

MARCS

Making Ohio Number One in Statewide Interoperability

March 1, 2008

Issue 11

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LATEST NEWS

The FCC auction of 700 MHz public safety spectrum frequencies failed to draw sufficient bids to build a wireless data network for emergency responders. The D-block was set aside for public safety use and only drew one \$472 million offer, well below the \$1.3 billion reserve price. The FCC has removed the "D" block from Auction 72 and will, in all likelihood, re-offer it after further review and discussions with the Public Safety Spectrum Trust, who holds the license for this portion of the 700 MHz band. Future voice operations using the new 700 MHz frequencies are not affected by this issue.

INTEROPERABILITY IN ACTION

The state of Ohio has 11 communication vehicles supported by county sheriff offices which are strategically placed throughout the state. These communication vehicles, purchased with federal homeland security funding, were designed and equipped to improve interoperable communications and response capabilities during major emergencies. They enable first responders throughout Ohio to better communicate and respond to large-scale emergencies such as civil riots, terrorist attacks, or weather disasters. Although the vehicles have communication gear compatible with all radio frequencies, cellular and land phone, weather monitoring equipment and internet access, the county operators have realized the importance of ensuring all the vehicles are configured the same. Over the next few months, operators of the vehicles will meet to compare configuration, share technology, deployment experiences, operational procedures, etc. They will also schedule regular exercises and training events. The end result will be much smoother deployments during real events.

DATA NEWS

MARCS is making great strides with updating the ATM maps that display on the CADs. Newly generated maps are created quarterly and uploaded to the CAD. MARCS is scheduling an upgrade from GGM, (a Motorola proprietary software), to Motorola Geofile Utility (MGU) software in the near future. MGU works in conjunction with SERI software (ArcGIS) and is a utility tool that adds functionality to ArcGIS and provides necessary processes/functions to create data for upload to CAD. In addition to this upgrade, MARCS is looking forward to loading approved center line data from Ohio counties. The upgrade to MGU will greatly enhance the process for generating maps and allow MARCS to offer more flexibility regarding data that can be added to the maps.



KNOW THE NOC

Doug Lynn has worked with MARCS in the Network Operations Center since 2003. Before coming to work at MARCS, Doug spent four years in the Air Force, several years at the Ohio Department of Taxation and 20 years with SONIC (State of Ohio Network of Integrated Circuits). With all this experience in the field of information technology, it is truly a "good fit" having Doug as a member of our team.

TEAM FEATURE

Jason Kirby is the new face subscribers have been meeting. Jason has 16 years of service with the US Marine Corps and was employed with Stanley Electric as a supervisor before coming to work for MARCS. He serves as the new MARCS Network Supervisor, with emphasis on the statewide computer aided dispatch system. Jason obtained his certification in IT from New Horizons. We asked Jason what he liked about working for MARCS. His reply was, "It's a different environment. I spent 13 years in a factory environment previously so this is a nice change. I served in a communications unit in the military and feel this is more my element. It's an honor to work with the staff here at MARCS because from what I've seen thus far, they are truly experts at what they do for the State of Ohio." We're glad to have you as part of the team, Jason.



DID YOU KNOW... MARCS was green, before green was "fashionable" by participating in the Ohio Fuel Cell Initiative sponsored by the Ohio Department of Development. Hydrogen fuel cells were used at four tower sites instead of generators. Fuel cell emissions consist of water vapor, as opposed to the "dirty" emissions of fossil fuels.

Send your MARCS worthy news and pictures to teri.steward@ohio.gov.