



# Police Radio Encryption

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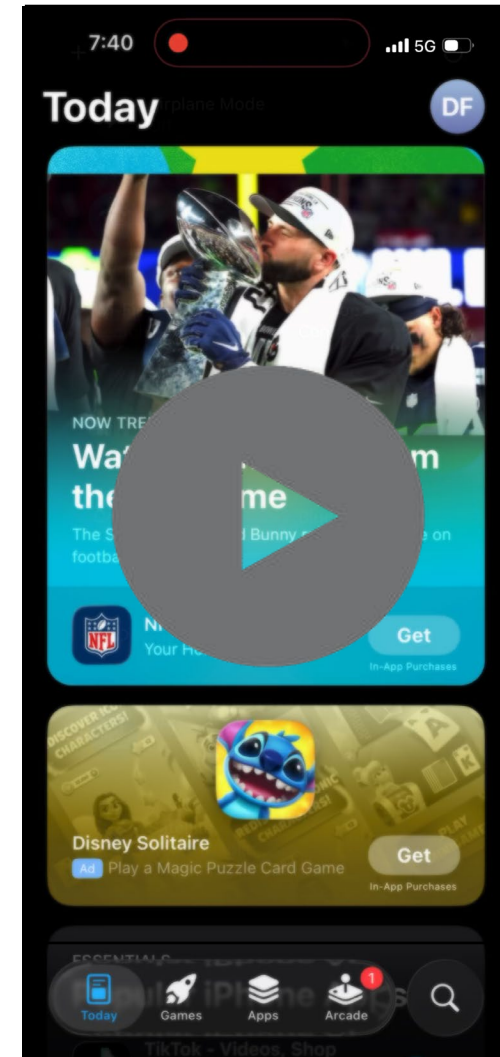
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# Regional and National Trends

- The following agencies have already encrypted all radio traffic:
  - Virginia State Police
  - Prince William County Police Department
  - City of Manassas Police Department
  - Manassas Park Police Department
  - Stafford County Sheriff's Office
  - DC Metropolitan Police Department
  - Montgomery County Police Department (MD)
  - Baltimore City Police Department (MD)
  - Anne Arundel County Police Department (MD)
- Additional large agencies in the National Capitol Region are considering moving to encryption

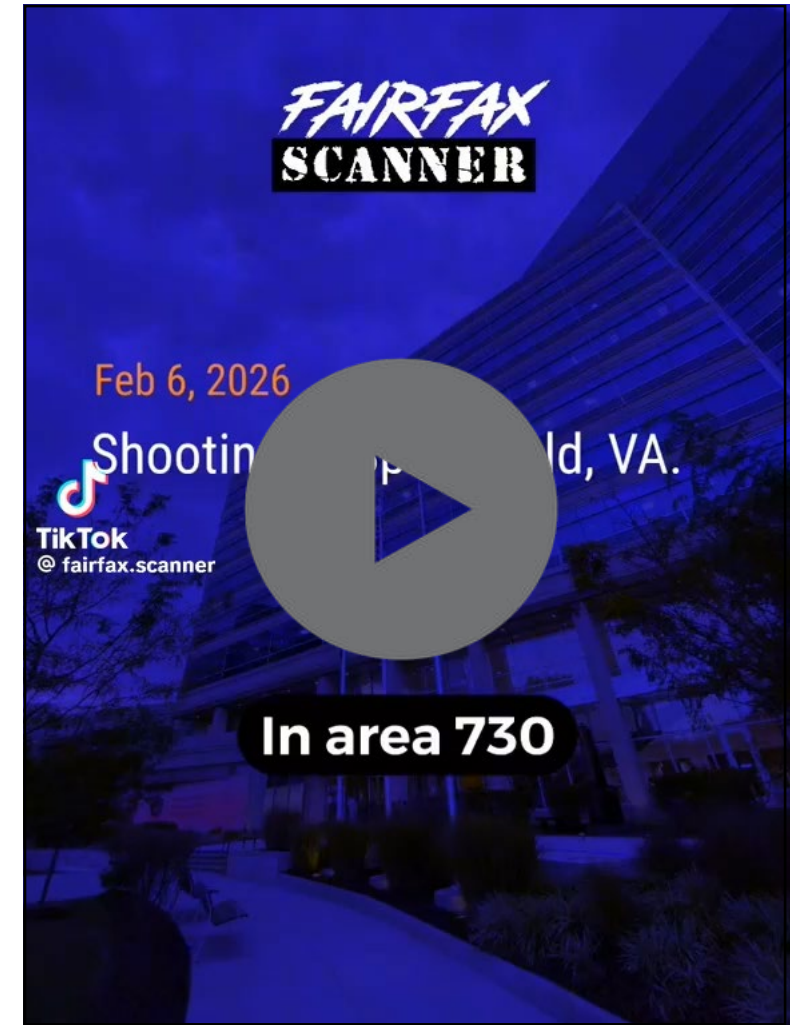
# Current Radio Communication Risks

- Historically, scanning police communications required specialized equipment and knowledge to monitor
  - Broadcasts could be monitored, but were not typically recorded by the public
- Today, free police scanner apps are available worldwide to not only access live radio traffic but also store historic radio traffic by anyone with a smartphone
  - Allows live access with little technical skill
  - Broadcasts are stored by third parties
  - Social media accounts harvest broadcasts for content
  - Arrested suspects have had scanner apps downloaded to their phones



# Current Radio Communication Risks

- Typical radio traffic includes sensitive details about victims, community members in crisis, witnesses, and people under suspicion
  - Names
  - Home Addresses
  - Dates of Birth
  - Health Information
  - Phone Numbers
  - Social Security Numbers
- Encrypting radio traffic secures communications by allowing only those in possession of our encryption key access to our radio content
  - Prevents someone's worst day from being used for entertainment



# Current Status of Police Radio Communications

- Primary police communications split into 8 main dispatch channels
  - Monitored/managed by a dispatcher
  - Police calls for service voiced for coordination and safety
  - No encryption- broadcast "in the clear"
- Secondary communication handled on multiple side channels
  - Encrypted and used for specialized units, elevated events, and informal coordination
  - The encrypted channels are not attended to by a dispatcher unless specifically requested

# Encryption Enhancement and Community Impact


- FCPD is planning to encrypt the 8 main dispatch channels
- Limits permanent exposure of community members' personal information to a global audience
- Enables safer management of rapidly unfolding critical incidents by preventing bad actors access to real time police response plans

# Police Encryption Transition Plan

- Interoperability and continuity with partners is central focus
  - With proper planning and time, transitioning to fully encrypted channels can be completed without cost or interruption to operations
- Follow COG agreement and guidelines on radio interoperability and programming change management
  - Deliberate planning and implementation ensures digital keys are available to agencies that need them
- Support from DPSC and DIT ensures no interruption of service to County Agencies

# Continued Commitment to Transparency

- FCPD will continue to remain transparent via:
  - Proactive Public Affairs Bureau posts and notifications
  - Media briefings and updates on notable investigations
  - Release of Body Worn Camera footage
  - Data transparency via the Police Open Data Portal (FCPOD)
  - Response to FOIA requests


**Fairfax County Police Department**
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Watch as Captain Cosgriff provides an update on a homicide that occurred this evening in Hybla Valley.

