

IN THIS ISSUE

- Latest News
- Interstate Interoperability
- Voice on the Air
- Team Feature
- Did you Know

LATEST NEWS

During the Muirfield Memorial Tournament, the MARCS network managed many users from multiple agencies on one talk group. As the tournament was wrapping up on Sunday, a Delaware County Sheriff unit came across a hit skip that had just occurred at the Bogey Inn, Dublin, Ohio. The deputy aired the information on the suspect vehicle and within a few minutes one of the OSHP units working the tournament along Dublin Road spotted the suspected vehicle and stopped it. If not for the fact that all units were on the same talk group, the suspected vehicle would have escaped before the information could have been phoned to Post 21 and aired.



West Virginia Mobile Emergency Operations Center

West Virginia Emergency Operations Center Mobile Command Vehicle now has MARCS capability. The vehicle has two EF Johnson 5300 mobile radios programmed with the complete MARCS Interoperability talkgroup template. This is another phase of the ongoing rollout of interstate interoperability between Ohio, West Virginia, Indiana and Michigan.

VOICE ON THE AIR

Mercer County For the first time ever, Mercer County Sheriff's Department and the county's fire and local police departments, which rely on central dispatching for emergency call-outs, will have a unified radio system. MARCS will provide Mercer County with a secure, reliable and clear radio system. Not only will MARCS unite local law enforcement and emergency personnel on a single radio system, but will also provide communication to other state and local agencies throughout Ohio. Mercer County is able to pay for the updated radio system due to a grant award through Homeland Security. Six other surrounding local counties were awarded the grant too.

Successful Test of EF Johnson Radios On June 24, 2008 staff and administration from the MARCS Office conducted rigorous testing of upgraded EF Johnson portable and mobile radios on MARCS. The purpose of the test was to determine effectiveness and efficiency in which the radios could affiliate with MARCS tower sites time from a radio cold start, and to test radio performance and functionality when changing talk groups. Audio quality was exceptional and the radios passed all the technical requirements for operation on the MARCS network. The field test of these devices was considered a success. The success can be contributed to several years of teamwork between the state of Ohio and the manufacturer.



TEAM FEATURE

Shelley Lulianelli has a total of 22 years of service with the State of Ohio. She began working for MARCS in 2002 after several years in the DAS General Service Division. Shelley is the MARCS Operations Manager responsible for oversight of the network operations center, human resources and the MARCS budget. Shelley also provides support as the agency legislative liaison and site acquisition, acceptance and contract management. When asked what she liked best about working for MARCS, Shelley stated, "This is the only place I've ever worked at where the staff and management truly work as a team."

Did you know... Periodically, the Ohio National Guard conducts annual training with multiple units between various points in Ohio and, Michigan. This event involving several weekends of MARCS staff time is a great example of interstate interoperability and cooperation. Through special arrangements with the Michigan Public Safety System (MPSCS), the Ohio National Guard commanders can monitor the convoys as they travel north and respond to vehicle breakdowns and other emergencies in a short time.

Before MARCS existed, there had been very little if any reliable contact with Guard units while en route to Michigan. A disabled vehicle could have been lost for hours. Now the vehicles are equipped with MARCS radios and can get immediate help if needed. Guard officials can also monitor the convoys once they arrive in Michigan to initiate command and control from there as needed. A similar interface with the Indiana Integrated Public Safety Commission (which also operates on a statewide 800 MHz radio system) is under way and should be consummated soon. Numerous Kentucky and West Virginia agencies along the border have MARCS capability, as does the West Virginia Mobile Emergency Operations Center.