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LATEST NEWS

MARCS has historically provided guidance to subscribers needing to patch radios/talkgroups through the network. The standard policy (MPP-22.0) is now published and can be viewed on the MARCS web page www.ohiomarcs.info. The policy indicates permanent patches and the patching of any statewide mass interoperability talkgroup (MCALL, MCOMM, SO-CEN, SO-SE, etc.), is prohibited. Contact the MARCS office with specific questions regarding the Patching Policy at 614-995-0060.

INTEROPERABILITY IN ACTION

LaRue, Ohio, is often plagued with rising waters from the Scioto River forcing residents from their homes. February brought more flooding to LaRue and other areas of Marion County. The Columbus Dispatch reported: "the Scioto River crested at 13'4", spilling onto streets that don't usually see water during the area's usual spring floods." Management of this incident required the cooperation of several agencies, such as the Scioto Valley Fire Department, Emergency Management Agency, Ohio State Highway Patrol, Marion County Health Department, and others. The interoperability capabilities provided by MARCS allows agencies from different jurisdictions and disciplines to communicate with each other during these times of crisis.

A comment from W. D. Miller, Assistant Fire Chief of the Ottoville Fire Department stated in part, "Thank you. It only took one push to talk for an Ottoville trustee to see MARCS in action. The trustee shouted, "it is the best damn sounding radio he's ever heard."

For those who question the importance of reliable interoperable communications, the comments of Assistant Chief Miller, the Ottoville Board of Trustees and citizens of Marion County can really drive the importance interoperable communications home!

TOWER TALK

MARCS continues to upgrade the current infrastructure by converting some of the data only sites to voice and data. Most recently, voice capabilities were added to Butler, Kensington, East Sparta and Holgate sites. This will help with coverage in those areas as new users join the system. Recent additions to the MARCS subscriber base include: The MARCS management and staff is committed to performing enhancements whenever and wherever necessary to .continue to provide reliable voice and data communications to public safety agencies.



KNOW THE NOC

Don Tanner is the supervisor for the MARCS Network Operations Center (NOC). The NOC is staffed 24/7 and Don is ALWAYS one of the first to make himself available when additional assistance in needed. Don brought several years of experience to the State of Ohio including 14 years with AT&T and 5 years in the Navy. During his 17 year tenure with the state of Ohio, he supervised the SONIC Test Board before becoming a member of the MARCS team in 2001. Don, we appreciate your hard work and dedication!

TEAM FEATURE

Mensur Sejfovic has been working with the MARCS Program Office for six years as a contractor, but recently came on board as a full time employee. He has been in the IT industry for over ten years. Mensur attended the University of Pittsburgh, and received a bachelor's degree from Franklin University in information technology, after moving to Columbus. He is now pursuing a graduate degree from Franklin University. Mensur has enjoyed many different tasks, working within requirements development to the implementation of various projects. We asked Mensur what he likes most about his job, and his reply was: "What I like most is the ability to work with cutting edge technologies, and providing a communication line for public safety use."



DID YOU KNOW...

There are approximately 300 T-1's operating on the MARCS system integrating various remote communication sites and remote dispatch sites throughout the state of Ohio.