



DATE: June 17th 2026

TIME: 1:00 – 1:56 pm

LOCATION: 100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032

Maryland Statewide Interoperability Radio Control Board

Quarterly Public Meeting

Voting Members in Attendance

- Jennifer Zambito (DoIT) – Representing Chairwoman Secretary Katie Savage
- Tawn Gregory – Representing Acting Superintendent Colonel Michael A. Jackson (MSP)
- Dr. Ted Delbridge (MIEMSS)
- Marcia Deppen (GoHS)
- Chris Holland (MDOT)
- Jack Markey (MDEM/SWIC)
- Scott Haas (Eastern Shore)
- Tony Rosano (NCR / Frederick County)
- Clay Stamp (Talbot County / MACo)

Applicant / Guest Representatives

- Barbara Harshman (Franklin County, PA Department of Emergency Services)
- Patrick O'Mara (Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall Directorate of Emergency Services)
- Charles Matheson, (Army)
- Charles Armstrong (Citizen)
- Yashodhara Rai (DLS)

Board Support Staff

- Brandon Renehan (DoIT / Presenter)
- Sean Javins (DoIT / Presenter)
- Pat King (DoIT)
- Justin Ellingwood (DoIT)
- Ebun Oni (DoIT)
- Cesar Leon (DoIT)

Not Attended

- Secretary Katie Savage (DoIT)
- Charles Summers (WAGIN)
- Superintendent Colonel Michael A. Jackson (MSP)

Call to Order – 1:00 PM

- Jennifer Zambito, representing Chairwoman Secretary Katie Savage, called the meeting to order. Roll call was completed and a quorum was established.

Review Minutes from March 18th, 2026 – Jennifer Zambito

Proposed Motion: The Radio Control Board approves the minutes from the March 18th, 2026, meeting.

Moved – Chris Holland

Second – Dr. Ted Delbridge

The vote was taken, and the motion was approved.

Yea – All

Nay – 0

Abstain – 0

New Business – Brandon Renehan

Proposed New Interoperability User: Franklin County (PA) Department of Emergency Services

Presenter: Brandon Renehan

- Franklin County requested Interoperability User status to support multi-agency coordination, responder safety, and reliable communications during joint operations, mutual-aid incidents, and large-scale events.
- The application represents all 21 fire departments and 16 EMS departments within Franklin County. Anticipated interoperability use is primarily with Frederick County and other local, regional, and state partners operating in the area.
- Approximately 100 radios are initially expected to access MD FiRST, and all proposed radios are TDMA capable.
- Barbara Harshman, E-911 Communications Coordinator, was available for questions and discussion.
- The expected capacity impact was considered negligible because use is expected primarily during mutual-aid incidents and interoperability events.
- The System Managers Committee previously reviewed the application and recommended approval.

Proposed Motion: The Radio Control Board approves the Franklin County (PA) Department of Emergency Services application to become an Interoperability User on MD FiRST and authorizes the Chairwoman to conclude the appropriate MOU with Franklin County Department of Emergency Services.

Moved – Marcia Deppen

Second – Chris Holland

The vote was taken, and the motion was approved.

Yea – All other voting members present

Nay – 0

Abstain – 1 (Tony Rosano)

Proposed New Limited-Primary User: Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall Directorate of Emergency Services

Presenter: Brandon Renehan

- Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall (JBMHH) Directorate of Emergency Services requested Limited-Primary status. JBMHH provides law enforcement, fire suppression, and emergency medical services for JBMHH and Fort McNair in Washington, D.C., and supports personnel and visitors associated with Arlington National Cemetery.
- JBMHH works with neighboring jurisdictions through mutual-aid relationships and participates in the MWCOG interoperability community. The request would support joint activities, major events, protective details, continuity-of-government missions, and backup communications when the installation's primary LMR system is not sufficient.
- The request includes four talkgroups, two for police and two for fire/EMS, and approximately 400 TDMA-capable radios. Expected use is event-driven and limited rather than day-to-day.
- LT Patrick O'Mara discussed the need for reliable communications when JBMHH personnel operate outside the installation's normal coverage area and during mutual-aid operations.
- Clay Stamp asked whether the request had been coordinated with Maryland State agencies or local jurisdictions. Brandon Renehan explained that specific talkgroup-sharing agreements are typically established after system approval. Approval would also provide access to MD FIRST interoperability resources, and JBMHH already participates in regional interoperability coordination through MWCOG.
- The System Managers Committee previously reviewed the application and unanimously recommended approval. The expected capacity impact was considered minimal because MD FIRST would not be JBMHH's primary radio system.

Proposed Motion: The Radio Control Board approves the Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall Directorate of Emergency Services application to become a Limited-Primary User on MD FiRST and authorizes the Chairwoman to conclude the appropriate MOU with Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall Directorate of Emergency Services.

Moved – Chris Holland

Second – Jack Markey

The vote was taken, and the motion was approved.

Yea – All

Nay – 0

Abstain – 0

Project Status Update – Sean Javins

Geo-Redundant Primes

- Baltimore County completed its geo-redundant prime go-live on April 8, and Anne Arundel County completed its go-live on March 11.
- Garrett County remained in procurement. Cecil County was listed as an FY27 funding request.
- Outyear planning remained in place for the Alle-Gar cell in FY28; Worcester/Somerset and Montgomery County in FY29; and Prince George's and Howard County in FY30.

New RF Sites

- **Patapsco:** A&E planning was complete, the TORFP was drafted, and stakeholder/community coordination continued. Cumberland: the community meeting was complete, final permits were conditionally approved, TORFP development was underway, and LMR equipment was at the warehouse.
- **Queenstown:** State Clearinghouse review and the MOU were complete. Environmental and historical due diligence procurement was in process, LMR equipment was at the warehouse, and additional site-work procurement and community coordination were being prepared.
- **Barton:** TORFP review/award recommendation was in process and LMR procurement was underway. Bretton Woods: permits were approved and work was scheduled to begin June 16, 2026.
- **New Germany State Park - 1:** TORFP review/award was in process, with a public meeting scheduled for July 9 at 5:00 PM at Grantsville VFD. St. Michaels: geotechnical work was complete and the MOU was in process. Cambridge: the TORFP was in procurement, geotechnical work was complete, and town-hall planning was underway.
- **Accident:** the site license was complete and a TORFP was being drafted for the shelter. Burtonsville: the MOU with the county and LMR planning were in process, and LMR procurement was underway.
- FY27 sites New Market (Frederick County), New Germany State Park - 2 (Garrett County), and Jericho Park (Prince George's County) were listed as funding requests.

Bi-Directional Amplifier (BDA) Projects

- MD Port Administration: bid walk scheduled. MDEM Headquarters: PORFP planning in process. Frederick Law Enforcement Center: purchase order in process. North Dorchester Middle School: FY27 funding request and planning.

County Channel Capacity

- Initial purchase orders were issued to Motorola to expand channel capacity in Anne Arundel, Howard, and Harford counties.
- The purchase-order scope requires modification to use D-Series equipment. Planning with Motorola engineering is in process, and the work will align with the GTR replacement effort.

Fiber Backhaul Projects

- Assateague-to-Berlin, Denton-to-Federsburg, and Still Pond-to-Chestertown were complete and integrated.
- Sudlersville-Massey-Galena, Carole Highlands, Smallwood-Douglas Point, Indian Head-Smallwood, and Lusby-Leonardtown MSP remained in implementation.
- Mt. Savage work-order updates were in process to accommodate new pole attachments.

Operations Status Update – Brandon Renehan

System Performance Statistics

- Monthly call activity remained in the mid-to-upper three-million push-to-talk range and was expected to increase during the summer, consistent with the long-term seasonal trend. Brandon Renehan noted that the system is approaching four million monthly PTTs.
- Total airtime was 282,397 minutes in March, 280,116 minutes in April, and 299,250 minutes in May. Reported busy duration was 2.2 seconds in March, 24.3 seconds in April, and 15.3 seconds in May, each remaining below 1% of total activity.

- The interoperability-only subscriber count was 101,763, and total subscribers were approaching 140,000.
- The interoperability PTT report had data through February. The Genesis upgrade requires the custom report to be ported to the new architecture, so March-May data was not yet available. The historical data remains available and will be backfilled when the report is restored.

Recent and Upcoming Maintenance Activities

- RF-site preventive maintenance concluded May 27, 2026, with all 144 RF sites complete. The maintenance cycle had run for roughly six to seven months, and console-site preventive maintenance was beginning through local coordination.
- Core-site and BWI UPS replacements were complete. The Hagerstown prime and subsite UPS units were replaced May 29.
- Recent site events included Still Pond on March 6 (~90 minutes, lost microwave connectivity to Chestertown); Massey on March 18 (~1 hour, APM troubleshooting/replacement); Safety Drive RF on April 1 (~30 minutes, RF power coupler replacement); and Dan's Rock on April 22 (<40 minutes, commercial-power failure, generator did not start, UPS exhausted, and GPS lock recovery required).
- Additional events included Mar Lu Ridge on April 30 (~4 hours, site configuration issue found during the Frederick coverage investigation and site re-optimization); Route 439 on May 7 (TX coaxial-cable troubleshooting that resulted in a transmit-antenna replacement); and the Washington County cell on May 25 (~40 minutes, UPS failure during a planned generator test, remediated the same day).
- Power remains a recurring site risk. The team is evaluating options such as DC power plants to increase runtime when commercial power and generator support are unavailable.

Coverage Investigations – Frederick / Washington Counties

- Tower climbs were performed between January 30 and February 11 at Lambs Knoll, Gambrill Mountain, Miller Avenue, Mar Lu Ridge, Tower Road, and Mt. Airy. Antennas were checked for plumb, and transmit antenna/line sweeps were performed where possible.
- Ride-alongs with MSP Frederick Barracks personnel and later work with a Motorola subject-matter expert helped confirm intermittent talk-in issues in parts of Frederick County. The review found no evidence that the representative trooper vehicle or nearby cellular sites were the source of the reported problem.
- A configuration issue was found at Mar Lu Ridge after a noise-floor discrepancy was identified. The site was taken offline, recommissioned, and re-optimized to balance noise rejection and receive sensitivity.
- The team was awaiting Motorola's final report and continued collecting data from surrounding sites. New Market remains an important planned site because it will be closer to the City of Frederick than the existing MD FiRST sites.
- Lambs Knoll showed an imbalance between outbound coverage and receive performance. The team was preparing to replace antennas, jumpers, and likely tower-top amplifiers, with transmission-line replacement to be considered if necessary.

Juniper Router Migration

- Motorola S6000 and GGM8000 routers are reaching end-of-life and must migrate to Juniper equipment. The migration is covered by existing SUAs with no additional cost to the State or counties.
- Core-site router migrations and the associated Zone 1, Zone 3, and Zone 5 controller rolls were complete.
- Remote migration remains for approximately 144 RF sites and roughly 50-60 console sites. Equipment was expected to be ordered by the end of June, with delivery expected in the fall and field replacement likely beginning in early 2027.

- Remote replacements may require simulcast-cell outages. DoIT will coordinate with Motorola and affected partners to minimize operational impact.

Motorola Managed Detection and Response (MDR) Deployment

- MDR is replacing SECMON as the security platform of record for the Motorola RNI environment. MDR provides intrusion detection, vulnerability scanning, and real-time monitoring for unauthorized access and network anomalies.
- Zones 1 and 2 were complete as of May 29, with the associated zone-controller roll completed May 20. The zone-controller roll for Zones 5 and 6 was completed June 3. Zones 3 and 4 were scheduled through June 26, with a zone-controller roll scheduled for June 24.
- DoIT/MD FiRST will continue using DoIT's managed security portfolio for the CEN. County partners may be offered Motorola MDR as maintenance agreements are renewed, and MD FiRST remains available to coordinate complementary CEN security measures.

Virtualized Prime Site Controller Cutovers

- Six of 22 simulcast cells had completed the virtualized-prime conversion: Wicomico, Worcester/Somerset, Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Charles, and Calvert. Sixteen simulcast cells remained.
- The tentative remaining simulcast schedule was: Dorchester 7/14; Caroline 7/15; Kent 7/16; St. Mary's 7/28; Prince George's 7/29; Howard 7/30; Garrett 8/5; Alle-Gar 8/6; Cecil 8/11; Harford 8/13; Carroll 8/18; Queen Anne's 8/20; Montgomery 8/25; Talbot 9/15; Allegany 9/22; and Washington 9/24.
- Sixteen of 47 conventional site controllers at dispatch sites were complete, leaving 31. Testing requires temporarily disconnecting the console site from the cores to confirm console operation, but normal radio operations are not expected to be affected.
- DoIT is coordinating cutover timing directly with affected owning agencies and county partners.

Genesis Upgrade

- The latest Genesis release introduced a web-based dashboard with system and agency-specific views, including site activity, connected subscribers, call activity, registration refusals, and other operational indicators.
- Agency access can be partitioned so local users see their own subscribers while system administrators retain a statewide view. The dashboard can also help identify radios that were programmed for MD FiRST but were not activated, allowing the team to resolve issues before users report failures.

System Users / System Managers Committee Updates – Brandon Renehan

System Users Committee

- The System Users Committee continued emphasizing the need to coordinate use of MD FiRST interoperability resources. Users should coordinate MD CALL, MD TAC, MD EVENT, and MD LAW resources through the appropriate control point before use so one event does not unknowingly conflict with another.
- The Region 20 Interoperability Template was reviewed as a way to standardize zone and channel naming across agencies so responders from different jurisdictions can find the same interoperability resources more easily.
- The committee discussed major events expected to use MD FiRST resources, including America 250 and SAIL 250 activities and other large events throughout the National Capital Region and East Coast.
- Brandon Renehan also described a FEMA Region 3 interoperability proof of concept centered on MD FiRST. Maryland, D.C., Virginia, West Virginia, Pennsylvania, and Delaware can connect through console patches, and the

concept has been expanded for testing with jurisdictions from North Carolina to Massachusetts using technologies such as SmartConnect, Critical Connect, console patches, and direct MD FiRST access.

- The FEMA Region 3 resource is not yet considered operational. Policies or SOPs will be required before operational use to define who may access it and when. Current use has been limited primarily to testing and roll calls.

System Managers Committee

- The System Managers Committee reviewed the two new-user applications brought before the Radio Control Board and recommended approval.
- Murray Hunt (DNR), vice chair of the System Managers Committee, is leading a Site Security Working Group. The group is intended to develop practical best practices or an SOP for credentialing and controlling access to shared radio shelters and tower sites where land, tower, shelter, and generator responsibilities may be split among different agencies.
- The committee began a longer-term discussion on TDMA-only operation versus continued TDMA/FDMA support. A limited number of MD FiRST channels use Dynamic Dual Mode (DDM), and an FDMA-only radio can consume additional talkpath capacity and increase the chance of busy signals.
- Maintaining DDM capability on replacement D-Series equipment was estimated during the meeting at approximately \$13,000 per channel, or roughly \$7 million across the system. No decision has been made. MD FiRST will first identify remaining FDMA-only radios, talk with partner agencies, and determine whether continued DDM licensing is necessary.

Old Business / Open Discussion – Jennifer Zambito

- There was no old business.
- A member shared that Naval Support Activity Annapolis planned a full-scale mass-care exercise for the following Tuesday, concurrent with primary election day activities. The exercise was expected to involve local fire, police, EMS, and the installation's giant-voice system, in addition to election-related activations in the Annapolis area.

Closing / Adjournment

Proposed Motion: I move that we adjourn and reconvene on September 16th, 2026.

Moved – Chris Holland

Second – Jack Markey

The vote was taken, and the motion was approved.

Yea – All

Nay – 0

Abstain – 0

The meeting was adjourned at 1:56 PM.

Director of Board APPROVAL:

Signature: Jennifer Zambito -DoIT- Date: 09/28/2026