

# MARCS

Making Ohio Number One in Statewide Interoperability

December 1, 2007

Issue 8

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## LATEST NEWS

It has been a year of growth for MARCS. In January 2007 we had 21,909 radios, 1,657 MCT's (Mobile Computer Terminals and 72 CAD's (Computer Aided Dispatch Consoles). The statistics for December 2007 indicate we have 24,605 radios, 1,871 MCT's and 74 CAD's. Our growth during this 12 month period is very impressive, considering the grade of service has not been diminished. Maximizing reliable multi-agency/multi-jurisdictional interoperable communications continues to be our primary mission. We want to take this time to thank all our customers for providing the support and feedback that enables us to continue to provide this level of service. Hats off to all of you.

## INTEROPERABILITY IN ACTION

Public safety and first responders from Ohio and West Virginia recently participated in a joint winter weather emergency exercise. Participating agencies from Ohio included Ohio Emergency Management Agency, Ohio State Highway Patrol, Washington County Health Department, and Buckeye State Sheriff's Association. Each of these agencies deployed their mobile communications/command vehicles. Participants from West Virginia included the West Virginia National Guard, Emergency Management Agency, Department of Public Safety and Military Affairs and Allegheny Power. Allegheny Power's participation was important in this exercise so participants could coordinate response variables that occur when winter ice and snow storms cause large scale power outages. EMA established a "MARCS tower site" on the university grounds. The BSSA and OSHP vehicles contacted all 88 county sheriff's offices and patrol posts throughout Ohio, and the Washington County Health Department's Response Vehicle contacted all hospitals and health departments in Ohio. Communications were successfully established between the Buckeye State Sheriff Association vehicles and West Virginia 9-1-1. OSHP made a satellite link up allowing the capability to run live video conferencing to general and district headquarters of OSHP. The unofficial reports on this exercise indicate that a great deal of valuable information was shared between the states. Overall, the exercise was considered a great success.

## TOWER TALK

MARCS completed testing on the newly constructed three channel tower site in northeast Union County, and it is now live. As soon as the tower was turned up, MARCS and the prime contractor began monitoring traffic on the tower. It was immediately evident we needed to add an additional channel. Within a VERY short time, we were able to add another channel. This is now a four channel site supplementing Union County public safety agencies. After a year of beta testing, Union County deployed MARCS as their sole source for public safety and first responders' communication needs.



## KNOW THE NOC

Gary Bray, first shift network operations/help desk, has been working for the state of Ohio for over 22 years. His entire career with the state has been in the field of telecommunications. Gary spent 15 years with SONIC (State of Ohio Network for Integrated Communications). While there, he tested and installed for agencies like LEADS, Job and Family Services, OPLAN under the GOSSIP network, and others. Gary has been with MARCS for over 7 years. He really enjoys working in a position where he is able to assist our internal and external customer base, and he finds it very fulfilling to resolve problems. In his spare time, Gary likes oil painting, fishing, and playing his soprano sax. We all appreciate your hard work, Gary.



## TEAM FEATURE

Bill Charlton came out of retirement 2-1/2 years ago to take a newly created position at DAS as a property management consultant for the Ohio Attorney General's Office, handling their owned and leased properties throughout the state. Prior to Bill's employment with the state of Ohio, he spent a number of years in several different positions with what is now known as U.S. Bank. That experience, along with a couple of management positions with local companies, led to a 22 year career in the commercial property management field with CB Richard Ellis. Bill came to MARCS six months ago and he "enjoys the camaraderie of the super talented staff that he now calls friends." (Thanks Bill!) Bill's main hobby right now is restoring a circa 1827 home listed on the National Registrar. This is the home that Bill admired while growing up. Glad to have you on board, Bill.

## DID YOU KNOW....

In an average month, approximately 850,000 minutes of voice transmission pass through the MARCS network.

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