is called and then to 642 to log the transmission on the printer and clear the busy line. A test for polling is then performed at block 644 and if the result is negative, a test for acknowledge is performed as indicated at 646. If the result of that test is negative, program flow proceeds to block 648 clearing the transmit flags and then as indicated by block 660 and 668 of Figure 11B program flow is transferred to the PSK RECEIVE routine. If, however, the result of the test for acknowledge at block 646 is positive, program flow proceeds to block 650 to test if this is the first transmission. It should also be noted that if the test at 644 is positive, the program flow proceeds to block 650. If the result of the test at block 650 is negative, program flow advances to block 654 and decrements a retransmission count and then sets the system flags as indicated at 656. If the result of the test at block 650 is positive, the retransmission count will be preset as indicated at 652. Program flow will then proceed to block 656 to set the system flags and from there to block 662 as indicated by block 658. A random packet delay is computed at block 662 and then the return address is obtained as indicated at 664. Program flow then continues to block 666 for timed vectoring and to block 668 where the program control is transferred to the PSK RECEIVE routine.

Figure 12 illustrates a flow diagram of the RETRANSMISSION routine of the base unit computer program. The RETRANSMISSION routine is entered at 670 where the return address is obtained and proceeds to block 672 to test for the retransmission count equaling zero. If it is not zero, the program control advances to 674 where retransmission count is decremented and program flow is then transferred to the COMMAND TRANSMIT routine as indicated at 676. If, however, the result of the test at 672 is positive, program control is transferred to block 678 where the no-acknowledge flag and system flags are set and to block 680 where the "fail" indication is displayed. The program flow continues to block 682 where the no acknowledge is logged on the printer and the program proceeds to block 684 to test to see if a poll is in progress. If the result is negative, program flow is transferred proceeds to the PSK RECEIVE routine as indicated at 690. If the result of the test at 684 is positive, the poll count is advanced as indicated at 686 and an exit to the POLL EXIT routine is executed as indicated at 688.

A flow diagram of the POLL EXIT routine for the base unit computer program is shown in Figure 13. The POLL EXIT routine is entered, as shown, at 692 and program flow immediately proceeds to block 694 where the poll count is tested to determine if it is equal to the preprogrammed maximum value. If the result is positive, the poll is stopped as indicated at 696 and program control is transferred to the PSK RECEIVE routine as indicated at 698. If the result of the poll test at 694 is negative, the program flow continues to block 700 and advances the poll ID number and then proceeds to block 702 to set up the data packet and to 704 to set the system flags. The program flow then proceeds to block 706 for timed vectoring and exits to the COMMAND TRANSMIT routine as indicated at 708.

The DATA TRANSMIT sub-routine flow diagram is shown in Figure 14 and as indicated, the sub-routine is entered at block 710. The program flow proceeds immediately to block 712 where the 32 bit data packet is obtained and then the CRC code is computed at block 714. The data packet is then encoded into the transmit buffer as indicated at 716. The program flow then proceeds to block 718 where the preamble code and sync code are obtained and appended to the transmit buffer as indicated at block 720. The entire data packet is transmitted by the transmitter using PSK modulation as indicated at 722 and the program control returns from the sub-routine as indicated at 724.

Figure 15 shows a flow diagram of the PROM PROGRAMMER HANDLER routine for the base unit computer program. The PROGRAM PROGRAMMER HANDLER routine is entered, as shown, at 730 and program control proceeds immediately to 732 to test for the indicated option. If the result is negative, an error exist is executed as indicated at 734, and if the result of the test is positive, the program flow advances to block 736 to get the keyboard key. Program flow

then proceeds to block 738 where a test is performed to determine if the programmer is connected and if the result is negative, the program control is transferred to the PSK RECEIVE routine as indicated at 740. If the result is positive, however, program control continues to 742 where the key is tested to determine if it was a clear key. If the result is positive, the display is cleared as indicated at 744 and the program control transfers back to block 736. If, however, the result of the test at 742 is negative, program flow will proceed to block 746 where the key is tested to determine if it is a function key. If the result is that it is a function key, the program flow advances to block 748 where the function mode is set and to 750 where the FNC 3 indication is displayed. Program flow is then transferred back to 736. If the result of the function key test is negative, the program then proceeds to block 752 to test the determine whether the one or three key was activated. If the result is negative, an error indication is displayed as indicated at 754 and the program flow is transferred back to block 736, as shown. If the result of the test at 752 is positive a test to determine if the one key has been activated is performed at 756 and if the result is negative (meaning the three key way pressed) the code plug is programmed as indicated at 758 and the program flow proceeds to block 760 to read and display the code plug. If the result of the test at 756 is positive, the code plug is read as indicated at 760 and the program flow then proceeds back to block 736.

Referring now to Figure 16, there is shown a flow diagram of the START routine of the mobile unit computer program. It should be immediately noted that the START routine can be entered at four entry points indicated as START at block 780, PSKREC at block 784, PSK at block 788 and MAIN at block 792. Entering the START routine at block 780 the program flow proceeds directly to 782 where the ports and external bus are cleared and the code plug is read. At this point, the PSK REC entry point at 784 permits entry to block 786 where program flow proceeds to set up the necessary muting. After block 786, the entry point PSK indicated at 788 permits entry to the next flow position at 790 which sets up the PSK RECEIVER and the START interrupts. Program flow then proceeds to bilogram flow then proceeds to block 794 which can also be entered from the MAIN entry point indicated at 792, where the channel monitoring is performed utilising the PSK RECEIVE routine. Program flow continues to block 796 where the PTT switch is checked to determine if it is on, and if the result is positive, the program exits to the EXT routine as indicated at 798. If the test at 796 is negative, the program flow advances to block 800 where the program tests for a switch change and causes the program control to transfer to either the TRANS routine, the EMERG routine the P1CHK routine, or the HUBCHK routine, determined by which type of switch change occurred, as indicated at block 802. If the test shows that no switch change has occurred

the time out timer is checked to see if it has timed out. As indicated at 804, and if the result is positive, program control is transferred to the TIMCHK routine as indicated at 806. If time out has not occurred, then program flow proceeds to 808 where a test for word sync is performed. If word sync exists, then program flow proceeds to block 812 where phase ambiguity is corrected in a data buffer. Program flow will then continue to block 814 where the received data word is checked to determine if the full 112 bits have been received, and if the result is negative, program flow proceeds to block 820 where the data operated squelch provides muting. In addition, if the test result at block 808 was negative, program flow would proceed to block 800 where a data operated squelch tests for presence of data and if data is detected then program flow proceeds to block 820 to will mute the audio and transfer control back to block 792 which is the MAIN entry point to the routine. If the result of the test at 810 is negative, program flow will proceed directly to block 792 and then directly to block 794, as shown. A positive result in the test of block 814 will result in program flow being directed to block 822 to the decode section of the routine. Program flow then advances directly to block 824 where all interrupts are disabled and the 112 bit data is decoded. The program flow then proceeds to 826 where a cyclical redundancy check determines the validity of the data. And if the result is negative, program control is transferred from block 827 to the PSK input of the routine at 788. If the result of the test at 826 is positive, the program flow continues to 828 where a test is made to determine if the system is in the emergency mode. If yes, program flow proceeds to block 830 where a check is made for the emergency monitor OP code. If the result is positive, the program control is transferred to the EMR-MON routine as indicated at 834 and otherwise to the PSK input of the routine as indicated at 832. If the result of the check at block 828 is negative, program flow transfers to block 836 where the ID address is checked for validity, and a negative result causes the program flow to be transferred to the PSK input of the routine, as indicated at block 838. If the result of the test at 836 is positive, the program flow proceeds to block 840 where a check is made of the OP code and argument against the code plug to verify that the unit has been programmed to handle the option indicated. At block 842, the program checks to determine if the function indicated is possible, and if the result is negative, the program flow is directed to the PSK input of the routine as indicated at 844. If the result is positive, program control proceeds to block 846 where the function is performed and need for data acknowledge checked, as shown in block 848. If the result is negative at block 848, program flow advances to block 852 where program control will be transferred either to the PSK or the PSK REC input of the routine depending upon muting, as indicated. If the result of the test at 848 is positive, a quarter second wait will occur

before a transmission of acknowledge or data back to the base, as shown at 850.

Figure 17 shows a flow diagram of the EXT routine of the mobile unit computer program and is entered as shown at 854. Program flow proceeds directly to 856 where the interrupts are disabled and the code plug is read and then at 858 the program tests the code plug data to determine if the unit has PTT control. If the result is positive, program flow proceeds to 860 where the PTT is turned on and to block 862. If the result of the test at 858 is negative, the program flow advances directly to block 862 where approximately a 36 millisecond wait occurs to permit a check of the data inhibit line. The data inhibit line is then checked as indicated at 864 and if the result is positive, program flow is transferred to block 882 as shown where the program waits for a PTT signal for 180 milliseconds while the receiver is muted. If, however, the result of the check at block 864 is negative, a check for the talk around option will be made as shown at block 870. If the result of the test at 870 is negative, program flow will proceed to block 868 and 872 where the PTT one shot will be checked to determine if it is set and if the result is positive, the program flow will proceed to block 882 as shown. If the result is negative, the program flow will proceed to block 874 where the code plug will be tested to determine if a PTT ID is to be generated at the beginning, and if the result is positive, then the necessary status switches are obtained and the system delay is started following which the ID is sent at the beginning of the transmission, as indicated at 876. Program flow will then continue to block 878 where the code plug is checked to determine if a PTT ID is to be sent at the end of the transmission. In addition, if the result at block 874 is negative, program flow will proceed to block 878 and if the result of the test at block 878 is positive, the switch values will be determined and the system will wait for the PTT switch to be deactivated and an end of transmission ID will be sent as indicated at 880. Program flow will then advance, as shown, to block 882 after which the program flow will return to the PSK REC input of the START routine. If the result of the test at block 870 is positive, the base, group, and fleet ID's and switches are checked and system delay is added in at 886. Followed by sending of the packet and a wait for an end of transmission signal from the PTT. Program flow then proceeds to block 890 where the mute packet is sent with no system delay followed by a test for group or fleet call as indicated at 892. If the result at 892 is fleet call as indicated at 892. If the result at 892 is negative, program flow will advance directly to block 882 as indicated, and if the result is positive, program flow will transfer to block 878 to determine if an end of transmission ID should be sent. The program flow is then transferred from block 882 to the PSK REC entry point of the START routine as indicated at 884.

A flow diagram of the TRANS/EMERG routine of the mobile unit computer program is shown in

Figure 18. This routine can be entered at four points indicated at TRANS at 894, EMERG at 924, RETRAN at 904, and EMREPT at 932. Entering the program at TRANS indicated at 894 program flow proceeds directly to block 896 where the interrupts are disabled and the code plug data is read whereupon a test is made to determine whether the status option is allowed as indicated at 898. If the result is negative, the program flow transfers to the PSK input of the START routine as indicated at 900 and if the result is positive, the program flow advances to 902. At 902, the data cycle is started wherein a low is put on the data cycle line to indicate status is being sent and the transmission count is set or a wait period is established to allow channel scan. Subsequently, program flow will proceed to block 906, however, block 906 can be entered from block 904 the RETRAN entry point. At block 906 the count is tested to determine if it is equal to zero and if the result is positive, the no acknowledge light will be activated as indicated at 908 and program flow will transfer to the PSKREC input of the START routine as indicated at 910. If the result of the test at 906 is negative, a random time out period is fetched as indicated at 912 followed by a test of the data inhibit line at 914. If the data inhibit line is on, the program flow will be transferred to the PSK input of the START routine as indicated at 916 and if the line is not on, the status packet will be set up as indicated at block 918. Program flow will then continue to block 920 where the count will be decremented and the packet transmitted and the program flow will be transferred to the PSK REC input of the START routine as indicated at 922. If however, the routine is entered at the EMERG entry point indicated at 924, program flow proceeds directly to block 926 where the interrupts are disabled and the code plug is read. The program then continues to block 928 where the priority mode is started followed by starting the data cycle and setting the transmission count in establishing the required wait period as indicated at 930. Program flow then advances to block 934 however, this point of the program can be entered at the entry point EMREPT as indicated at 932. At block 934, the count will be tested to determine if it is equal to zero and if it is, the priority mode will be stopped, as indicated at 936, and program flow will be transferred to the PSK REC input of the START routine as indicated at 910. If the count is not equal to zero, program flow will advance to block 938 where the random time out period is fetched followed by set up of the priority packet as indicated at 940. Program flow will then proceed to block 920 where the count will be decremented and the packet transmitted followed by a transfer of program control to the PSK REC input of the START routine as indicated at 922.

Referring now to Figure 19, there is shown a flow diagram of the P1CHK/HUBCHK routine of the mobile unit computer program. This routine may be entered at two points; the P1CHK entry point indicated at 942 and the HUBCHK entry

point indicated at 966. If the routine is entered at 942, program flow will proceed directly to blocks 944 and 946 where the switch will be tested to determine if it has changed from a zero to a one. If the result of the test of the switch at 946 is negative, the program flow will transfer to the MAIN input of the START routine as indicated at 948, and if the result of the test is positive, the program flow will advance to block 950 where the interrupts will be disabled and the code plug will read. Program flow will then continue to block 952 where the call reset switch will be checked to determine if it is on. If the call reset switch is on, relays and call lights will be cleared as indicated at 974 and the program control will then be transferred to the PSK REC input of the START routine as indicated at 976. If, however, the result of the test at 952 is negative, program flow will proceed to block 954 and 956 where the status switches will be checked to determine if there has been a change. If no change has occurred, program flow will transfer, as indicated, to 964 and if the result is positive, the program will continue to block 958 where a test is made to determine if the auto status option is available. If the result is positive, program control is transferred to the TRANS routine as indicated at 960. If the result of the test at 958 is negative, program control proceeds to block 962 where muting will be opened to permit channel monitoring. Program flow will then be transferred to the PSK input of the START routine as indicated at 964. If the routine is entered at the HUBCHK entry point indicated at 966, program flow proceeds directly to 968 where the interrupts are disabled. The hangup box will then be checked to determine if it is off hook as indicated at 972. If the result of the test at 972 is negative, program flow will proceed directly to 976 and if the result is affirmative, the relays and call light will be cleared as indicated at 974. The program control will then be transferred to the PSK REC input of the START routine 976.

Figure 20 shows a flow diagram of the TIMCHK routine of the mobile unit computer program and is entered as shown at 978. The program flow proceeds to block 980 where the interrupts are disabled and the program then vectors program control to the proper routine as indicated by blocks 982, 984, 986 and 988. Figure 21 shows the flow diagram of the EMR MON routine of the mobile unit computer program and, as indicated, this routine is entered at block 990. Program flow proceeds directly to block 992 where the argument is checked to determine if it is equal to 0 and if the result is positive, program flow proceeds directly to block 994 where the priority mode is stopped if it is on and then to block 996 where program control is transferred to the PSK REC input of the START routine. If the result of the test at 992 is negative, the priority mode is checked to determine if it is on as indicated at 998. If the priority mode is not on, the PTT is disabled as indicated at 1002 and if it is on, the PTT is turned on as indicated at 1000. The program control then advances to block 1004 where the variable

COUNT is set to equal the argument after which the count is decremented at 1008. In addition, the routine may be entered at this point at the entry point MONRPT indicated at block 1006. Program flow will advance from block 1008 to block 1010 where the count will be tested to determine if it is equal to 0. If not equal to 0, program flow will transfer directly to block 1014 and if it is equal to 0, then the program flow will continue to block 1012 where the PTT is turned off. The program control will then transfer to the PSK input of the START routine as indicated at block 1014.

A flow diagram of the TONES routine of the mobile unit computer program is shown in Figure 22. The routine is entered at block 1020 as indicated and program flow proceeds directly to block 1022 where the tone count is decremented. The COUNT is then checked to determine if it is equal to 0 at 1024 and if the result is positive, the program control is transferred to the PSK input of the START routine as indicated at 1026. If the test at 1024 is negative, the program flow proceeds to block 1028 where the time out timer is set up after which the alert tone is generated, as indicated at 1030. Program flow then continues to block 1032 where the transmission switch is checked to determine if it is on, and if it is, the program flow jumps back to block 1030 where a tone is generated. If the trans switch is not on, program flow proceeds to block 1034 where a 300 millisecond wait occurs before returning to the START routine at either the PSK or the PSK REC input.

In summary, an improved data signalling system particularly well adapted for use in multiple unit radio communications systems, capable of both voice and data communications, has been described.

While a preferred embodiment of the invention has been described in detail, it should be apparent, that many modifications and variations thereto are possible.

Claims

1. In a communications system for voice communications over a communications medium, having a primary station (52) and a plurality of remote stations (60, 62, 64), each remote station having a predetermined station address stored in a station address register (152), a method of emergency calling comprising the steps of:

a) at the remote station (60, 62, 64):

i) transmitting an emergency command signal containing a predetermined emergency control code (Fig. 2; bits 24—28) and the predetermined station address; characterized by

b) at the primary station (52):

i) receiving said transmitted emergency command signal and transmitting an acknowledge command signal, in response thereto, having a preselected control code and the predetermined

station address contained in the received emergency command signal;

ii) commanding the emergency calling remote station or at least one of the other remote stations (60, 62, 64) in accordance with the emergency in response to receiving the transmitted emergency command signal.

2. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step, at the remote station, of retransmitting the command signal a predetermined number of times until the acknowledge command signal is received.

3. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of commanding the emergency calling remote station or at least one of the other remote stations comprises the primary station (52) commanding the emergency calling remote station (60, 62, 64) to enable its audio transmitter (188).

4. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of commanding the emergency calling remote station or at least one of the other remote stations comprises the primary station (52) commanding other remote stations (60, 62, 64) to disable their transmitters.

5. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of commanding the emergency calling remote station or at least one of the other remote stations comprises the primary station (52) commanding another remote station (60, 62, 64) to repeat an emergency message between the emergency calling remote station and the primary station.

6. The method of claim 4 further comprising:

a. at the primary station:

i. entering a desired station address (Fig. 2; bits 0—15);

ii. transmitting a command signal containing a predetermined control code (Fig 2; bits 24—28);

b. at each of said non-emergency calling remote stations (60, 62, 64):

i. receiving said transmitted command signal

ii. detecting when the desired station address (Fig. 2; bits 0—15) contained in the received command signal is the same as the predetermined station address stored in the station's address register (152) and disabling the remote station's voice transmission in response thereto.

7. The method of claim 3 further comprising at the remote station (60, 62 or 64) enabling the transmitter (188) of the remote station (60, 62 or 64) for a predetermined time period in response to receiving the command from said primary station.

Patentansprüche

1. Verfahren für einem Notruf in einem Nachrichten-Übertragungssystem für Sprechzwecke über einen Nachrichtenträger mit einer Hauptstation (52) und mehreren Fernstationen (60, 62, 64), für die jeweils in einem Stationsadressen-Register (152) eine vorherbestimmte Stationsadresse abgelegt ist, bei dem

COUNT is set to equal the argument after which the count is decremented at 1008. In addition, the routine may be entered at this point at the entry point MONRPT indicated at block 1006. Program flow will advance from block 1008 to block 1010 where the count will be tested to determine if it is equal to 0. If not equal to 0, program flow will transfer directly to block 1014 and if it is equal to 0, then the program flow will continue to block 1012 where the PTT is turned off. The program control will then transfer to the PSK input of the START routine as indicated at block 1014.

A flow diagram of the TONES routine of the mobile unit computer program is shown in Figure 22. The routine is entered at block 1020 as indicated and program flow proceeds directly to block 1022 where the tone count is decremented. The COUNT is then checked to determine if it is equal to 0 at 1024 and if the result is positive, the program control is transferred to the PSK input of the START routine as indicated at 1026. If the test at 1024 is negative, the program flow proceeds to block 1028 where the time out timer is set up after which the alert tone is generated, as indicated at 1030. Program flow then continues to block 1032 where the transmission switch is checked to determine if it is on, and if it is, the program flow jumps back to block 1030 where a tone is generated. If the trans switch is not on, program flow proceeds to block 1034 where a 300 millisecond wait occurs before returning to the START routine at either the PSK or the PSK REC input.

In summary, an improved data signalling system particularly well adapted for use in multiple unit radio communications systems, capable of both voice and data communications, has been described.

While a preferred embodiment of the invention has been described in detail, it should be apparent, that many modifications and variations thereto are possible.

Claims

1. In a communications system for voice communications over a communications medium, having a primary station (52) and a plurality of remote stations (60, 62, 64), each remote station having a predetermined station address stored in a station address register (152), a method of emergency calling comprising the steps of:

a) at the remote station (60, 62, 64):

i) transmitting an emergency command signal containing a predetermined emergency control code (Fig. 2; bits 24—28) and the predetermined station address; characterized by

b) at the primary station (52):

i) receiving said transmitted emergency command signal and transmitting an acknowledge command signal, in response thereto, having a preselected control code and the predetermined

station address contained in the received emergency command signal;

ii) commanding the emergency calling remote station or at least one of the other remote stations (60, 62, 64) in accordance with the emergency in response to receiving the transmitted emergency command signal.

2. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step, at the remote station, of retransmitting the command signal a predetermined number of times until the acknowledge command signal is received.

3. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of commanding the emergency calling remote station or at least one of the other remote stations comprises the primary station (52) commanding the emergency calling remote station (60, 62, 64) to enable its audio transmitter (188).

4. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of commanding the emergency calling remote station or at least one of the other remote stations comprises the primary station (52) commanding other remote stations (60, 62, 64) to disable their transmitters.

5. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of commanding the emergency calling remote station or at least one of the other remote stations comprises the primary station (52) commanding another remote station (60, 62, 64) to repeat an emergency message between the emergency message between the emergency calling remote station and the primary station.

6. The method of claim 4 further comprising:

a. at the primary station:

i. entering a desired station address (Fig. 2; bits 0—15);

ii. transmitting a command signal containing a predetermined control code (Fig 2; bits 24—28);

b. at each of said non-emergency calling remote stations (60, 62, 64):

i. receiving said transmitted command signal

ii. detecting when the desired station address (Fig. 2; bits 0—15) contained in the received command signal is the same as the predetermined station address stored in the station's address register (152) and disabling the remote station's voice transmission in response thereto.

7. The method of claim 3 further comprising at the remote station (60, 62 or 64) enabling the transmitter (188) of the remote station (60, 62 or 64) for a predetermined time period in response to receiving the command from said primary station.

Patentansprüche

1. Verfahren für einem Notruf in einem Nachrichten-Übertragungssystem für Sprechzwecke über einen Nachrichtenträger mit einer Hauptstation (52) und mehreren Fernstationen (60, 62, 64), für die jeweils in einem Stationsadressen-Register (152) eine vorherbestimmte Stationsadresse abgelegt ist, bei dem



a) an der Fernstation (60, 62, 64)

i) ein Notbefehlssignal mit einem vorgegebenen Notsteuercode (Fig. 2; Bits 24—28) und die vorherbestimmte Stationsadresse gesendet werden, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß

b) an der Hauptstation (52)

i) das gesendete Notbefehlssignal empfangen und in Abhängigkeit von diesem ein den Befehl anerkennendes Signal mit einem im voraus gewählten Steuercode und mit der vorherbestimmten Stationsadresse gesendet wird, die in dem empfangenen Notbefehlssignal enthalten ist, und

ii) entsprechend der Notlage in Abhängigkeit von dem Empfang des gesendeten Notbefehlssignals der den Notruf ausgebenden Fernstation oder mindestens einer anderen Fernstation (60, 62, 64) ein Befehl gegeben wird.

2. Verfahren des Anspruches 1, bei dem an der Fernstation ferner das Befehlssignal mehrmals erneut gesendet wird, bis das den Befehl anerkennende Signal empfangen wird.

3. Verfahren des Anspruches 1, bei dem zur Befehlsgabe der den Notruf ausgebenden Fernstation oder zumindest einer der anderen Fernstationen eine Befehlsgabe der Hauptstation (52) an die den Notruf ausgebende Fernstation (60, 62, 64) gehört, um eine Einschaltung ihres Audiosenders (188) zu ermöglichen.

4. Verfahren des Anspruches 1, bei dem zur Befehlsgabe der den Notruf ausgebenden Fernstation oder zumindest einer der anderen Fernstationen eine Befehlsgabe der Hauptstation (52) an die anderen Fernstationen (60, 62, 64) gehört, um eine Abschaltung ihrer Sender zu ermöglichen.

5. Verfahren des Anspruches 1, bei dem zur Befehlsgabe der den Notruf ausgebenden Fernstation oder zumindest einer der anderen Fernstationen eine Befehlsgabe der Hauptstation (52) an die anderen Fernstationen (60, 62, 64) gehört, eine Notrufnachricht zwischen der den Notruf ausgebenden Fernstation und der Hauptstation zu wiederholen.

6. Verfahren des Anspruches 4, bei dem

a) an der Hauptstation

i) eine gewünschte Stations-Adresse (Fig. 2; Bits 0—15) eingegeben wird und

ii) ein Befehlssignal mit einem vorgegebenen Steuercode (Fig. 2; Bits 24—28) gesendet wird, sowie

b) an jeder keinen Notruf ausgebenden Fernstation (60, 62, 64)

i) das gesendete Befehlssignal empfangen wird und

ii) wahrgenommen wird, wann die gewünschte, das empfangene Befehlssignal enthaltende Stations-Adresse (Fig. 2; Bits 0—15) mit der vorherbestimmten Stations-Adresse übereinstimmt, die im Stationsadressen-Register (152) abgelegt ist, wobei in Abhängigkeit davon die Sprachübertragung an der Fernstation abgeschaltet wird.

7. Verfahren des Anspruches 3, bei dem an der

Fernstation (60, 62 oder 64) die Einschaltung des Senders (188) der Fernstation (60, 62 oder 64) während einer vorgegebenen Zeitspanne in Abhängigkeit von dem Empfang des Befehls aus der Hauptstation ermöglicht wird.

Revendications

1. Dans un système de communication pour des communications vocales sur un médium de communication, ayant une station principe (52) et une pluralité de stations éloignées (60, 62, 64), chaque station éloignée ayant une adresse de station prédéterminée stockée dans un registre d'adresse de station (152), une méthode d'appel d'urgence comprenant les étapes de:

a) dans la station éloignée (60, 62, 64):

i) l'émission d'un signal de commande d'urgence contenant un code de contrôle d'urgence prédéterminé (figure 2; bits 24—28) et l'adresse de station prédéterminée; caractérisée par

b) dans la station principe (52):

i) la réception dudit signal de commande d'urgence émis et l'émission d'un signal de commande d'acquis, en réponse à cela, ayant un code de contrôle présélectionné et l'adresse de station prédéterminée contenue dans le signal de commande d'urgence reçu;

ii) la commande de la station éloignée émettant d'urgence ou au moins l'une des autres stations éloignées (60, 62, 64) en fonction de l'urgence en réponse à la réception du signal de commande d'urgence émis.

2. La méthode de la revendication 1 comprenant de plus l'étape, dans la station éloignée, de ré-émettre le signal de commande un nombre prédéterminé de fois jusqu'à ce que le signal de commande d'acquis soit reçu.

3. La méthode de la revendication 1 où l'étape de commander la station éloignée émettant d'urgence ou au moins l'une des autres stations éloignées comprend le fait que la station principe (52) commande la station éloignée émettant d'urgence (60, 62, 64) pour activer son émetteur audio (188).

4. La méthode de la revendication 1 où l'étape de commander la station éloignée émettant d'urgence ou au moins l'une des autres stations éloignées comprend le fait que la station principale (52) commande d'autres stations éloignées (60, 62, 64) pour désactiver leurs émetteurs.

5. La méthode de la revendication 1 où l'étape de commander la station éloignée émettant d'urgence ou au moins l'une des autres stations éloignées comprend le fait que la station principale (52) commande une autre station éloignée (60, 62, 64) pour répéter un message d'urgence entre la station éloignée émettant d'urgence et la station principale.

6. La méthode de la revendication 4 comprenant de plus:



a. dans la station principale:

i) l'entrée d'une adresse de station voulue (figure 2; bits 0—15);

ii) l'émission d'un signal de commande contenant un code de contrôle prédéterminé (figure 2; bits 24—28);

b. dans chacune desdites stations éloignées n'effectuant pas un appel d'urgence (60, 62, 64):

i) la réception dudit signal de commande émis;

ii) l'action de déceler quand l'adresse de station désirée (figure 2; bits 0—15) contenue dans le

signal de commande reçu est identique à l'adresse de station prédéterminée stockée dans le registre d'adresse de station (152) et la désactivation de l'émission vocale de la station éloignée en réponse à cela.

7. La méthode de la revendication 3 comprenant de plus dans la station éloignée (60, 62 ou 64) l'activation de l'émetteur (188) de la station éloignée (60, 62 ou 64) pendant une période de temps prédéterminée en réponse à la réception de la commande venant de ladite station principale.

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