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LATEST NEWS

A multi-state emergency exercise between Ohio and West Virginia resulted in Mason County West Virginia going live on MARCS last month. Mason County has already realized the benefit of having an alternate means of communication. Mason County EMA representatives contacted the MARCS help desk indicating their local system had a tower down and they were relying on their newly activated MARCS radios to assist them. We talk about interoperability within the state lines, but achieving this across state lines is equally important. Multi-state cooperation is in the works with Indiana and Michigan

INTEROPERABILITY IN ACTION

The Muskingum County Sheriff and local fire/police/EMS agencies throughout Muskingum County jointly share the MARCS system. The Sheriff's Office contacted MARCS to share their personal experience in interoperability. A Washington County Sheriff deputy was shot in the face. He was able to drive himself to a local fire station where he was flown to Columbus for treatment. Washington County dispatchers called upon the Muskingum County SRT team. The SRT team activated their tactical channel, allowing the Muskingum County dispatch center as well as deputies involved to monitor everything. After a 2 hour stand-off, the suspect was apprehended without incident. The best news is the injured officer is recovering just fine. Command staff stated they could monitor the situation at all times. If they didn't have MARCS, their radio coverage would have ended at the county line

When agencies share talkgroups, it provides seamless interoperability, particularly during times of crisis. Hats off to Muskingum and Washington County Sheriff offices, the SRT team, dispatch centers and local supporting agencies.

KNOW THE NOC

Jason Mathias serves you from the MARCS Network Operations Center. Jason has a strong technical background including receipt of his associate's degree in electronics while serving 5 years with the Marine Corps. In addition, Jason is REAL close to receiving his bachelor degree in Electronics Systems Technologies. Before joining the MARCS team, Jason worked for Northrop Grumman Mission Systems as a telecommunications technician. Jason's experience in the preventive and corrective maintenance for the MARCS tower sites made him the ideal candidate for this job. Thanks Jason! We appreciate your hard work.



DATA NEWS

MARCS is upgrading their Geofile software. Currently MARCS is using Premier GGM which is a proprietary software of Printrak. MARCS will be updating to the Motorola Geofile Utility (MGU) software which uses ESRI applications for performing updates. ESRI software is more universal and will allow the MARCS office to more accurately make need changes and modifications to the ATM maps. The upgrade is schedule for early May. MARCS plans to start pulling in centerline data which will make the new maps much more accurate than they are currently.



TEAM FEATURE

Paul Mayer is MARCS's senior engineer for the voice system. Paul has worked for the State of Ohio for 40 years and retired from OSHP after 28 years of service in 1996 as Special Projects technician. One of the special projects was the early conception of MARCS. Paul started working for MARCS in 1996 and participated in the planning and implementation of the voice system. Paul says that he is proud to have been a part of the development team and is very pleased at how well MARCS assists law enforcement agencies. Paul chairs the Region 33 (Ohio) 700 and 800 MHz Planning Committees, is Secretary to the Ohio Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee and APCO's public safety radio frequency coordinator for Ohio. Paul has been an APCO member for over 30 years and has served the Ohio Chapter in all steps and served on several National APCO Committees. MARCS is very fortunate to have Paul on its team.

Did you know....MARCS has 204 towers throughout the State of Ohio. One Hundred and fifty-eight (158) of the towers are voice and data. The remaining towers are data only. Towers are positioned throughout Ohio to ensure 97.5% coverage as per the contract, but upgrades and recent testing has proven the coverage is 99.7%.

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