

# MARCS

Making Ohio Number One in Statewide Interoperability

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Issue 6

## IN THIS ISSUE

- LATEST NEWS
- INTEROPERABILITY
- TOWER TALK
- KNOW THE NOC
- TEAM FEATURE
- DID YOU KNOW

## LATEST NEWS

The Muskingum County Sheriff's Office recently activated MARCS as the county wide communications system. The County EMA and over 25 local agencies recently participated in a training exercise wherein they gave out free flu shots. This exercise was to prepare for an actual event that may require a large number of citizens to be immunized. Sheriff Stephenson said, "Since I started the MARCS project, I've heard nothing but great things about the ability to have several departments being able to communicate using the system. However, yesterday proved everything I needed to know about the system". These are real users. in the real world. telling it like it is!

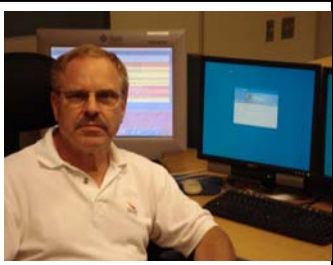
## INTEROPERABILITY IN ACTION

Earlier this month, we received a newspaper clipping printed in the Putnam Voice. The Putnam County fire chiefs received their MARCS radios from Homeland Security grant funds only DAYS before the flooding began. Putnam County received real world training and the article is full of comments from the chiefs, EMA director, County 911 director and others.

Assistant Chief W. D. Miller, Assistant Fire Chief of Ottoville Fire Department stated, "It was truly a blessing these radios came when they did." The radios had been ordered this past spring using a \$585,000 Homeland Security grant. The radios were programmed with the MARCS interoperability talkgroups in mid July and distributed to the various fire departments by the end of July. Chief Ron Brinkman said, "We were still in the process of designing the training for the radios when the flood occurred". Chief Brinkman was able to conduct a five minute crash course on how to use the radios as he was handing them out. Those who have served in a command positions during an emergency know the importance of the ability to deploy assets IMMEDIATELY, and without delay. The emergency planning Putnam County had in place. allowed these assets to be deployed in the right places. and in a timely manner.

## TOWER TALK

As you know, all tower sites supporting the MARCS network are monitored through our Network Operations Center (NOC). We are notified by network alarms of changes in the network equipment (temperature, humidity, etc.) as well as entry at the sites or other changes within the structures. As an added measure, we've recently begun beta testing an enhanced security system at our sites for added protection for our subscribers and their communications. We strongly believe our monitoring responsibilities are not restricted to network operations. Our responsibilities also extend to full enhanced protection of our remote tower sites as well.



## KNOW THE NOC

You may also know the voice, "Helpdesk, this is Joe". Joe has been a 3<sup>rd</sup> shift TNO2 during his tenure with the state. His knowledge of electronics and previous years with AT&T has been very valuable in troubleshooting and analysis of alarms on the MARCS network. Joe's experience also includes time served in the air force as an encryption systems technician. Joe's son is currently in the air force stationed in Misawa, Japan. Joe will be retiring in March 2008 and spending time with his wife, Sarah, but we will REALLY miss his contributions here at MARCS.

## TEAM FEATURE

Andrea Payne is a graduate of the Stuart School of Business Administration, NJ. Andrea has been in state service since 1993, joining up with the MARCS Project Office in 1994 as MARCS Executive Secretary. She's had the privilege of working with this project before a contract was written and before it became what it is today. Andrea had a hand with managing the mountains of paperwork associated with this project, developing a system of document tracking and retrieval that still works today. Andrea also participated in county coverage testing of the MARCS mobile data system. While working for MARCS, Andrea successfully completed the Professional Administrative Support Service class at Columbus State Community College. She is a valuable asset to the MARCS Program Office.



**DID YOU KNOW...**In the beginning, MARCS was designed to support 10 state agencies. To date, MARCS supports over 640 federal, state, county and local agencies. There are over 24,500 radios, over 1800 in car computers and 74 computer aided dispatch workstations.

Send your MARCS worthy news and pictures to [teri.steward@ohio.gov](mailto:teri.steward@ohio.gov).