

**MD FIRST System Managers Committee**

**Quarterly Public Meeting**

**DATE:** June 5, 2025

**TIME:** 10:00 – 11:27 am

**LOCATION:** 100 Community Place  
Crownsville, MD 21032

▪ **Members in Attendance**

- Andrew Cummins (NRP)
- Anthony Maiese (DPSCS)
- Charlie Guddemi (DC SWIC)
- David Larsen (MDOT)
- Harold Taylor (Howard County)
- Jack Markey (MDEM)
- James Hambright (US BLM)
- John Butts (NRP)
- Nate Ratnofsky (MoCo)
- Murray Hunt (NRP)
- Phil Via (Allegany County)
- Rich Berg (MIEMSS)
- Robert Larimer (Dorchester County)
- Tony Clare (Queen Anne's County)
- Michael Boston (St John's College)
- Randy Cunningham (Harford County)
- Irvin Church (DHS)
- Rolando Delgado (DHS)
- Mike Keiser (Ocean City)
- Matt Meekins (Dorchester County)
- Iman Kaini (MIEMSS)
- Rich Berg (MIEMSS)
- Bill Nutter (Wicomico County)
- Justin Orendorf (Garrett County)
- Dave Rineholt (SHA)
- Brad Russum (Kent County)
- Gary Davis (MSP)
- Gary Zamerski (MSP)
- Patrick Weber (JHPD)
- Kenny Yang (DC FEMS)

- Adam Karsin (USDHHS)
  - Austin Pencinger (Amtrak PD)
  - Holly Caudill (PA SWIC)
  - James Brown (Worcester County)
  - Jennifer Edwards (MPA)
  - Mark Shcafer (MTA)
  - Michael Harrod (Howard County)
  - Mike Himmer (MDTA)
  - Mike Keefe (VDEM)
  - Steve Smith (Garrett County)
  - Tiffany Sanchez (MD Judiciary)
  - Tom Gagnon (DHS / CISA)
  - Wayne Anderson (WSSC)
  - Yann Tamdem (Howard County)
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- **Board Support Staff**
    - Brandon Renehan (DoIT/Chairman)
    - Norm Farley (DoIT)
    - Cindy Cole (DoIT)
    - Pat King (DoIT)
    - Justin Ellingwood (DoIT)
    - Jennifer Zambito (DoIT)
    - Ebun Oni (DoIT)
    - Cesar Leao (DoIT)

**Call to Order – 10:00 am**

**Review Minutes from 3/6/2025– Brandon Renehan**

**Proposed Motion: The System Managers Committee approves the minutes from the March 6, 2025, meeting.**

Moved – Murray Hunt (NRP)

Second – Phil Via (Allegany County)

The vote was taken, and the minutes were approved.

Yea – All

Nay – 0

**Proposed New Interop User**

Aberdeen Proving Grounds – Represented by Captain Christina Liddell

This user request is primarily for Fire/EMS for purposes of mutual aid capabilities during emergency responses into Cecil County, surrounding water areas in the Chesapeake Bay and tributaries. APG would also like access to MD FiRST Interoperability Zones for future planned events. They have approximately 60 radios, all are TDMA capable. Harford County and APG already work together with radio programming and will continue to do so as needed.

*Expected Capacity Impact: Minimal due to interop usage only.*

**Proposed Motion: System Managers Committee suggests approval of Aberdeen Proving Grounds application to become a Communications Interoperability User on Maryland FiRST.**

Moved – Murray Hunt (NRP)

Second – Tony Maiese (DPSCS)

The vote was taken, and the motion was approved.

Yea – All

Nay – 0

Abstain – 0

Middle Peninsula - Northern Neck Regional Radio System – Represented by Greg Hunter

Consists of 6 member-Counties in Eastern Virginia

King and Queen County

Essex County

Mathews County

Northumberland County

Lancaster County

Richmond County

MP is requesting Interop membership for users to conduct coordination of operations and potential mutual aid on and within the Potomac River, Chesapeake Bay, and adjacent shoreline communities. They plan to have interoperability with St Mary's County, Charles County, and Maryland State Agencies. The intent is to improve communications between responding resources operating in and on the waterways in these areas. MP has regional shared programming via console gateways and mobile/portables for approximately 500 interoperable subscribers. All radios are TDMA, Link Layer Authentication capable, and include AES encryption.

*Expected Capacity Impact: Minimal due to interop usage only.*

**Proposed Motion: System Managers Committee suggests approval of Middle Peninsula - Northern Neck Regional Radio System's application to become a Communications Interoperability User on Maryland FiRST.**

Moved – Tony Clare (Queen Anne's County)

Second – Murray Hunt (NRP)

The vote was taken, and the motion was approved.

Yea – All

Nay – 0

Abstain – 0

Hampshire County, West Virginia – Represented by Mike Hogan

Hampshire County borders Southern Allegany County, Oldtown and Paw Paw areas. Hampshire is seeking direct communications with Allegany County for mutual aid, which Allegany County supports. They currently have 2 portables for Fire/EMS for direct communications with Allegany and are working on grant funding for an additional 12+ portables and 25+ mobiles. Hampshire would also include Allegany County and MD FiRST resources in their command vehicle for all surrounding counties. With the recent flooding in May, Allegany County struggled with multiple patches with communications. Direct access to MD FiRST would eliminate the need for these patches and improve communications. Membership on MD FiRST will also improve communications with DNR/NRP.

*Expected Capacity Impact: Minimal due to Minimal due to interop only, low number of users.*

**Proposed Motion: System Managers Committee suggests approval of Hampshire County, West Virginia application to become a Communications Interoperability User on Maryland FiRST.**

Moved – Murray Hunt (NRP)

Second – Phil Via (Allegany County)

The vote was taken, and the motion was approved.

Yea – All

Nay – 0

Abstain – 0

**Proposed New Limited-Primary User**

District of Columbia (FEMS, MPD, HSEMA) – Represented by Charlie Guddemi (DC SWIC), and reps for individual agencies

This is a joint application of DC Fire, EMS Department (FEMS), Metropolitan Police Department (MPD), and Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency (HSEMA). DC is already an Interoperability User, the request is to upgrade to Limited-Primary for backup capabilities. The request is for 6 Talkgroups for intra-agency use only when needed as a backup if primary LMR infrastructure were to fail. This will improve their PACE plan.

3 TGs for FEMS

2 TGs for MPD

1 TG for HSEMA

District Radios: (all TDMA capable)

FEMS: 1250 Portables, 450 Mobiles

MPD: 3600 Portables, 1000 Mobiles

HSEMA: 130 Portables, 75 Mobiles

*Expected Capacity Impact: Minimal during day-to-day, acceptable impact when needed as emergency backup.*

**The System Managers' Committee recommends the Radio Control Board District of Columbia (FEMS, MPD, HSEMA) application to become a Limited-Primary User on MD FiRST.**

Moved – Nate Ratnofsky (Montgomery County)

Second – Murray Hunt (NRP)

The vote was taken, and the motion was approved.

Yea – All

Nay – 0

Abstain – 0

### **Proposed New Primary User**

#### UMBC Police Department – Represented by Ed McDermott

The UMBC police department is a full service, 24 hr, 7 day a week police department serving the University of Maryland, Baltimore County Campus just outside Baltimore. It consists of approximately 25 sworn officers for the main and south campus areas. They have ~40 APX N50 or equivalent (TDMA capable) radios and are in the process of procuring more. UMBC PD is requesting ~2 Talkgroups: one for patrol operations and one for special events. They intend to establish TG sharing agreements with the University of Maryland, Baltimore, Baltimore County Police Department, and MSP. UMBC recently had a shooting across the street from campus and could not communicate with other agencies on the scene. MD FiRST will improve communications for future incidents.

*Expected Capacity Impact: Relatively minor due to low number of users, talkgroups. Baltimore area has plenty of capacity, Howard & AA Counties being augmented in near future.*

### **The System Managers' Committee recommends the Radio Control Board UMBC Police Department to become a Primary User on MD FiRST.**

Moved – Murray Hunt (NRP)

Second – Patrick Weber (JHPD)

The vote was taken, and the motion was approved.

Yea – All

Nay – 0

Abstain – 0

### **Project Status Update – Jen Zambito, Brandon Renehan**

Jen presented an update on MD FiRST Technology Modernization, Coverage Improvement, and Redundancy and Resiliency Projects.

### **Operations and Maintenance Status Update – Brandon Renehan**

Brandon presented the operations and upcoming maintenance activities. He provided information regarding the 14 busies in Allegany County on May 13, 2025. Twelve (12) of the busies occurred in a 15-second time frame due to the coinciding of a power outage and flood in Allegany County.

There were discussions regarding updating the State's Radio Management server to CPS ver 36.00.01.

Brandon announced an upcoming feature (Genesis Provisioning Manager Interface) that will allow select technicians to make radio provisioning updates (adding / deleting radios, alias updates, etc.) remotely through the pre-existing Genesis application.

Brandon discussed the upcoming A2024.1 upgrade, which will have impacts to end-users starting in September. The Core upgrades will entail system-wide site trunking events, console site impacts of generally 10-15 seconds at a time. All RF sites, routers, console sites, etc. will be upgraded and will require rebooting, most subsystems (data, location, KMF, etc.) will be impacted at some point during the upgrade.

### **MD FiRST Help Desk – Jen Zambito**

Jen provided an update on the startup of a MD FiRST Help Desk. This will streamline and improve timelines for requests being made by MD FiRST Users. The help desk will be operational 24/7/365 and should be live by December 2025. The rollout will be a gradual phase-in process.

### **Open Discussion/Good of the Order**

Howard County discussed their implementation of SmartConnect in police radios; it is working well. Fire is purchasing DVRS units to improve in-building coverage. The D-series platform replacement will be a phased rollout starting fall 2025.

Allegany County reported that during the flooding in mid-May, MD FiRST worked very well and made communication between agencies and counties very good. The upcoming new Allegar site will add even more redundancy.

Harford County's SUA comes up for renewal in a couple of years; they will use a phased-in system for the D-series platform replacement.

Montgomery County has started the next phase of encryption. Three of their 6 main talkgroups are now encrypted. This will be completely cut over in June/July 2025. Nate to send MD FiRST a summary of the changes and process for MD FiRST to share with all the users on this system.

### **Closing/Adjournment**

#### **Proposed Motion - I move that we adjourn and reconvene on September 4, 2025**

Moved – Murray Hunt (NRP)

Second – Tony Maiese (DPSCS)

The vote was taken, passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 11:27 am.

Yea – All

Nay – 0

Abstain – 0

#### **Chairman System Manager Committee APPROVAL:**

(Signature & Date)

Jennifer Zambito for Norm Farley 11/26/25

#### **Director of Board APPROVAL:**

(Signature & Date)

Jennifer Zambito for Norm Farley 11/26/25