



DATE: December 11, 2024

TIME: 1:04 – 2:28 pm

LOCATION: 1 Church Circle
Annapolis, MD 21401

Maryland Statewide Interoperability Radio Control Board

Quarterly Public Meeting

▪ Voting Members in Attendance

- Norman Farley (DoIT)
- Chris Holland (MDOT)
- Dr Ted Delbridge (MIEMSS) (1:18pm)
- Colonel Roland Butler Jr (MSP)
- Clay Stamp (MACo)
- Charles Summers (WAGIN)
- Scott Haas (Eastern Shore)

▪ Board Support Staff

- Brandon Renehan
- Cindy Cole
- Justin Ellingwood
- Pat King
- Curt Andrich
- Charles Bryson

Not attended

- Secretary Savage (Represented by Norm Farley)
- Tony Rose (Southern MD)
- Travis Nelson (GoHS)
- Mayor Craig Moe (NCR)
- Secretary Russell Strickland (MDEM/SWIC)

Call to Order – 1:04 pm

Review Minutes from 9/18/2023– Norman Farley

Proposed Motion: The Radio Control Board approves the minutes from the September 18, 2024, meeting.

Moved – Scott Haas (Eastern Shore)

Second – Charles Summers (WAGIN)

The vote was taken, and the minutes were approved.

Yea – All

Nay – 0

Abstain – 0

New Business – Brandon Renehan

Proposed New Interoperable Users:

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Division of Refuge Law Enforcement (DRLE) – Represented by Chad Coles
DRLE is a statewide and nationwide authority which works closely with MD NRP, MSP, Kent County Sheriff's Office, and Dorchester County Sheriff's Office. DRLE routinely conducts marine law enforcement patrols on MD's bays and rivers. They are requesting interoperability for ~6 Federal Wildlife Officers (FWOs) stationed at: Cambridge, MD; Laurel, MD; Woodbridge, VA; Chincoteague, VA (2 FWOs); and Shepherdstown, WV. DRLE has APX8000 and 8500 radios that are TDMA capable.

Expected capacity impact: Minimal due to Interop only usage.

The Radio Control Board approves the application of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Division of Refuge Law Enforcement (DRLE) to become an Interoperability User on MD FiRST and authorizes the Chairwoman to conclude the appropriate MOU with DRLE.

Moved – Charles Summers (WAGIN)

Second – Chris Holland (MDOT)

The vote was taken, and the motion passed.

Yea – All

Nay – 0

Abstain – 0

Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM) – Represented by Mike Keefe

VDEM requests interoperability to communicate with MD sister agencies and other partners during cross-border or mutual aid events. VDEM is also an approved signatory of the NCR Inter-Jurisdictional MOU, the Virginia State police are an approved MD FiRST Interoperable user. VDEM has ~225 subscribers units in the Region 20/42 RID plan, they are all TDMA/OTAR/AES encryption ready, some of the radios have SmartConnect.

Expected capacity impact: Minimal due to Interop only usage.

The Radio Control Board approves the application of Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM) to become an Interoperability User on MD FiRST and authorizes the Chairwoman to conclude the appropriate MOU with Virginia Department of Emergency Management.

Moved – Clay Stamp (MACo)

Second – Charles Summers (WAGIN)

The vote was taken, and the motion passed.

Yea – All

Nay – 0

Abstain – 0

Pennsylvania Game Commission - Represented by Michaele Watkins

The Game Commission is requesting interoperability with MD DNR Law Enforcement and other Law Enforcement agencies as needed. The Game Commission has ~120 TDMA capable radios used by officers in portions of PA that border MD.

Expected capacity impact: Minimal due to Interop only usage.

The Radio Control Board approves the application of Pennsylvania Game Commission to become an Interoperability User on MD FiRST and authorizes the Chairwoman to conclude the appropriate MOU with Pennsylvania Game Commission.

Moved – Col Roland Butler (MSP)

Second – Norm Farley (DoIT)

The vote was taken, and the motion passed.

Yea – All

Nay – 0

Abstain – 0

New Jersey Statewide Interoperability Coordinator's (SWIC) Office – Represented by William Mosley

NJ SWIC is seeking interoperability for their continued support of the National Special Security Events (NSSE) in and around the NCR. NJ SWIC is part of the E of the PACE plan for the NCR. They plan to have MD FIRST included in ~100 TDMA capable cache radios (15 are INT radios with SmartConnect).

Expected capacity impact: Minimal due to Interop only usage.

The Radio Control Board approves the application of New Jersey Statewide Interoperability Coordinators (SWIC) Office to become an Interoperability User on MD FiRST and authorizes the Chairwoman to conclude the appropriate MOU with New Jersey Statewide Interoperability Coordinators (SWIC) Office.

Moved – Col Roland Butler (MSP)

Second – Clay Stamp (MACo)

The vote was taken, and the motion passed.

Yea – All

Nay – 0

Abstain – 0

North Carolina Division of Emergency Management (NCEM) – Represented by Greg Hauser

NCEM is seeking interoperability for their continued support of the National Special Security Events (NSSE) in and around the NCR. NCEM is part of the E of the PACE plan for the NCR. NCEM will also provide support to the State of MD if needed. They plan to have MD FIRST included in ~200 TDMA capable subscriber radios.

Expected capacity impact: Minimal due to Interop only usage.

The Radio Control Board approves the application of North Carolina Division of Emergency Management (NCEM) to become an Interoperability User on MD FiRST and authorizes the Chairwoman to conclude the appropriate MOU with NCEM.

Moved – Col Roland Butler (MSP)

Second – Dr Delbridge (MIEMSS)

The vote was taken, and the motion passed.

Yea – All

Nay – 0

Abstain – 0

U.S. Department of Interior, Bureau of Land Management – Represented by James Hambright

The Office of Law Enforcement and Security manages the Douglas Point land management in Charles County (Nanjemoy). MD FiRST would help to ensure efficient inter-agency cooperation and communication in emergency situations with MD DNR, Charles County Sheriff's Office. This provides the ability to utilize MD FiRST during disaster management and emergency responses. They currently have 2 TDMA compatible radios.

Expected capacity impact: Minimal due to Interop only usage.

The Radio Control Board approves the application of U.S. Department of Interior, Bureau of Land Management to become an Interoperability User on MD FiRST and authorizes the Chairwoman to conclude the appropriate MOU with U.S. Department of Interior, Bureau of Land Management.

Moved – Clay Stamp (MACo)

Second – Col Roland Butler (MSP)

The vote was taken, and the motion passed.

Yea – All

Nay – 0

Abstain – 0

Proposed New Limited-Primary User

Montgomery County, MD – Represented by Nate Ratnofsky

They are requesting 12 talkgroups for all of Montgomery County as back-up communication in the event of a system failure of their primary system. They will also use MD FiRST during scheduled training events. Montgomery County plans to program the 12 talkgroups into ~4500 subscriber TDMA radios for Montgomery County Law Enforcement, Fire, & EMS.

Expected capacity impact: Minimal during day-to-day operations. Usage could be significant in the event of a Montgomery County system failure.

The Radio Control Board approves the application of Montgomery County, MD to become a Limited Primary User on MD FiRST and authorizes the Chairwoman to conclude the appropriate MOU with Montgomery County, MD.

Moved – Charles Summers (WAGIN)

Second – Col Roland Butler (MSP)

The vote was taken, and the motion was approved.

Yea – All

Nay – 0

Abstain – 0

U.S. Federal Air Marshal Service (FAMS) – Represented by Robert Crawford

FAMS secures the nation's transportation systems and critical transportation infrastructure including ports, transportation hubs, and pipelines. FAMS is currently an approved interoperable MD FiRST user. This request is for FAMS officers working with USCG, MD DNR, MDTA, MWAA, and Colonial Pipeline in Maryland, Virginia, and Washington D.C. FAMS has its own radio system for day-to-day operations. The 4 requested talkgroups (2 for the Baltimore Office, 2 for the Washington Office) would be used during events in which their existing system is inadequate. FAMS has ~100 TDMA capable radios.

Expected capacity impact: Minimal due to the small amount of users and non-daily use.

The Radio Control Board approves the application of U.S. Federal Air Marshal Service (FAMS) to become a Limited Primary User on MD FiRST and authorizes the Chairwoman to conclude the appropriate MOU with FAMS.

Moved – Chris Holland (MDOT)

Second – Dr. Delbridge (MIEMSS)

The vote was taken, and the motion was approved.

Yea – All

Nay – 0

Abstain – 0

St John's College Office of Public Safety – Represented by Captain Duane Gottschalk and Chief Michael Boston

St Johns is a small college campus close to the Annapolis State House complex and USNA. The Public Safety Department consists of Special Commissioned Police Officers appointed by the Governor of MD and operates 24/7/365, with approximately 12 officers. This department routinely works with DGS Capitol Police, Annapolis Police Department, and Annapolis Fire Department. They are requesting up to 2 talkgroups to support daily operations and inter-agency communication.

Expected capacity impact: Minimal with only 1-2 talkgroups and a small number of users

The Radio Control Board approves the application of St John's College Office of Public Safety to become a Limited Primary User on MD FiRST and authorizes the Chairwoman to conclude the appropriate MOU with St John's College Office of Public Safety.

Moved – Clay Stamp (MACo)

Second – Charles Summers (WAGIN)

The vote was taken, and the motion was approved.

Yea – All

Nay – 0

Abstain – 0

Proposed SOP – Brandon Renehan

SOP 0.13 Subscriber Decommissioning Procedures is to safeguard any valuable or sensitive information on radios that are being decommissioned. This SOP provides guidance and procedures to MD FIRST user agencies when they decommission their radios.

The Radio Control Board approves MD FIRST SOP 0.13 - Subscriber Decommissioning Procedures.

Moved – Dr Delbridge (MIEMSS)

Second – Col Roland Butler (MSP)

The vote was taken, and the motion was approved.

Yea – All

Nay – 0

Abstain – 0

Platform Replacement Announcements & Recapitalization Plan – Norm Farley

Motorola has recently made public nationwide end-of-support dates and platform replacements to several significant components that will affect the MD FIRST radio system.

These announcements include: (1) End-of-support date of 12/31/2030 for the MCC7500 radio dispatch consoles, with a platform replacement to the new AXS consoles. And, (2) End-of-support date of 12/31/2032 for the GTR 8000 base station radios, with a platform replacement to the new D-Series base station radios.

Also, over the next 8 years most of the State-owned subscriber radios will be at or near end-of-life, and during the 2030's some 435 tower antennas will be 20-years-old or older. Lifecycle replacement plans must be developed for both the items.

DoIT is developing a draft recapitalization plan, with DoIT being responsible for the base station radios and tower antenna replacement. State agencies and Counties are responsible for developing and funding their own lifecycle replacement plans for dispatch consoles and subscriber radios.

System Performance Report – Brandon Renehan

Brandon presented an update on System Performance.

Project Status Update – Curt Andrich

Curt presented an update on the Project Status.

Operations Status Update – Brandon Renehan

Brandon presented an update on the Operations Status.

System Managers Committee Status and System Users Committee Updates – Brandon Renehan

Brandon presented an update on the System Managers Committee.

Old Business/Open Discussion - Norman Farley / Pat King

Air Medical Services Workgroup: This workgroup was tasked by the Board to consider the nature of communications for all air medical services in the State of MD and MD FiRST's role in facilitating these communications. MD FiRST hosted the workgroup meeting on November 21, 2024. There were five (5) HEMS communications use-case scenarios developed to address when HEMS operators need to communicate via radio. It was determined that four of the scenarios are beyond the scope of MD FiRST or the need is already met. For the fifth use-case scenario, HEMS Emergency MEDEVAC LZ communications, there may be a possible role for MD FiRST to support. There is a role for the MD SWIC to play in working with the Counties to develop a common set of procedures for conducting HEMS Emergency MEDEVAC LZ communications. The possible role for MD FiRST could be the establishment of a new membership category (Limited Interoperability User) and the development of supporting SOPs. However, there are some potential legal issues that first must be resolved.

Proposed Motion - I move that we adjourn and reconvene on March 19, 2025.

Moved – Scott Haas (Eastern Shore)

Second – Chris Holland (MDOT)

Yea – All

Nay – 0

Abstain - 0

The vote was taken, passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 2:28 pm.

Director of Board APPROVAL:

(Signature & Date)

Norman Farley

25/03/25

Signature: *Norman Farley*

Email: Norman.Farley@maryland.gov






FINAL unsigned RCB Minutes Dec 11, 2024

Final Audit Report

2025-03-25

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