KENWOOD VIKING

FIELD SOFTWARE NOTICE

Viking Subscriber Software 26.1 General Release

Release Date: April 20, 2026

Title: FSN-0426-VIKING-45

Overview

This Field Software Notice (FSN) announces the KENWOOD Viking® Subscriber Software Version 26.1 General Release. This release provides new features and resolutions for Viking radios and the Armada radio programming suite. This release includes the NXDN Trunking protocol (PN 8322000014) and Viking Connect (PN 8322000012) for Vx8000 radios and Viking Connect Gateway (PN 8322000112) for VM8000 radios. This release supersedes KENWOOD Viking Software 25.2 General Release for VPx000 and VMx000 series radios, and the Armada Software Suite.

NOTE: To maintain secure connectivity and ensure uninterrupted operation, all Armada Server and Armada Proxy deployments must be upgraded to version **26.1 or newer by September 23, 2029**.

Older versions use certificates that will expire on this date. Once they expire, **TLS handshakes will fail**, preventing affected systems from establishing a connection. Upgrading to 26.1+ provides updated certificates and compatibility improvements, ensuring continued, reliable communication.

Software Versions

The following table lists the Viking Software items, and corresponding versions included in the 26.1 General Release.

Item	Version
Armada Client	1.48.11
Armada Server	1.48.11
Armada Server Demo	1.48.11
Armada Proxy	1.48.05
VP8000 Firmware Image	8.48.11
VP5000/6000 Firmware Image	8.48.11
VM8000 Firmware Image	8.48.11
VM5000/6000/7000 Firmware Image	8.48.11
Viking Tune Lite	1.48.07
Viking Trace Lite	1.18.06
Data Registration Server	1.46.09
Elite Battery Management Server	1.38.00
Location Gateway	1.22.00
OTAP Server	1.48.09
Text Message Server	1.34.02

NOTE: Radio Firmware has changed from 8.46.x to 8.48.x and Armada Versions have changed from 1.46.x to 1.48.x

Features Added

The following table lists the new features added in the 26.1 General Release.

Feature	Overview
NXDN Trunking*	This release adds support for NXDN Trunking Type C. Applicable for VP8000 and VM8000 radios only. *See NXDN Trunking section at the bottom of this FSN for further details on feature support.
Viking Connect*	Vx8000 radios can operate on LMR and Broadband (ESChat) systems. This requires a new PN (8322000012) and a recurring annual subscription (PN EFJ-SDK-VBV-01-FR-C) per radio. Separate ESChat infrastructure is also required but varies depending on end user needs. Please contact your Regional Sales Manager for more information. *See Viking Connection section at the bottom of this FSN for further details.
Viking Connect Gateway*	VM8000 radios can operate as a gateway between LMR and Broadband (ESChat) systems when operating in Gateway Mode. This requires a new option (PN 8322000112) and a recurring annual subscription (PN EFJ-SDK-VMGW-FR-C). One gateway is needed per desired talkpath/voice channel between LMR and Broadband networks. *See Viking Connection section at the bottom of this FSN for further details.
Viking Connect NXDN Conventional and Trunking Support	Viking Connect now supports NXDN Conventional and NXDN Trunking protocols. Applicable for Vx8000 radios only.
Viking Connect Location Reporting	Viking Connect now supports location reporting to the ESChat server. Applicable for Vx8000 radios only.
Custom Scan List Select via Primary (ABCD) Toggle	Enables users to program RWS lists to the ABCD selector from Armada and switch between them quickly during operation. For VP6000 and VP8000.
Viking Personnel Accountability - RF Modem Mode	Viking radios can be used as a modem for APAA/EFAS integrations or the Viking Personnel Accountability feature set.
High and Low Tx Power Icons	Added new icons to show High or Low transmit (Tx) power on the display.
Feedback Suppression	Improves call quality by detecting and preventing feedback when one or multiple users receive a call. Two selectable options are available, Adaptive Filtering to minimize feedback in large rooms operating at high volumes and Volume Attenuation to minimize feedback in close quarters. Used in conjunction with ANR (Active Noise Reduction) to minimize noise in transmission. ANR reduces feedback on the transmit side while feedback suppression manages receive audio. Applicable for Vx8000 radios only.
KCH-22 Support	KCH-22 is now supported by VMx000 radios in either a local or remote configuration. KRK-14 is required for remote configuration.
KMF RSI and MNP Configurability through Armada	The KMF Radio Set Identifier (RSI) and Message Number Period (MNP) for each OTAR context are now configurable through Armada.
Channel Memory	When channel memory is enabled, each zone will retain the last channel it was set to whenever a zone change occurs.

Feature	Overview
Ambient Light Sensor	KCH-19, KCH-20, and KCH-22 control heads have a sensor to detect environmental light. An auto dim feature is now programmable to dynamically adjust the display brightness depending on the amount of environmental light available.

Feature Enhancements

The following feature enhancements are available in the 26.1 General Release. These augment existing functionality in the subscribers and/or supporting applications.

Feature or Fix	Overview
Allow Keypad Programming Combo Box at Zone Level	Armada now contains a dropdown menu for these keypad programming options at the Zone level: enabled, disabled, or password.
Multi-Band to Single Band Template Copy	Allows customers to convert multiband systems to single band systems as well as go from UHF-Hi to/from UHF-380.
Allow Output Window Snapping on All Sides of Armada	Expands the behavior of the output window to act like the fleet window with respect to snapping locations.
Fleet Option Report in Excel	Users can export a report of what options their fleet has to Microsoft Excel.
Keypad Lock Voice Announcements	Voice Announcement support has been added for Keypad Lockout.
P25 Conventional Keypad DTMF	Added support for digital DTMF on P25 Conventional channels.
Separate Add and Remove Security Policy Permissions	Add and Remove security policy permissions are now split, with existing roles retaining both Add and Remove rights after upgrading.
User Selectable Squelch Type	Allows the user to cycle between a global squelch type of “Normal” or “Selective” with a button press.
Scan List Edit Channel Recall	Pressing the Recall soft button in the Scan Edit menu jumps to the next channel in the current scan list.
Viking Connect Bearer Auto Switch for Conventional Protocols	Uses the existing out-of-range feature supported by all conventional protocols to automatically switch voice bearers (LMR -> Broadband) similarly to the supported trunking protocols. Applicable for VP8000 and VM8000 radios, optioned for Viking Connect only.
MDC 1200 Post-Tx Side Tone	A side tone has been added to MDC Post-Tx ANI for confirmation the MDC signaling is complete
Continuous Radio Operator Alert for Updates	When an update is available to the radio, it will enter a programming menu and begin alerting the operator continuously until the operator chooses to apply the update or defer it.
Evacuation Tone Updates	The Emergency Evacuation Tone can be activated by pressing any button programmed for emergency during a transmission. The emergency button must be held for the duration of the programmed emergency press-and-hold timer before the Evac Tone is sent. Alternatively, the Evac Tone can be sent

Feature or Fix	Overview
	immediately by pressing the orange button (regardless of what it is programmed for) during a transmission.
Two Tone Decode Icon	This icon indicates that the Two Tone Decode feature is active on the selected channel and audio is currently blocked until a two-tone page is received.
User Selectable Mixed-Mode Transmit Type	End users can now dynamically change a channel's Mixed-Mode Transmit Type from between Analog, Digital, and Programmed via menu select. Toggle switch assignment will alternate between Analog and Digital only.
P25 Trunking LRRP Power On/Off Triggered Requests	Subscribers now support LRRP power on/off trigger requests.
DB25 External Handset Mute	Subscribers can now toggle speaker mute via programmable DB25 pins.
KWD-AE30 Encryption Module FIPS 140-3 Level 1 Support	For VP5/VM5/6/7000 series radios, a firmware change to the encryption module has been introduced in preparation for the cryptographic module recertification. The firmware pending FIPS 140-3 Level 1 certification can be enabled via Armada. Please note, this is not compatible with OTAR, so any OTAR operations must be done in 140-2 Level 1 mode. NIST certification is in process but is not expected to be completed until late 2027.

Customer Issues Addressed

The following table lists the customer-impacting issues resolved in the 26.1 General Release.

Issue	Overview
Remote KCH Not Retaining Volume or Internal Speaker State	An issue with mobile subscribers with remote control heads not retaining their volume or internal speaker state has been fixed.
Control Head Address Conflict with Single Viking Control Head (VCH)	An issue with VCH coming up in the error state "CH Address Conflict" even though only one VCH was connected has been fixed.
P25 Trunking Roaming Crash	An issue of radio crashing when roaming to another site due to secondary channel handling has been fixed.
NXDN Conventional OTA Alias Can Cause Corrupt Calls	An issue with distorted calls due to transmission of the OTA alias has been fixed.
EVRS Stuck After Missed Power-on Message	An issue with the EVRS and mobile getting out of sync on boot has been fixed.
Intra-WACN Mode Scanning Missing Scan List Calls	An issue with radios not scanning to active groups in Intra-WACN mode has been fixed.
NXDN Armada Frequency Spacing	An issue preventing programming of certain NXDN frequencies due to step limitations in Armada has been fixed.
VP8000 Single-Touch Button Crash	An issue with an empty Single Touch List causing the radio to crash and reboot has been fixed.
System Keypad CTCSS/DCS Causing Error on Imported Template	An issue with System Keypad CTCSS/DCS causing an error in imported templates has been fixed.

Emergency Revert Functionality Improvement	An issue with Emergency Revert not following the emergency group when set on the Revert channel has been fixed.
VP8000 Unable to Decode MDC With Pre-Emphasis	VP8000s can now reliably decode MDC with pre-emphasis.
DCS Heard in Analog Audio	An issue with DCS being heard in analog call audio has been fixed.
Server Certificate Expiration	Existing Armada Server and Armada Proxy users must upgrade to 26.1+ before September 23, 2029

NXDN Trunking Protocol Support

The Viking 26.1 General Release adds initial support for the NXDN Trunking Type C Protocol. A software option for NXDN Trunking (Part Number 8322000014) is required to enable this protocol, as well as an option for at least one other P25 protocol (P25 Conventional or P25 Trunking) as a prerequisite. It is only available for Vx8000 series radios.

Supported Features

The following table lists the NXDN Trunking features supported in the 26.1 General Release.

Feature	Overview
ESChat Interface	Connects radio system to ESChat push-to-talk services
Broadcast Call	A one-way group call that allows the user to select a specific group of users to call.
Unit Call	Allows users to transmit and receive calls directly with other subscribers.
Standard and Enhanced Unit Call	Viking radios can be configured to use either Standard Unit Call or Enhanced Unit Call modes, depending on the system's Trunking Type and Unit Call settings.
All Call and System Call	All Call provides a two-way voice call, and System Call provides a one-way voice call.
Call Cancellation	Allows a radio to cancel a call before the recipient has answered.
Rx Groups List	The radio may receive a call from any group contained in the currently selected Rx Group List.
Status	Allows sending user defined status codes between subscribers and to talkgroups on a system.
Status Inquiry	Allows a system or console to request the current Status Code of a subscriber.
Emergency Alarm	Prompts the subscriber to send a notification to the system when the user enters an emergency state.
Registration and Registration Clear	Registration allows sending a registration packet whenever the subscriber radio moves to a different system. Registration Clear allows a subscriber to deregister from a system when leaving a NXDN network.
Group Registration	The process by which a subscriber radio identifies itself to the system as a member of a specific talk group.
Stun, Revive and Kill	Allow a subscriber to remotely inhibit a specific subscriber or an entire talkgroup of subscribers. To recover from a kill command, the radio must be connected to Armada, and the killed state must be cleared.
Remote Monitor	Allows a subscriber to request audio from a target subscriber.
Authentication	The NXDN Trunking protocol supports authentication through ESN validation.

Control Channel Hunt	Defines the procedures used by a subscriber to acquire a control channel.
Priority Scan	NXDN Trunking Priority Scan will be programmed in Armada identical to how Priority Scan is programmed in all other communication protocols.
Radio Wide Scan	NXDN Trunking channels with Talkgroup Tx Contacts may be programmed for Radio Wide Scan lists identical to other protocols.
Location on PTT	Allows the radio to broadcast its GPS position (i.e. latitude and longitude) over-the-air while transmitting a voice call.
Over-the-Air Alias	Allows a radio to transmit and receive aliases Over-the-Air (OTA).
Composite Control Channel	When all the traffic channels are in use and a call request is sent from a radio, the system can switch from the control channel to composite control channel to respond to the request.
Failsoft	Provides basic radio communication at a site through simple relay operation when Trunking control fails.
Triggered GPS Tx on Control Channel	NXDN supports location data triggers with location data sent on either the control channel or data channels.
Multi-System Roaming	Allows subscriber radios to move seamlessly across multiple independent NXDN trunked systems (often geographically separated or operated by different entities) while maintaining connectivity and group affiliation.
Dynamic Frequency Assignment (DFA)	Allows a trunked NXDN system to assign voice channels dynamically across multiple sites without requiring fixed frequency-to-channel mappings.
Add and Delete Control Channels	Allows the control channel frequency to shift dynamically among available frequencies at a site.
Auto Scan	Enables automatic scanning when the channel is selected.
Call Settings List	Used to configure settings for unit call/call alert.
Customized Roaming	Allows for customization of the roaming algorithm.
Disable Site Trunking	The subscriber will go out of range if the site is in Site Trunking.
Emergency Call	Emergency calls indicate to the system that the subscriber is in emergency.
Key ID Rx Display	The subscriber displays the key alias (as assigned in the Hardware Keys Table or Software Keys Table) used to decode received calls.
Power Levels List	Sets the high and low power level for all available bands.
PTT ID Display	Displays the ID of the subscriber placing the call.
PTT Warning Time	Specifies the time before the "Time Out Timer" expires when a warning beep sounds to notify the user that their transmission is close to time out.
Quick Fade Timer	Specifies the time the subscriber will stay on the control channel when synchronization is lost before returning to CC hunt.
Roaming Out of Range Indication	Indicates if the subscriber will display “out of range” on the display and/or emit an out-of-range tone.
RSSI Thresholds	Used in the roaming algorithm to determine if the site is available.
Rx Talkgroup Display	The subscriber displays the alias or number of the talkgroup on which the call is being received.

Scan Hold Timer	Specifies the delay that occurs after a call ends before scanning resumes.
Single Touch List	Configure single touch UI functions for status, call alert, and unit calls.
Sites List	Defines aliases for network sites.
Site Trunking Indication	Determines whether subscribers display or emit tones when a system access failure occurs.
System Preferred List	Allows setting site preferences for a talk group.
Tx Talkgroup Display	The subscriber displays the alias or number of the talkgroup being transmitted.
Tone Assignments	Allows customization of alert tones.
Transmit Timeout	Sets the maximum duration for continuous transmission.
Tx Disabled	Enable receive-only mode.
System Response Time	The maximum wait time to receive a response when a packet is intended only for the system.
Subscriber Response Time	The maximum wait time to receive a response when a packet is targeted at a subscriber such as in the case of status requests and remote-control commands.
Unit Call Wait Duration	The maximum time a subscriber will wait for connection after requesting a unit call. This includes the time a subscriber will wait for user response from the targeted subscriber.
Group Call Wait Duration	The maximum time a subscriber will wait for connection after requesting a group call.
User Group ID List	A programmed alias is displayed when a received ID lies within a programmed block.
User ID Display	If the ID of the call being received is included in a User Group ID list, the alias of that group is displayed.
Voice Call Encryption	Receive and transmit calls using DES, AES, and Kenwood Scrambling.

Unsupported Features

The following table lists the NXDN features that are NOT supported in the 26.1 General Release.

Feature	Overview
Unit to PSTN Calls (Publicly Switched Telephone Network)	Allows radio to place calls to external PSTN numbers
PSTN To Unit Call	Allows PSTN calls to directly reach a specific radio unit
PSTN to Group Call	Allows PSTN users to initiate calls to a predefined talkgroup
Broadcast Data Call	Delivers data messages to multiple radios simultaneously
Unit To Unit Data Call	Data transfer privately between two individual radio units
Broadcast Short Data Call	Delivers short data messages to multiple radios simultaneously

Unit To Unit Short Data Call	Sends short text or signaling data between individual radios
Simultaneous Data Call for Individual Calls	Data during an Individual Call
Simultaneous Data Call for Conference Group Calls	Data during a Conference Group Call
Simultaneous Data Call for Broadcast Group Calls	Data during a Broadcast Group Call
OTAP	Allow Over the Air Programming of a subscriber
OTAR	Allow Over the Air Re-keying of a subscriber
GPS	GPS on data channels.
Multiple control channels	System configuration where a site transmits the same control channel signaling on multiple frequencies at the same time.

System Compatibility

For the 26.1 General Release, the table below indicates NXDN Trunking compatibility with common systems:

System	Version & Notes	Compatible
Kenwood	NEXEDGE System Controller V1.93.00	Yes
Kenwood	Gen 1 Repeater V5.42.00	Yes
Kenwood	Gen 2 Repeater V6.58.00.00	Yes
Kenwood	Roaming Gateway V1.93.00.00	Yes
Kenwood	IP Gateway V1.93.00.00	Yes

Viking Connect

Viking Connect and Viking Connect Gateway are now available with the 26.1 General Release for the 8000 series only. Viking Connect allows end users to transmit and receive voice calls while on a Broadband Network using an ESChat embedded client. It requires a one-time option to enable the feature (832200012) and an annual subscription for the service (EFJ-SDK-VBV-01-FR-C). Please contact your sales representative for details and assistance to establish the ESChat system account and configuration.

The Viking Connect Gateway allows a VM8000 to operate as gateway device to bridge LMR and Broadband calls. The ideal setup is as a control station with constant power, and wired (ethernet) broadband connectivity, though this isn't required. It requires a one-time option to enable the feature (8322000112) and an annual subscription for the service (EFJ-SDK-VMGW-FR-C). **Note**: When you select the Viking Connect Gateway option, it automatically includes the Viking Connect (voice) option at no additional charge as the gateway can be taken out of gateway mode and used as a client/end user if desired. Please contact your sales representative for details and assistance to establish the ESChat system account and configuration.