

# MARCS

Making Ohio Number One in Statewide Interoperability

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Issue 1

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## LATEST NEWS

The MARCS Program Office has been working with the Perry County Sheriff's office on implementing the mobile data system for local public safety agencies. Recently, a cruiser equipped with the full suite of voice and data equipment for this beta test was the key factor in allowing a major arrest to take place on the scene of what appeared to be a routine traffic stop. The ability to obtain an IMMEDIATE background check and BMV image lead to the arrest of a suspect wanted in connection with a murder.

## PREMIER

This is the *premier* issue of the new MARCS Newsletter. Every issue will try to feature news from the MARCS office as well as news from the MARCS subscriber base. Historically, the MARCS Program Office received news almost daily of the successes realized through public safety and first responders' ability to communicate clearly and consistently through the interoperability provided by Ohio MARCS. The time has come to share this news with current and future subscribers. Our vision is to encourage public safety and first responders to use their MARCS communications equipment to maximum capability. Recently, a supporter and subscriber of MARCS stated, "Speaking from the Public Safety perspective in Central Ohio, the Ohio Multi-Agency Radio Communication System is an unqualified success." That's our mission: Radios that work!

## TOWER TALK

Upgrades to the MARCS system continue to be made. Most recently, the MARCS Program office completed the upgrade of two data only sites to voice and data to enhance portable voice communications in the northwest region of Ohio. A third site is operational and almost completed. Ohio MARCS is in the preliminary planning stage of upgrading three additional data only sites. Upgrades are an important factor in maintaining optimum interoperability. The MARCS Program office is constantly examining hardware and software upgrades to maximize safety for Ohio citizens.



## VOICE ON THE AIR

Ohio MARCS was originally designed to support Ohio Emergency Management Agency, Ohio State Highway Patrol, Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Ohio Department of Youth Services and Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections. The initial estimate for voice users was approximately 8,500 voice units. The need for expanded interoperability between agencies was recognized on 9-11 and through during a series of Ohio emergencies. Additional emergency and first responders have joined the ranks as MARCS full subscribers. Today, many state, local and federal agencies have joined forces in statewide interoperability. Now, MARCS has over 23,000 voice units on the system with the capability for significant future expansion.



## TEAM FEATURE

The MARCS network is supported by 21 full time staff members. All are on call 24/7/52 to monitor and maintain the system. The next 21 issues of the MARCS newsletter will feature one staff member. For our premier newsletter, it seemed only fitting to feature Darryl Anderson, the MARCS Program Director. Darryl retired from the Ohio State Highway Patrol in 2001 and immediately went to work for the MARCS Program. Darryl's history with MARCS began while the program was merely a concept in 1992. His hard work has made this 15 year old concept become a reality. Photo to the left is Darryl teaching the "gospel of MARCS".

**Did you know....**the MARCS infrastructure was completed \$8M under budget. This infrastructure was designed to support the anticipated 8,500 subscriber units, yet allow for anticipated statewide growth. This growth is now at over 23,000 voice units.

Send your MARCS worthy news and pictures to [teri.steward@ohio.gov](mailto:teri.steward@ohio.gov).