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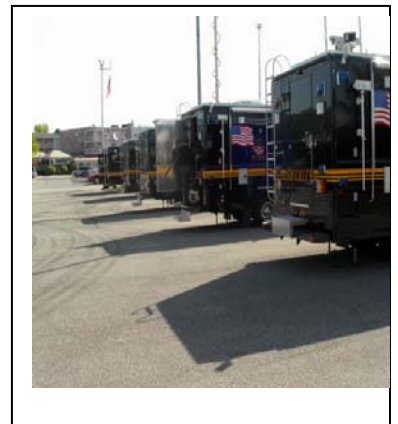
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LATEST NEWS

MARCS received notification on May 19, 2008 of the grant proposal for our Statewide Mobile Data Intelligence Fusion and Information Sharing project was approved for the FY07 State Homeland Security Program (SHSP). The project will give federal, state, county and local agencies the tool to share information via data technology. This is access to a single virtual database which will incorporate information from thousands of independent databases. Usage of the database reduces the amount of time an officer spends reporting or researching information. The database can be used for everything from following up on a report of a missing child to responding to suspected acts of terrorism. Rapid access to current up to date information is VERY crucial to public safety agencies.

VAN GO

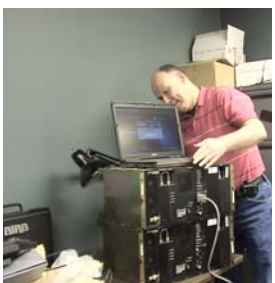
We're not referring to the artist, but to the communication vans operated by local sheriffs. MARCS staff attended a gathering of all eleven (11) BSSA Interoperability Communications Vans. Also present were the OSHP Command, ODNR Special Response, and EMA Command vehicles at the BSSA offices in Columbus. This gathering was to enable the various Sheriff's Office personnel who operate these vans in an emergency response situation to discuss how the vehicles have operated over the past year. During the meeting Steve Raubenolt from the Ohio Attorney General's Office discussed the new OLESIN database. The database is over two-thirds complete and CD's of the current database were disbursed. Updated information will be disbursed as needed. MARCS' purpose at the meeting was to answer operational questions, update the MARCS interoperability radio code plugs in each van and ensure all mobile generators were working properly. The generators were recently enhanced with universal plugs to add support for these vans while deployed. Two weeks later, an incident occurred requiring deployment of one of the mobile generators verifying the importance of bringing all these agencies together to exercise the technologies.



INTEROPERABILITY IN ACTION

Plane Crash in Morgan County, Ohio. On May 12, 2008 there was a plane crash in Morgan County, Ohio. The crash occurred in a difficult area in terms of terrain (ground cover and many other factors). Official agencies/departments responding at the accident scene included the Ohio State Highway Patrol, Morgan County Sheriff's Office, Malta-McConnelsville Fire EMS and Rescue, ODNR Wildlife and Watercraft, Morgan County Coroner, Morgan County EMA, FAA and the NTSB. Interoperability between all agencies was conducted exclusively on MARCS talkgroups with absolutely no communication issues. In past years, communication was always the weakest link in a rescue mission like this. In this incident MARCS was the focal point that successfully brought all groups together and permitted them to function as a team working side by side.

Escape in Columbiana County. An inmate from the Columbiana County Jail (MSMH) escaped through a jail window in late May. Columbiana County deputies along with the Ohio State Highway Patrol conducted a search of the homes and known locations as well as the rural areas looking for the escapee. The Columbiana County portable radio system only had a range of one mile from the car, but the MARCS portables radios allowed the officers to go on foot for miles into the woods and fields searching for the suspect without losing contact with each other. The escapee was apprehended the next day after crashing a stolen car used during pursuit. Again, MARCS interoperability played a key part in the capture of this escapee.



TEAM FEATURE

Tony Mans is a Telecommunications System Analyst and has worked for MARCS since early 1997. Tony has been in the public safety radio field since the 1970's when he worked for the Ohio Attorney General's Office, Bureau of Criminal Investigation and Identification on the original LEERN radio roll-out. After leaving BCI&I, Tony traveled west to work for the State of New Mexico as well as a private utility company in the New Mexico and Colorado areas. Tony eventually signed on with ITT where he worked on a variety of projects and spent time in Greenland maintaining America's Distant Early Warning Radar System. Tony returned to Ohio working for ITT and the Ohio SONIC microwave operations. He is currently responsible for remote site operations and focusing on keeping the 204 tower sites operational. Tony brings a lot of valuable experience to MARCS. We're glad to have you on the team, Tony!