



DATE: November 29, 2023

TIME: 10:02 – 11:54 am

LOCATION: 100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032

MD FIRST System Managers Committee

Quarterly Public Meeting

- **Members in Attendance**
 - Major Anthony Maise (DPSCS)
 - Andrew Cummins (NRP)
 - Brian Wood (MDEM)
 - Christine Hamrick (Queen Anne’s County)
 - Dave Tyler (Talbot County)
 - David Christner (DNR)
 - Dave Green (Carroll County)
 - Donnae Reedy (MTA Police)
 - Earl Erickson (FBI)
 - Fred Doblrow (US Coast Guard)
 - Harold Taylor (Howard County)
 - James Hamilton (Worcester County)
 - Jeremy Scheinker (MDEM)
 - Jerry Calabrese (MD Judiciary)
 - John Butts (DNR/NRP)
 - Justin Orendorf (Garrett County)
 - Kim Vogts (MDH)
 - Matt Meekins (Dorchester County)
 - Mike Himmer (MDTA)
 - Murray Hunt (NRP)
 - Paul Duray (MDH)
 - Phil Via (Allegany County)
 - Rick Esenwine (Adams County)
 - Seth Rhoades (Harford County)
 - Shawn Haynes (ATF)
 - Shawnta Privette (UMB PD)

- Tim Perry (Wicomico County)
- Tony Clare (Queen Anne’s County)
- Daniel Pavon (ATCC)
- Errol Dutton (JHU PD)
- Adam Karsin (USHHS)
- Mike Keiser (Ocean City)
- Jim House (MDP)
- Sean O’Connor (Talbot County)
- Brad Russum (Kent County)
- Brendan Sarver (MDNG)
- Avi Stein (USHHS)
- Mike Harrod (Howard County)
- Scott Keener (York County)

- **Board Support Staff**
 - Brandon Renehan (DoIT/Chairman)
 - Norm Farley (DoIT)
 - Jennifer Zambito (DoIT)
 - Curt Andrich (DoIT)
 - Cindy Cole (DoIT)
 - Justin Ellingwood (DoIT)
 - Pat King (DoIT)
 - Rob O’Neil (DoIT)

Call to Order – 10:02 am

Review Minutes from 9/12/2023– Brandon Renehan

Proposed Motion: The System Managers Committee approves the minutes from the September 12, 2023, meeting.

Moved – Murray Hunt (NRP)

Second – Dave Christner (DNR)

The vote was taken, and the minutes were approved.

Yea – All

Nay – 0

Abstain – 0

Proposed New Limited Primary User:

US Department of Health and Human Services (US HHS) – Represented by Adam Karsin and Avi Stein

This agency was previously approved as an interop user and are requesting to become a Limited-Primary user. The request is for two (2) talkgroups assigned to four of their units: Administration for Strategic Preparedness and Response, Office of Inspector General's Protection Operations Branch, Division of Continuity and Special Operations and Response. The 2 talkgroups would utilize ~100 TDMA radios which are used for internal USHHS responses to emergencies in MD and special operations.

MD FIRST Capacity Impact: Minor depending on location and usage.

Proposed Motion: The System Managers' Committee recommends the Radio Control Board approve US HHS application to become a Limited-Primary User on MD FiRST.

Motion – Tony Clare (Queen Anne's County)

Second – Seth Rhoades (Harford County)

The vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

Yea - All

Nay – 0

Abstain – 0

US CISA, Emergency Communications Division – Represented by Wes Rogers

This is the Federal Emergency Communications Division that has Emergency Communications Coordinators (ECC's), Public Safety Advisors (PSA's) and Cyber Security Advisors within its group to perform MD Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Vulnerability assessments and provide assistance during emergencies. They have ~20 TDMA radios, an MOU with COG and access to all NCR trunked radio systems. They are requesting one (1) talkgroup for use with their PACE and COOP operations and for team coordination during NSSE's and planned emergent events.

MD FIRST Capacity Impact: Minor

Proposed Motion: The System Managers' Committee recommends the Radio Control Board approve US DHS - CISA application to become a Limited-Primary User on MD FiRST.

Motion – Murray Hunt (NRP)

Second – Tony Clare (Queen Anne's County)

The vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

Yea - All

Nay – 0

Abstain – 0

WSSC Water Police & Homeland Security – Represented by Ken Hawkins and Chief Bergstrom

The WSSC Water Police protect the watershed of Prince George's, Montgomery and parts of Howard Counties. They are sworn law enforcement officers, area of operation encompasses critical infrastructure for 1,000 square miles and over 6,000 acres of reservoir. They are requesting one (1) talkgroup for use by ~65 TDMA radios for daily operations for officers on patrol.

MD FIRST Capacity Impact: Minor, usage on PG, Montgomery systems is relatively low.

Proposed Motion: The System Managers' Committee recommends the Radio Control Board approve WSSC Water Police's application to become a Limited-Primary User on MD FiRST.

Motion – Phil Via (Allegany County)

Second – Murray Hunt (NRP)

The vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

Yea - All

Nay – 0

NCRCIG – Represented by Chief Mike Baltrosky and Capt. Matthew Houck

National Capital Region Communications Interoperability Group (NCRCIG) maintains the national radio cache which includes ~1,200 radios, tactical BDAs, repeaters, deployable trunked systems and other interoperable emergency systems that are deployed when any region in the state has an emergency situation or planned event. NCRCIG technical group is responsible for deploying and coordinating the cache and are requesting one (1) talkgroup utilized by ~100 TDMA radios. This talkgroup will be used for communication when managing critical events and coordinating the radio cache/deployable assets.

MD FiRST Capacity Impact: Minor

Proposed Motion: The System Managers' Committee recommends the Radio Control Board approve NCRCIG application to become an Interoperability User on MD FiRST.

Motion – Tony Maise (DPSCS)

Second – Seth Rhoades (Harford County)

The vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

Yea - All

Nay – 0

Abstain – 0

Project Status Update & Coverage Improvement – Jen Zambito

Jen presented the Coverage Improvement Program update. Rob O'Neil was introduced as a new member of MD FiRST and will assist with asset and inventory management. It is requested that users and committee members make requests for BDAs or report and coverage issues to the MD FiRST DoIT staff. These will be used for budgeting and planning future coverage improvements. Use this link or send an email indicating where coverage issues exist <https://forms.gle/EkpDvQBK8qMXsDhr9>

System Performance/Operations Status Update – Brandon Renehan

Brandon presented the Operations Status update. This report included an update regarding the intermittent interference from possible cell service and the FCC investigators. It is requested this committee and other users report all interference issues to MD FiRST DoIT staff. This log of instances and cases provides the FCC investigators with more data and helps them realize it is a significant issue requiring some type of solution.

SOP Review

Third Party Connection Technologies - Review Draft SOP 12 – this SOP was reviewed and edited by many committee members. Dave Tyler (Talbot County), Tony Clare (Queen Anne's County), Phil Via (Allegany County), Justin Orendorf

(Garrett County), Randy Cuningham (Harford County), Murray Hunt (NRP).

Proposed Motion: The System Managers' Committee recommends the Radio Control Board approve SOP 12

Motion: Dave Tyler (Talbot County)

Second: Tony Clare (Queen Anne's County)

The vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

Yea - All

Nay – 0

Abstain – 0

Subscriber Device Decommissioning Procedures - Call for Input. A small group of volunteers was requested to work on this SOP:

Phil Via, Tony Clare, Dave Tyler volunteered.

Open Discussion/Good of the Order

Brian Wood (MDEM) opened discussion to consider creating (1-2) MD Federal Talk Zones that would have 16 Channels on each, these would mimic the MD Talk Call and MD Event Channels. These would be for Federal partner use only.

Action: This committee will consider this as an option.

Fred Doblrow (US Coast Guard)

Action: Will send information regarding the Security Grant funding to fund coverage improvement program.

Seth Rhoades (Harford County) Sometime in January Harford County will be distributing encryption keys when it is available.

Charlie Bryson (DoIT)

Action: Please send suggested topics for the Region 20 April Meeting Charlie Bryson charles.bryson@maryland.gov or Mike Baltrotsky Michael.Baltrotsky@montgomerycountymd.gov

Shawn Haynes (ATF) opened discussion on potential National Interop encryption key compromises elsewhere in United States.

Mike Kiser (Ocean City) – Worcester County and Ocean City law enforcement will be encrypted, the target date is February 1, 2024.

Closing/Adjournment

Proposed Motion - I move that we adjourn and reconvene March 7, 2024

Moved – Seth Rhoades (Harford County)

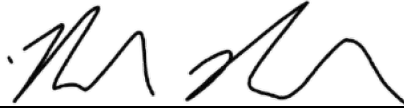
Second – Phil Via (Allegany County)

The vote was taken, passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 11:54 am.

Yea – All

Nay – 0

Chairman System Manager Committee APPROVAL:
(Signature & Date)

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'M. A.', written over a horizontal line.

4/9/2024

Director of Board APPROVAL:
(Signature & Date)

Norman Farley

04/09/2024






Signed Minutes - RCB System Managers Committee - Nov 29 2023

Final Audit Report

2024-04-09

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