



**DATE:** June 13, 2024

**TIME:** 10:00 – 12:08 pm

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

## **MD FIRST System Managers Committee**

### **Quarterly Public Meeting**

#### **▪ Members in Attendance**

- Andrew Cummins (NRP)
- Adam Karsin (USHHS)
- Bailey Carson (MDNG)
- Brandon Burns (BK Technologies)
- Christine Hamrick (Queen Anne’s County)
- Dana Bischoff (DHS/SSC)
- David Larsen (MDOT)
- David Green (Carroll County)
- Delawrence Smith (DHS/SSC)
- Donnae Reedy (MTA Police)
- Gary Zamerski (MSP)
- Gary Davis (MSP)
- Harold Taylor (Howard County)
- Joseph Dauksys (USHHS)
- JP Garvin (Johns Hopkins PD)
- Justin Hoyer (York County, PA)
- Ladie Geronimo (JHPD)
- Matt Meekins (Dorchester County)
- Michael Harrod (Howard County)
- Mike Himmer (MDTA)
- Michael Baltrosky (Montgomery County)
- Murray Hunt (DNR)
- Patrick Weber (JHPD)
- Phil Via (Allegany County)
- Randall Cunningham (Harford County)
- Robert Larimer (Dorchester County)
- Rich Berg (MIEMSS)
- Tim Welsh (DNR)

- Tommy Haddaway (Talbot County)
- Tony Clare (Queen Anne's County)
- Wayne Anderson (WSSC)
  
- **Board Support Staff**
  - Brandon Renehan (DoIT/Chairman)
  - Norm Farley (DoIT)
  - Jennifer Zambito (DoIT)
  - Cindy Cole (DoIT)
  - Pat King (DoIT)
  - Justin Ellingwood (DoIT)
  - Rob O'Neil (DoIT)
  - Russ Jones (Motorola/Birch)

**Call to Order – 10:00 am**

**Review Minutes from 3/7/2024– Brandon Renehan**

**Proposed Motion: The System Managers Committee approves the minutes from the March 7, 2024, meeting.**

Moved – Murray Hunt (DNR)

Second – John Garvin (Johns Hopkins PD)

The vote was taken, and the minutes were approved.

Yea – All

Nay – 0

**Proposed New Interop User**

Pennsylvania State Police, represented by Holly Caudill (PA SWIC) They provide interoperability for eleven stations in southern PA along the MD border and would like to have interoperability with MD. They have ~1000 TDMA radios. They are interested in agreements with MSP and possibly other MD agencies. This does not include the Game Wardens of PA.

**Proposed Motion: System Managers Committee suggests approval of the Pennsylvania State Police application to become a Communications Interoperability User on Maryland FiRST.**

Moved – Gary Zamerski (MSP)

Second – Gary Davis (MSP)

The vote was taken, and the motion was approved.

Yea – All

Nay – 0

Abstain – 0

Eastern Shore of Virginia 911 Commission, represented by Greg Lewis. This commission consists of two counties bordering Maryland, Accomack and Northampton Counties. They have ~1000 TDMA radios and are requesting Interop for LE and EMS and would like agreements with MSP, NRP, Worcester and Somerset Counties. They are currently building a 700 MHz P25 (Phase 2 TDMA) system and expect to cutover in February 2025.

**Proposed Motion: System Managers Committee suggests approval of Eastern Shore of Virginia 911 Commission application to become a Communications Interoperability User on Maryland FiRST.**

Moved – Robbie Larimer (Dorchester County)

Second – Gary Zamerski (MSP)

The vote was taken, and the motion was approved.

Yea – All

Nay – 0

Abstain – 0

#### **Proposed Limited Primary User**

MedSTAR Transport, represented by Krista Wall, Rick Dressler and Seth Pritchett (AMRCSS) . They are requesting Limited-Primary status with their own statewide talkgroups on MD FiRST. MedSTAR Transport is a private, not-for-profit entity that conducts more than 2,000 patient flights per year in Maryland. They operate a dispatch center in Lanham, MD with 3 aviation bases at Fort Meade, St Mary’s, and Indian Head. They have one (1) dispatch radio and four (4) helicopter radios (currently being upgraded to TDMA). Med STAR is requesting 2 talkgroups for dispatch and MedControl with discussions of adding 3 more talkgroups, one for each base. MedSTAR is also requesting access to MIEMSS’ SYSCOM channel and MD FiRST Interop resources. MedSTAR plans to dispatch, perform flight-following, and access Medical Control across the state with the MD FiRST Limited Primary access. They have offered to share access to their dispatch talkgroup with all HEMS providers, including MSP.

MedSTAR’s application was discussed at-length by the committee at large. Members expressed multiple concerns regarding primary usage by a private, non-governmental entity and the precedent that would be set by allowing MedSTAR on the system. Other concerns included the potential for interference, both to MD FiRST itself and to other States and municipalities outside of MD due to proposed transmissions at altitude by aircraft, and the potential FCC License violations that would go with it. Ultimately, the System Managers Committee voted to recommend disapproval of MedSTAR’s application to be a primary user with their own talkgroups on the trunked system, instead suggesting that MedSTAR consider utilizing the 700 MHz Air-to-Ground subsystem for coordination with SYSCOM.

**Proposed Motion: The System Managers’ Committee recommends the Radio Control Board disapprove MedSTAR Transport’s application to become a Limited-Primary User on MD FiRST.**

Moved – Rich Berg (MIEMSS)

Second – Robbie Larimer (Dorchester County)

The vote was taken, and the motion was approved.

Yea – All

Nay – 0

Abstain – 0

**Project Status Update & Coverage Improvement – Pat King**

Pat presented the Project Status and Coverage Improvement update.

**System Performance/Operations Status Update – Brandon Renehan**

Brandon presented the System Performance and Operations Status update.

**Update on Several Support Programs**

Brandon presented information on several support programs.

**Cybersecurity**

MD FiRST continues to work closely with DoIT’s Office of Security Management (OSM) and Motorola’s cybersecurity to protect the CEN network and MD FiRST radio system.

**SOP’s**

MD FiRST is working on a few SOPs, we are in the process of developing an SOP on Subscriber Decommissioning Procedures. We will also work on an SOP for the MD FiRST New User Process to include what types of users MD FiRST is for.

**Virtualized Site Controllers**

Motorola classifies this as a platform upgrade, it is not covered within the SUA.

**Open Discussion/Good of the Order**

Harford law enforcement will be encrypted in August 2024.

Contact MD FiRST with training requests for the upcoming year. Please send requests to Brandon [brandon.renehan@maryland.gov](mailto:brandon.renehan@maryland.gov).

**Closing/Adjournment**

**Proposed Motion - I move that we adjourn and reconvene on September 5, 2024**

Moved – Phil Via (Allegany County)

Second – Justin Ellingwood (DoIT)

The vote was taken, passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 12:08 pm.

Yea – All

Nay – 0

Abstain – 0

**Chairman System Manager Committee APPROVAL:**  
(Signature & Date)



2/3/2025

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**Director of Board APPROVAL:**  
(Signature & Date)

*Norman Farley*

02/03/2025

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