JOINT OPERATIONS AND TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

LOS ANGELES REGIONAL INTEROPERABLE COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM AUTHORITY

Tuesday, March 21, 2023 · 1:30 p.m.

OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:
Leslie Luke, County of Los Angeles, Chief Executive Office, Office of Emergency Management
Dayton Calhoun, County of Los Angeles Fire Department
Adam Martinez, County of Los Angeles Department of Health Services
Aaron Fate, Los Angeles County Police Chiefs Association
Jeff LaGreek, At-Large Seat #9
OPERATIONS ALTERNATE COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:
Robert Weber, Chair, County of Los Angeles Sheriff's Department
Ric Walczak, At-Large Seat #8
OPERATION COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT/VACANT:
Vacant, Los Angeles Area Fire Chiefs Association
Vacant, California Contract Cities Association
Vacant, At-Large Seat #10

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:
Leslie Luke, County of Los Angeles, Chief Executive Office
Scott England, Vice-Chair, County of Los Angeles Fire Department
Lipin Tan, County of Los Angeles Department of Health Services
Ted Pao, Chair, Los Angeles County Internal Services Department
Jeff LaGreek, At-Large Seat #9
TECHNICAL ALTERNATE COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:
Robert Weber, County of Los Angeles Sheriff's Department
Ric Walczak, At-Large Seat #8
TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT/VACANT:
Vacant, Los Angeles Area Fire Chiefs Association
Vacant, California Contract Cities Association
Vacant, At-Large Seat #10

OFFICERS PRESENT:
Scott Edson, LA-RICS Executive Director
Beatriz Cojulun, LA-RICS Committee Secretary

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NOTE: ACTION MAY BE TAKEN ON ANY ITEM IDENTIFIED ON THE AGENDA

I. CALL TO ORDER

Operations Committee Chair Lieutenant Robert Weber called the meeting to order at 1:32 p.m.

II. ANNOUNCE QUORUM – ROLL CALL

Beatriz Cojulun acknowledged a quorum was present for both Joint Operations and Technical Committees (Joint Committees).

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (A)

A. September 20, 2022 – Regular Meeting Minutes

Operations Lead Weber asked the Committees for approval of the minutes.

Technical Committee Chair Ted Pao motioned first, seconded by Operations Member Dayton Calhoun.

Operations Committee
Ayes 6:   Luke, Calhoun, Weber, Martinez, Fate, and Walczak.

Technical Committee
Ayes 6:   Luke, England, Weber, Tan, Pao, and Walczak.

MOTION APPROVED.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS – NONE

There was no public comment.

V. CONSENT CALENDAR – NONE

There were no Consent Calendar items.

VI. REPORTS (B – E)

B. Land Mobile Radio System Update – Riad ElMasri

Deputy Program Manager, Riad ElMasri presented Agenda item B the Land Mobile Radio (LMR) System Update.

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March Successes

Deputy Program Manager ElMasri reported the Authority is currently tracking work progress of the approved Integrated Master Schedule (IMS), which was accepted as of February 7, 2023, Data Date (DD). Deputy Program Manager ElMasri further reported that Phase 2 and Phase 4 construction activities have been completed.

Deputy Program Manager ElMasri reported that Motorola Solutions, Inc. (MSI) continues to make corrections on the Microwave mounts and building envelope corrections on the shelters.

Deputy Program Manager ElMasri further reported the Narrowband Mobile Data Network 1 (NMDN 1) cutover for live use and the bridge warranty is in place.

Deputy Program Manager ElMasri said the South and West Cell drive testing for data collection has been completed.

Deputy Program Manager ElMasri stated the overall as-built composite maps for the entire Digital Trunked Voice Radio Systems (DTVRS) were submitted by MSI earlier this month.

Deputy Program Manager ElMasri shared the County of Los Angeles (County) Sheriff's Department (LASD) patrol station cutover and testing is tracking on time.

Deputy Program Manager Riad ElMasri stated that the DTVRS cutover was scheduled to start on March 16, 2023. However, Deputy Program Manager ElMasri, detailed the Mount McDill (MMC) site went down due to a large block of ice that fell on the ice bridge due to poor design and took down the site. Deputy Program Manager ElMasri detailed the block of ice, which stretched the coaxial cables and disconnected the equipment connectors, which the team is working on a plan with MSI to get the site back online. Deputy Program Manager ElMasri shared that MSI reported that it will not cutover until the site is back online following repairs.

Deputy Program Manager Riad ElMasri further stated that in an effort to overcome the County of Los Angeles Regional Tactical Communications System (LARTCS) and Analog Conventional Voice Radio Subsystem (ACVRS) schedule compression caused by lack of site access due to the storms, the MSI team identified some ACVRS channels that could be enabled earlier than expected, which can be utilized for acceptance testing.

Deputy Program Manager ElMasri stated that Low Band Testing and Audio Capture (ACAP) activities started on Wednesday March 15, 2023, and will continue until the end of April.

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March Challenges

Deputy Program Manager ElMasri reported that interference mitigation efforts have been completed, and it is anticipated that interference will be minimized to a level that will not adversely affect DTVRS or UHF performance. However, Deputy Program Manager ElMasri went on to say the late February 2023 blizzard left three (3) sites, Hauser Peak (HPK), Magic Mountain Link (MML), and MMC without commercial power for at least twenty (20) days and took one site down MMC along with damaging access roads to at least ten (10) sites.

Deputy Program Manager ElMasri said that with the exception of Whitaker Middle Peak (WMP), the Authority was able to get access to all the damaged road sites. Deputy Program Manager ElMasri stated WMP is on the critical path and the Authority is working with LASD and United States Forest Services (USFS) to obtain access to the site by ground or by air.

Phase 2 Substantially Complete

Deputy Program Manager ElMasri stated that all fifty-eight (58) sites are substantially complete in Phase 2 and on air.

Still to Come

Deputy Program Manager ElMasri mentioned the DTVRS system cutover was scheduled for March 16, 2023, but was postponed until the MMC site goes back online.

Deputy Program Manager ElMasri stated there are three (3) teams working on the analog testing, two (2) in the Low Band drive testing, as well as two (2) others in the dispatch and two (2) more people in the ACAP testing which started on March 15, 2023.

Deputy Program Manager ElMasri stated Closeout Books (COBs) are still a work in progress with issues still with MSI but are going through it slowly but steadily.

Deputy Program Manager ElMasri expressed that assistance continues with the Pre-Onboarding agencies.

This concluded the report on Agenda Item B presented by Deputy Program Manager ElMasri. There was no further discussion.

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C. **Regional ISSI Interoperability Working Group Update** – Scott England

Technical Alternate Lead Scott England said the Inter Subsystem Interface (ISSI) is the interface that connects the P25 systems from different agencies to each other. Alternate Technical Lead England shared the Authority currently has only one (1) connection up and going up between the Authority and Interagency Communications Interoperability (ICI). Alternate Technical Lead England mentioned the Authority has a connection port available for the Port of Los Angeles (POLA), which is working with MSI to get their Port up and going, as well as configured. Alternate Technical Lead England shared the team is just waiting for MSI to reach out to the Authority on the technical side. Alternate Technical Lead England concluded his report by saying the Authority have received other quotes from MSI for other portions and expansion on the ISSI.

This concluded the report on Agenda Item C presented by Alternate Technical Lead England.

 There was no further discussion.

D. **Spectrum and Licensing Issues Impacting Land Mobile Radio Deployment Update** – Technical Lead Ted Pao

Technical Lead Pao provided a Federal Communications Commission (FCC) license update, the Authority's two (2) pending license applications for the Tejon Peak (TPK) site have made progress after a long stall process. Technical Lead Pao said that one (1) of the licenses was for the Narrowband Mobile Data Network (NMDM) and the other license is for the Analog Conventional Voice Radio System (ACVRS).

Technical Lead Pao continued by saying the FCC put the item on their Agenda for public comment for a Notice of Proposed Rule Making with public comments due date of January 17, 2023Technical Lead, and the public reply comment due date of February 1, 2023. Technical Lead Pao said one (1) set of comments in support was received on January 17, 2023, with no reply comments in opposition. Technical Lead Pao further mentioned the public comment period was closed, with the matter under submission with the FCC. Technical Lead Pao said the Authority expects the notice in April or May 2023, with hopes of a positive ruling outcome.

This concluded the report on Agenda Item D presented by Technical Lead Pao. There was no further discussion.

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E. **County of Los Angeles Fire Department, NMDM Subsystem Cutover Update**
– Alternate Technical Lead England

Technical Lead Alternate Lead England shared that Narrowband Mobil Data Network (NMDN) is used by the County of Los Angeles Fire Department (LACoFD) to supplement and augment the cellular services. Technical Alternate Lead England said typically when LACoFD has fires they lose the cellular service while driving in wildlife areas. Alternate Technical Lead England further stated that LACoFD does not have that kind of coverage and depends on NMDN as one of the primary alerting dispatch systems. Alternate Technical Lead England said LACoFD cut over to the new LA-RICS system, which has been working really well. Technical Alternate Lead England reported that today is a very challenging day due to the weather, with a site being down, and the system is still resilient with coverage from multiple different sites. Alternate Technical Lead England further reported that all of the fire stations and all of the vehicles are up and going and there is minimal impact to the actual operations. Alternate Technical Lead England said that LACoFD has been working with their internal services, as well as with the MSI groups for maintenance and sustainment. Technical Alternate Lead England stated the process for communicating the calls with all the back and forth with the different agencies has been working really well. Alternate Technical Lead England said LACoFD has been happy and looks forward to the Phase 2 cutover which is the second layer of sites. Alternate Technical Lead England asked if there were any questions.

Technical Alternate Lead England further mentioned that data systems are open and available. Alternate Technical Lead England shared that what is now being done is a standardized interface, which the LACoFD is able to communicate that with CAL FIRE. Alternate Technical Lead England stated that LACoFD used the standardized interface to transmit all of the Automotive Vehicle Location (AVL) information to CAL FIRE which they are able to send their information over to LACoFD and are able to see every Agency on its AVL and Mobile Data Computer (MDC) systems via that standardized interface. Alternate Technical Lead England believes it is revolutionary to LACoFD. Alternate Technical Lead England said the LACoFD was able to filter them by incidents, agencies, and by actual Memorandum of Understanding (MOUs). Alternate Technical Lead England concludes his report by saying that those agencies are also creating Method of Procedure (MOP) of all the different agencies and expressed excitement in being able to take it to the next step.

There was no further discussion.

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VII.   DISCUSSION ITEMS – (F)

F.   LA-RICS System Management and Site Access Profile Management – Operations Lead Lt. Weber and Technical Lead Pao

Site Access Management

Technical Lead Pao stated that on the P25 trunking system, Digital Trunk Voice Radio Subsystem (DTVRS) the Authority has a number of sites to cover the County of Los Angeles.   Technical Lead Pao explained that because the County being so large and with the challenging topography, the sites are grouped by what is called a "simulcast cell".   Technical Lead Pao said that for example the Los Angeles basin being flat and then the Angeles National Forest including the Antelope Valley area, which results in them being broken into many simulcast cells.

Technical Lead Pao stated that in the management of Talkgroups for a trunk system, it is preferred to the have the Talkgroup service area, for instance the local Police Department (PD) or a local Station operate within an area of one (1), two (2), or three (3) simulcast cells. Technical Lead Pao further stated that it would allow other cells to support other agencies elsewhere. Technical Lead Pao said if we provision a Talkgroup to talk a "so called" System-wide or Countywide that would light up all cells. Technical Lead Pao continued by saying that it could potentially start running into resource congestion. Technical Lead Pao went on to say that end-users could be affected and would experience a bonk tone when trying to talk due to another group talking, who may be lighting up all sites Countywide. Technical Lead Pao went on to explain that it would take a resource from every single site. Technical Lead Pao mentioned that instead, by limiting that particular Talkgroup to a service area, it is possible to free up other cells and allow other agencies to operate and talk.

Technical Lead Pao further said the Authority understands that there are a lot of services such as Law Enforcement and LACoFD, that requires Countywide communications, this is where a discussion is needed amongst the group on how to manage resources to possibly allow having local Talkgroups, area Talkgroups, and County Talkgroups, as well as being able to talk Countywide.

Operations Management

Operations Lead Lt. Weber commented that from an operational standpoint this is very important because the Authority does not want to shut down the system, the Authority needs to have the system available for the emergency responders who have their feet on the ground. Operations Lead Lt. Weber mentioned that at this point it is not a problem, but it is an issue that could be a problem in the future. Operations Lead Lt. Weber believes this is why the Authority would like to address

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the issue and start getting input, as well as coming up with different ways and avenues to address it. Operations Lead Lt. Weber said one way to address this issue is by monitoring the system, then doing the site access as the Authority moves forward. Operations Lead Lt. Weber stated, as the Joint Technical and Operations team, they do not feel that it is the best way to go, there are some other technologies available that can be integrated throughout ISSI and push to talk system, which would allow control and still give the Authority the ability to have Countywide listening ability.

Operations Lead Lt. Weber presented some guests that are SMEs in their fields of expertise here today from the LASD Special Enforcement Bureau (SEB) to give us some examples of situations where they would be responding to something from one side of the County. Operations Lead Lt. Weber provided an example of officers being in one cell, probably in Monterey Park, as they would be responding to something out in Palmdale, and while responding they would be able to listen as well. Operations Lead Lt. Weber introduced the SMEs, Sergeant Edwardo Sanchez, Deputy Andrew Smith (LASD Special Weapons and Tactics [SWAT]), and Lieutenant Santiago Cabrera (SEB).

Deputy Smith said the Special Enforcement Bureau provides tactical expertise to the entire County of Los Angeles and various smaller Agencies. Deputy Smith stated the LASD SEB deals with armed barricade suspects and the most important operations are hostage rescues. Deputy Smith stated that hostage rescues are completely driven by intelligence, e.g., in December 2022, in the outskirts of the City of Lancaster, at 1:30 a.m. a father held his 17-month year old son hostage at gun point, which was a Code 3 (Response is needed). Deputy Smith said that as the call went off, LASD law enforcement all responded from their homes. Deputy Smith said he lives outside the County (he lived in Orange County) and is about one (1) hour and ten (10) minutes away and stated that distance time is vital. Therefore, Deputy Smith said he was able to hear from Deputies and what was happening in the field. Deputy Smith mentioned, being a marksman or a sniper for instance, cannot be learning the intelligence once they land, they need every minute of time and every update possible, and understanding that they may have to intervene once they touch ground. Deputy Smith said he is the fourth (4th) man on his team, which is the sole Intel for the entire team once they land. Deputy Smith went on to say as the story develops it is never immediately clear what gets called into the desk, patrol might say this is what is happening, but law enforcement can tell by the tone of voice what is being said, officers can ask questions and modify our responses based on them. Deputy Smith mentioned that at least from their standpoint, officers have to have the ability to listen and communicate to the team on the ground. Deputy Smith concluded his scenario, t which Operations Lead Lt. Weber thanked Deputy Smith.

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Technical Lead Pao posed Deputy Smith a question of what if while driving to the particular scene if officers would be monitoring that particular station's working channels.

Deputy Smith responded yes, that as soon as a request is made and the Special Enforcement Bureau (SEB) is activated, the address and the location Command Post (CP) and their working frequency is sent on LASD text. Deputy Smith said that officers immediately switch to handheld or their car radios to that working frequency, so they can hear what is going on with those Deputies. Deputy Smith further stated this is the most important bit of the Intel, it is preferable to hear Intel firsthand than second hand, and the case is being built with precise information. Deputy Smith stated that LASD Scouts, the guys in charge, the Deputies, are at the point where they are directing patrols to do stuff before officers even get there. Deputy Smith said it has got to be two-way, officers need to receive information and they need to give them tactical advice over the radio and one of LASD Scouts lives in Menifee (Riverside County), which is a long drive.

Sgt. Sanchez joined the conversation and added to Operations Lead Lt. Weber's scenario, that at the same time, they always have someone monitoring the radio here in Monterey Park, and constantly scanning. Sgt. Sanchez went on to say that if the officers monitoring the radio hear emergent traffic, they would focus on it and prior to officers making a call to a Lieutenant or a Sergeant. Sgt. Sanchez further said that if there would be Deputies in Lancaster or if they are on an operation in Lancaster, the Lancaster Deputy would get on the radio and state if there is an active shooter currently happening at that moment and would announce their location. Sgt. Sanchez mentioned the need to have the ability to communicate with them from the basin to the Antelope Valley and vice-versa to give direction and critical information.

Technical Lead Pao responded by saying he is familiar with the LASD Radio system and knows that LASD does not operate everywhere in the County and asked how they deal with radio communication. Technical Lead Pao said that for instance, Santa Clarita or Lancaster channels are in north County, Orange County or Menifee are not going to be able to monitor very well.

Sgt. Sanchez stated that when they are on the dispatch frequencies, they are good no matter what, regardless if they are in Palmdale or Lancaster. Sgt. Sanchez said the only instance where the situation was weird was A-TAC-1 Talkgroup. Sgt. Sanchez would be received in Norwalk, but it would be piecemeal in Orange County. Sgt. Sanchez stated it was the only frequency that had a problem with distance, the rest of the LTAC were good, including the Lancaster and Palmdale LTAC Talkgroups. Sgt. Sanchez continued to express that dispatch frequencies were always good, but A-TAC-1, which is the local area tactical Channel in Orange County was a little weird, but they ended up getting it. Sgt. Sanchez mentioned he

would rather have it rollout in ten (10) minutes, which he currently has fifteen (15) minutes of listening to it.

Alternate Technical Lead England commented that dispatch infrastructure is built in the Antelope Valley, it is not built down here. Alternate Technical Lead England mentioned they are listening from afar, on the fringes. Technical Lead Pao responded by saying the Authority has FRP site, which has a pretty big footprint.

Executive Director Edson based his comment on Technical Lead Pao's opening scenario, what he heard was that there are tactical frequencies that are available, but what the Authority looks for how technologies and operations can work this out. Executive Director Edson stated that ideally there is going to be an operational procedure that will come out of this, with the technology adjusted based on that operational procedure. Executive Director Edson clarified the Authority hears the business need for wanting to hear what is taking place as early as possible so the Deputies can start forming in their mind what their strategy would be so when the full team arrives, they can deploy them appropriately and have good intelligence to properly address that situation. Executive Director Edson said he is also hearing they make tactical channels available, and it is not uncommon for the Deputy's team to be listening in on a tactical channel because they have changed out the dispatch and they have gone into an LTAC Talkgroup or an area Area TAC or Tactical channel.

Executive Director Edson asked, if there were an SEB call out situation, for instance, with five (5) Countywide or ten (10) channels available, on an event that is going to be a swap-out callout, it would seem appropriate for that station to operationally then turn over to Countywide Tactical 1. Executive Director Edson continued by saying they would then receive the notification, which they would be told they were operating on Countywide Tactical 1. Executive Director Edson said and as soon as they hit any repeater on any of the Authority's fifty-eight (58) sites that are accessed, they would be able to pick up that particular incident. Executive Director Edson wonders if it is a potential operational solution. Technical Lead Pao said that from a technical point of view, yes.

Executive Director Edson expressed that in that scenario, it was better than having everything on. Executive Director Edson said that it may not fix it, but for instance, if the SEB Desk Deputy is listening to dispatch channels and hears some activity then they go to a L TAC Talkgroup but wants to switch to LTAC Talkgroup to hear what is going on, at this point the Desk Deputy would be able to access that it would be a call-out. Executive Director Edson continued to say that since it is not an official call-out yet, the Deputy is probably alerting the team and he would need the ability to listen to all the stationed dispatches in LTAC Talkgroups for the purposes of being "alert" and to better provide the team with advanced notification as possible. Executive Director Edson believes that it could be done with a scanner

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versus a radio, but then again, that brings the discussion into encryption issues. Alternate Technical Lead England brought up the ESChat service.

Executive Director Edson asked SEB if they continue to have ESChat, the ability to Push-to-Talk (PTT) service on the phones to access different radio channels, which they should have on their phones since it was added a few years ago. Executive Director Edson said ESChat is a service the Authority intends to provide at LA-RICS, which means there is a menu with all the dispatch, tactical, and Countywide channels, he said there would be a lot of channels on the phone. Executive Director Edson mentioned theoretically, it is possible to have all of the dispatch channels on the phone. Executive Director Edson provided the Committees with an example of being able to set-up a phone on the dispatch channel, whereas, if the officer is in the car, they put one on Countywide and the other one on Special Units Dispatch (SUD), which then it operates. Executive Director Edson mentioned the other issue is that SUD would have to take up a Countywide channel, which it currently does, therefore, today that needs to be taken into consideration. Executive Director Edson stated there is an opportunity for PTT.

Committee Member Fire Chief Calhoun wondered if there is a subscription series to ESChat, as well if it is possible to configure a Talkgroup which includes encryption. Joint Committee Member Fire Chief Calhoun stated that on the backside, it be possible to add people that may not have the encryption for a particular event, then be removed from access to that event as well. Committee Member Fire Chief Calhoun further stated that it has the capability for people who do not have that program. Executive Director Edson agreed with Committee Member Fire Chief Calhoun.

Operations Lead Lt. Weber shared that from an operational standpoint he believes that ESChat Push to Talk (PTT) has strong possibilities and the Authority has even in the past tested ESChat with several specialized units, which is what Executive Director Edson was alluding to.

Operations Lead Lt. Weber introduced Deputy Kambara from the Aero Bureau to tell the group what her thoughts are on the issue and how it would affect how Aero Bureau operates and since often times there are limitation on their airships which are coming out of Long Beach.

Deputy Rene Kambara stated that similar to the issues that SEB would have, Aero also operates on a Countywide basis. Deputy Kambara stated the airships have jurisdiction of the whole County of Los Angeles, it is not uncommon to enter into Orange County for a pursuit. Deputy Kambara shared an incident that originated in Lakewood and quickly moving into Anaheim, Buena Park or even further. Deputy Kambara said that in those instances Aero would need to talk to the originating Sheriff Station that began the pursuit, even if Aero hands it off to the Orange County

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agencies. Deputy Kambara expressed that aside from that, when Aero responds to calls, just like SEB, if something is emergent in Lancaster, Aero could be responding from Long Beach, Compton, Lomita, wherever, they are listening. Deputy Kambara stated, similar to SEB issues, Aero needs all of the information they can get. Deputy Kambara said it is not uncommon for the helicopter deputies and aero deputies to set-up a containment in the event the ground units that are tied up in a pursuit. Deputy Kambara expressed this would have detrimental effects if Aero went to a regional type of talk. Operations Lead Lt. Weber understood that if the Aero deputies could be doing this from a significant distance away.

Operations Lead Lt. Weber stated that what he understood Technical Lead Pao said in regards to how it would affect the problem for Aero Bureau units, as well as understood there was a difference between the Aero units, once in the air ,they will hit the towers more readily than somebody on the ground, but wondered what the effect it would have and how it would affect the problem for Aero Bureau.

Technical Lead Pao said that once Aero is above ground, they can see a lot of sites verses ground units as sometimes they are limited to how many sites they can see. Technical Lead Pao continued by saying that depending on the elevation of the flight they would be able to see a good percentage of the Authority's sites in the basin including North County and the Los Angeles National Forest that does help in their case when operating. Technical Lead Pao went on to say that just like SEB, the Technical team would have to take a look at Aero Bureau's needs much more closely and see how to fulfill their needs, as well as being able to manage the Authority's resources as efficiently as possible.

Alternate Technical Lead England asked if Aero was currently working on a regional system that works for them.

Alternate Technical Lead England mentioned that for instance, Antelope Valley dispatch 15 and sites are being added to those platforms. Alternate Technical Lead England said, therefore hypothetically, Antelope Valley has had the same sites that have not changed, and everyone has been set up to operate on the system, the sites are available to use when out in the area.

Alternate Technical Lead England expressed that if it modeled as the Authority is currently doing so and giving the ability to put in Countywide channels allowing really good coverage and the use of ESChat.

Alternate Technical Lead England further expressed the Authority is adding Countywide and ESChat, therefore, two (2) different layers of operations would be available.

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Alternate Technical Lead England stated nothing is being taken away, but two (2) layers of extra communications was being added. Alternate Technical Lead England mentioned from listening to the situation from the outside is his understanding.

Deputy Smith concurred and provided an example of a scenario in which Palmdale goes to a duplex patch and they are notified of an active shooter that is holding six (6) people hostage at a school, as the team rushes to the helipads to board an Air Ship (which take 20 minutes to get to the helipads), Deputy Smith said the most important thing is knowing what is happening at that very moment. Deputy Smith expressed that it is literally a life and death Intel, in which Intel drives that life and death situation, they need as much of the live information as possible while are setting up. Deputy Smith stated that as long as it is not cut out, it is 100 percent good. Deputy Smith continued before the encryption ability with ATAC, the existing system was not audible until getting into the lower basin but now it is crystal clear and perfect.

Executive Director Edson mention to Alternate Technical Lead England's point on ESChat, if there was heads-up to start monitoring dispatch fifteen (15) and they used their smartphones, it will be able to be heard anywhere no matter where you are, Orange County or Menifee. Executive Director Edson continued that it would be able to be heard while suiting up.

Executive Director Edson questioned whether they have to hear dispatch 15 while on the mobile and portable immediately or if they would be okay with there being a slight delay while the station is changing over to a Countywide tactical. Executive Director Edson continued that it is possible to stay on the phone for dispatch 15 forever, but at some point, if a mobile or portable needs to be used, it might be more operationally and more technically advantages to turn everyone over to A TAC and then skip listening to dispatch on mobile or portables.

Deputy Smith inquired if the delay mentioned by Executive Director Edson occurs when the patch is drawn, and they go to ATAC. Executive Director Edson affirmed Deputy Smith's inquiry that was correct. That is acceptable operationally and be an operational issue that can be adjusted to.

Sgt. Sanchez confirmed yes exactly, that is acceptable as an operational issue, and it is what is done now by switching over to a radio check for example. Sgt. Sanchez continued that people in certain encrypted positions are actually monitoring the frequency to switch over to. Deputy Kambara stated the Aero bureau does not have ESChat.

Executive Director Edson concurred that Aero Bureau does not have ESChat. Executive Director Edson believes that from an Aero Bureau standpoint, it would

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be a little more difficult because most of the Aero Bureau immediate responses happen from the dispatch channel, such as an alert or being alerted to an event happening on a dispatch channel and changing over to the channel and they you might be flying across County to get to that call.

Executive Director Edson mentioned that it would be similar to a situation when the Covina or Claremont police departments, for instance, received a pursuit call that started heading Westbound on the 10 Freeway, and these pursuits seem to go on forever, when suddenly they are going Southbound on the 110 Freeway and they are transitioning all of the sites that they go through to get there, yet there is an ability to be on a dispatch channel typically for the region they are in.

Executive Director Edson further mentioned that officers are outside their footprint and the system is not necessarily programmed to allow them to be outside of the footprint. Executive Director Edson went on to say that operationally, they have to change to a tactical frequency during a pursuit and if it is going to leave a footprint, they would want to have a tactical procedure in place to leave that dispatch channel and change over to a tactical frequency of some kind. Executive Director Edson also said that it is similar to Aero Bureau, where the police department for the most part stays within their jurisdiction, but once they leave it, one of the biggest reasons for them to leave is due to a pursuit.

Sergeant Sanchez added there was an incident recently where a police officer was shot in Arcadia and the team was at an operation in Lancaster. Sgt. Sanchez continued, the initial radio traffic was that he was pinned down and the suspect was still actively shooting. Sgt. Sanchez The team was driving down Code 3 and requesting Aero to pick them up to get them down closer and faster and one of the problems that they came across was that they received third-hand information from Arcadia PD and they do have mutual aid. Sgt. Sanchez asked if this could be addressed in this segment. Executive Director Edson stated it is going to get better.

Sgt. Sanchez continued by saying that it is mutual aid, it would be great if when they are on the telephone, they are able to relay information to and from the Sheriff Deputies. Sgt. Sanchez stated that true mutual aid has been used before in training where they were able to talk to one another clear as day but wondered that if in those cases would there be some type of system or something that could help.

Technical Lead Pao answered yes that we do have a system. Technical Lead Pao further stated that Arcadia PD is part of ICI and there is what is called an "ISSI connection" with them, it is a matter of, operationally, your team needs to work out how to do that. Technical Lead Pao explained further, technically, the two systems are connected, and they can make that happen.

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Executive Director Edson stated Now they are connected, and the delivery system is new as you know, and the ICI system has been around, and we have an interconnection with ICI which means that our system can talk to anybody who is on the ICI system just as if it is another Sheriff's Department.

Executive Director Edson continued that Operations Lead Lt. Weber is here from the LASD to be assigned to the program for the purpose of helping your department to build operational procedures for those kinds of business needs.

Executive Director Edson stated that as the radio system is rolled out, there will be more operational opportunities and more operational policies that will help fill those gaps and hope to have a lot of independent police departments on the system as well that are directly connected, not necessarily through an interface, and those will be just like driving past another Sheriff's Department.

Alternate Technical Lead England went on to add that it was exciting to have had LARTCS that was patching everything together. Alternate Technical Lead England said the new system is Countywide coverage, analog channels, old school with two (2) ow band channels, five (5) VHF (Very High Frequency) channels, five (5) Ultra High Frequency (UHF) channels, and five (5) 800 MHz (Megahertz) channels, they all fall mutually with operations. It can easily translate that county coverage everywhere and being about to incorporate that into operations would be really beneficial as well, especially into a situation like that.

Deputy Kambara mentioned that Executive Director Edson brought up a point for a local police department and what is the business reason for them to leave their so-called region or reporting district. Deputy Kambara shared an example which happened over the weekend, the Century Sheriff station in the and the Florence Firestone district area had a robbery call at one of their local businesses. Deputy Kambara detailed the scenario and further shared that when the suspect was getting away with their loot and stolen items the store managers had placed a GPS tracking devise within the stolen items. Deputy Kambara said that deputies on the ground were not on the scene as of yet, however, the Century Sheriff's station's dispatch was on the phone with the business owner providing updates. Deputy Kambara further said the business owner was providing location/direction as to where the GPS was pinging. Deputy Kambara provided an example that as the minutes went on the suspect with the stolen item indicated that they were tracking further and further away from Century Station's jurisdiction. Deputy Kambara continued to detail the scenario and said that by the time that deputies could have coordinated anything the suspect was well into Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) and Downtown Los Angeles area, while continuing further north. Deputy Kambara expressed this is not an uncommon situation either, and it would be a shame if the radio communications systems were not available outside the immediate area.

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Operations Lead Lt. Weber responded from an operational standpoint Deputy Kambara has brought up a very good example and he reported the Authority radios are equipped with those frequencies, and although LAPD is a little different system, Aero Bureau acts as the conduit between the LAPD and the Authority.

Operations Lead Lt. Weber continued, the Authority hopes from an operational standpoint to make that more standardized with LAPD, along with all the other agencies and as far as the Authority's channels and the SEB, those are outstanding examples of what the system can do and the bottom line is the Authority is formulating and coming up with the operational plans to make those things happen because with the ISSI connection it can connect Deputy Kamabara in.

Operations Lead Lt. Weber continued that even the incident here in Monterey Park when they found the suspect in Torrance the Authority had the ability, the Authority just did not have the operations in, because the Authority is bringing in LA-RICS online as these things are happening and that information wasn't quite where it needed to be, the Authority ended up brining analog and digital channels together in order to communicate with Torrance Ca. and that is never the best case scenario. Operations Lead Lt. Weber said, it sounded to him that there is definitely very good information or evidence that push to talk is good for the Authority in the future for the stuff that Deputy Cabrera was talking about and possibly investigating further regional tactical channels to make these things work.

Operations Lead Lt. Weber explained the difference with the LASD, from an operational perspective, and said the stations never had these tactical channels specifically assigned to them and with the new LA-RICS system assigned to the LASD, they will have their own LTAC Talkgroup assigned to the LASD, Detective Bureau Talkgroup and their own Metro Talkgroup. Operations Lead Lt. Weber believes that leaves a lot more of a wide-open area and the Authority, with full station testing, had several incidents where the stations ended up on the Metro Talkgroup, and they are handling this on their Metro and it ends up going all the way through.

Operations Lead Lt. Weber further added the Authority would have to take a hard look at what is being done and see if a tactical, or maybe figuring out when a Regional Tactical Talkgroup or Countywide Tactical Talkgroup would be more appropriate for those kinds of situations and when is the Authority going to get them to switch the Sheriff has given out new tools at the stations and Operations Lead Lt. Weber gestured that the others have seen them and they are being used already. Operations Lead Lt. Weber continued, the technology is pretty amazing and can do a lot of things so with your input the Authority hopes to formulate the best operational procedures to make it work and there is still a lot to come so we really do appreciate any input, and asked any of the Operations and Technical Members from the police department had any input.

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Operations Committee Member Fate said that one of the things to consider is tactical operations, if the Authority were to silo off radio systems into groups that would need to be done very thoughtfully. Operations Committee Member Fate recalled that a few years ago that some agencies on the air were on VHF and some others were on UHF. Operations Committee Member Fate continued that those cities that had the ease of operation at a very base level, the average for patrolmen, Community Service Officer (CSO). Operations Committee Member Fate continued, those agencies work well together and the other ones almost didn't exist because it was difficult to communicate, and if it if it's difficult or takes extra steps, it will create further silos and if they are on the day-to-day operations, stuff, it's great if you're in person and you can switch to a tactical channel where you know you're going draw on other agencies, but just on a day-to-day operation, if Operations Committee Member Fate wanted to know what's going on in his neighboring city or two cities over, or Covina and Claremont, which are both in the east end of the valley, if something is going on in Claremont, Operations Committee Member Fate wants to be able to listen to it and not have to bug Chief Aaron Fate on the cell phone about what's going on in his city. Operations Committee Member Fate thought trading those areas and being very thoughtful about it something to plan for if that is the direction it is going.

Operations Lead Weber wholeheartedly agreed with Operations Committee Member Fate, as well as basing it on his experience feels that if the Authority makes it too hard for the officers, deputies, public safety people, feet on the ground, then it would not work and live up to its full potential.

Operations Lead Weber said the Authority does not believe that restrictions would affect that type of operation where the Authority has entities that are close together. Operations Lead Weber expresses the Authority has a bigger issue when things are spread out across the County, that is from dealings in Long Beach to all the way up in Santa Clarita or some distance across the County.

Operations Lead Weber reiterated, the Authority wholeheartedly agreed with Operations Committee Member Fate this should not be restrictive in a way that makes it too onerous for the people that are the feet on the ground but to try to get the job done and keep our community safe.

Alternate Technical Lead England mentioned it is not boundary specific, the County is so large, and the Authority does not want to burn all of the resources. Alternate Technical Lead England said, the majority of the work is going to be here, and it is modeled after what the current systems are right now, it is the same type of infrastructure and same type of coverage and that is where the bulk of the work is.

Alternate Technical Lead England added, where it is appropriate, received are these tactical ones that are Countywide, so the system is not overloading our day-

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to-day resources and when using PTT, it doesn't "busy" out for the deputies. Alternate Technical Lead England further said, it is the balance of what is done day-to-day, and it is not going to drop off at the end of it, it is pretty much the same coverage that is being received now in those areas, which are pretty large. Alternate Technical Lead England continued, then getting those areas like Antelope Valley driving over to the other area and go on to those tactical channels and give the deputies the resources. Alternate Technical Lead England said further, this is incredible, there is no black and white here that is what the Authority had before, and are building off of that model, and doing the loading off of that model and talking about what is appropriate for regionals systems and giving even LTE resources. Alternate Technical Lead England added, this is some exciting stuff, the groups perspective here is really, really important, testing, validating, modeling and just because it is set up this way doesn't mean it just needs to be that way.

Technical Alternate Lead England continued, it is the deputies who go out into the field and all of us working together to make it the best.

Captain Walczak, added, even if you are not in that region, and situational awareness is needed, there will still be the ability to go up to ESChat that are not in your region and if you are on standby for a resource service, something like that.

Alternate Technical Lead England added, someone may be in Sacramento at a meeting for instance, this happens, they can start to dial in to see what is going on while flying back and knowing what they will be engaged in, this is some great stuff, however, the more the group attending works together, the better it is going to be.

Operations Lead Weber replied, that Alternate Technical Lead England brought up the key to this and that is there has to be a balance, on the one hand the system has to be managed so that it works appropriately for the people that are feet on the ground but on the other hand, we have to get the input from the field experts to make sure that it is done in a way that works for them that it is not too onerous for the people feet on the ground or the specialize units. Operations Lead Weber asked if there was any other input from the group of attendees.

Operations Committee Member Fate added, to Alternate Technical Lead England's point, the likelihood of, let's say a city like Claremont. having to talk Countywide is very slim, it does not happen that often. Someone brought up a pursuit as example, that is probably the most common reasons for it, right now, it is going to operate very similar to the way this is being constructed, and it will actually be even easier to, because right now, it is a call to Sheriff's communication, trying to clear mutual aid channel. We switch over to that in the car and on the portable handheld radios,

Operations Committee Member Fate further added then we go and we're good for the county. Operations Committee Member Fate added, the one issue that we run

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into with being the last outpost of County of Los Angeles on the eastern edge of the world is that we've got San Bernardino on the other side that it would create some additional radio challenges for us as far as mutual goes. Operations Committee Member Fate said but also to Rick's point, it doesn't happen that often, but let's say he's got a shooting in his city and he is asking for extra resources and we all get there, there is just in our local San Gabriel Valley area, there is VHF, UHF, 800 and the communication center is saying, "patch this one to this and patch this one to that" and you have people out there in the field saying, "here just take my spare radio".

Speaker Operations Committee Member Fate added, so you've got these cops out there with two or three radios trying to communicate and it sounds like this is really going to tie in all of those things, just knowing that they need to speak Countywide all of the time.

Speaker Operations Committee Member Fate added they don't need that ability and theirs is going to be very specialized and it is going to be with unique circumstances involved, and it also might involve other Countywide resources, for instance, if we are in a pursuit and ended up with a barricaded suspect somewhere deep into Los Angeles County, they are probably going to want to listen to what we're saying also, and Operations Committee Member Fate thinks operationally it sounds like things are going good and like what was said, the days of passing each other a portable handheld radio is going to what is being dealt with now, is pretty exciting.

Alternate Technical Lead England said, for the next Joint Operations and Technical meeting, the attendees can present on the Antelope mutual aid and go over what and where these systems work for them and the Authority will be able to present what is there, but the attendees are going to have to come up with the plans on how to use it and the Authority can definitely work with them to help technically what we can but in the end, Alternate Technical Lead England posed the question, how are the attendees going to use them? These plans need to be pre-established, pre-practiced setting the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs).

Executive Director Edson added another scenario he presented and using Joint Committee Member Leslie Luke from the Office of Emergency Management, (OEM) and talked about emergency management a bit. Executive Director Edson continued, this effects Police more so than Fire to some degree, but when there is a major disturbance in County of Los Angeles, it is not uncommon for the civil defense areas to activate, and to say, the area G cities will all be activated and sent down, including the Police department to the beach area to help with a riot going on, on the pier. Executive Director Edson continued, those cities that are leaving one part of the County to go to another part of the County to help under mutual aid and such for this disturbance are going to need to have the ability to talk from the

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same radio that one officer is holding to the same radio the other officer is holding. Executive Director Edson said the solution to that scenario is, that the radio's in the region will be similarly programmed and for instance, Claremont had to respond to Huntington Park to help with some civil disturbance, and it is not within the Claremont footprint, all they have to do is switch to a Huntington Park footprint, tactical channel, or regional channel or Metro channel that is designated to the particular event and without ever having to exchange radios or dial in any frequencies, they will be able to assist with that event, Executive Director Edson asked Technical Lead Pao if that was correct.

Technical Lead Pao responded that it was correct if the radio has been programmed properly, yes.

Executive Director Edson continued by asking Mr. Leslie Luke if that was a possible or routine operational emergency civil defense kind of thing?

Mr. Leslie Luke of the Office of Emergency Management responded that is available, or going back to the Woolsey Fire when we had everyone going out there from all over the County, both law enforcement and fire.

Alternate Technical Lead England added one of the good things about the Woolsey Fire the Authority did a lot of the fire fighting on the VHF channels and they were used at just thirteen (13) sites. Alternate Technical Lead England continued as we migrate them to the Los Angeles Regional Tactical Communications System LARTCS, part of the LA-RICS system.

Alternate Technical Lead England asked Technical Lead Pao if it went out to twenty-nine sites. Technical Lead Pao responded it went out to twenty-two (22) sites. Alternate Technical Lead England continued that twenty-two (22) sites was a significant increase in coverage, and not only does the Authority have the VHF, they also have the UHF and 800 even Low Band, there are a lot more tools for disposal to be able to incorporate communications like that.

Alternate Technical Lead England added at the Woolsey fire, they lost all the cell phone coverage and everything else out there and were able to seamlessly migrate into the NMDN and still the Authority had coverage. Alternate Technical Lead England continued they were able to get their calls and all of the radio information. Alternate Technical Lead England further said this level of redundancy and having operations, it is seamless and part of the normal day-to-day that takes advantage of these levels of redundancy becomes key and now the Authority has so many more resources, this is pretty exciting, the Authority just has to make sure that the Authority is seriously using these resources and when they are being used, they are being incorporated and taking in to mind the redundancy and how it works,

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because the guy in the field doesn't want to change channels or doesn't want to move things around, he just wants to deal with what is in front of him.

Fire Chief Committee Member Calhoun said, it just needs to work.

Alternate Technical Lead England concurred with the Speaker and said, if the Authority can turn it around and focus on that platform, this whole infrastructure for that has the tools here. Alternate Technical Lead England continued that it is just working with each other to come up with the processes and procedures.

Fire Chief Committee Member Calhoun added there are a lot of resources now, it is just getting the processes to match the resources now.

Technical Lead Pao concurred with the Speaker and said yes absolutely. Technical Lead Pao continued; the Digital Trunk Voice Radio System (DTVRS) is going to offer a lot more tools than the Sheriff has been used to for the last thirty years and on top of that the Authority built out the analog system which is called Los Angeles Regional Tactical Communications System (LARTCS), it is for anybody that is currently not on the trunking system, that falls back onto analog which doesn't require much pre-programming as a trunk system.

Technical Lead Pao continued, all of these tools are available now and need to figure out how to use them.

Fire Chief Committee Member Calhoun commented it is not necessary to have the Los Angeles Regional Tactical Communications System, (LARTCS) in your system, only analog convention.

Technical Lead Pao concurred with the Speaker, it is not necessary to have a system key to program it and there is both analog and digital to offer the whole region to utilize.

Operations Lead Lt. Weber stated, from an operational standpoint, speaking from the LA-RICS perspective and from the Sheriff department's perspective, the Authority looks forward to the technology that we have with what we're getting with LA-RICS to be able to affect big incidents and collaborate with the OEM and to bring to bear more resources. Operations Lead Lt. Weber continued, the more resources the Authority can bring to bear, the better communication we have and the better chances we have, especially in an area like that especially in an area like that where it's canyons, it's, it's a tough area to communicate in but it is a lot better now and it is still tough out there. Operations Lead Lt. Weber added the Authority did a bunch of testing out there recently for Lost Hills station and it is a much better system for the deputies and the fire fighters and the OEM personnel but it is still a very challenging terrain and the Authority really does look forward to collaborating

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more as moving on because there is a lot more that the system can do. Operations Lead Lt. Weber state the Authority, literally, metaphorically speaking driving a 1980 Chevy Caprice right now, correct Sir? Operations Lead Lt. Weber said referring to the current system and this is a 2023 Police interceptor or the brand new fire truck that has all the new technology available, it is the P-25 Phase 2. Operations Lead Lt. Weber added, it is a matter of how the Authority is going to figure out how to best utilize it to best serve the citizens of County of Los Angeles.

Operations Lead Lt. Weber continued, with that being said, the meeting would move on unless anybody had any comments in regard to this issue. The Authority got some very good input and it will be very helpful for the Authority with this issue moving forward.

VIII. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS – NONE

IX. MISCELLANEOUS – NONE

X. ITEMS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION BY THE COMMITTEE – NONE

XI. CLOSED SESSION REPORT – NONE

XII. ADJOURNMENT AND NEXT MEETING

Operations Lead Weber called for a motion to adjourn the Regular Joint Committee Meeting. Technical Lead Pao motioned first.

Operations Lead Weber adjourned the Regular Joint Operations and Technical Committee Meeting at 2:33 p.m. and the next Joint Committee Meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 20, 2023, at 1:30 p.m., at the LA-RICS Headquarters, 2525 Corporate Place, Suite 200, Large Conference Room, Monterey Park, California, via in person and using Microsoft Teams Meeting.

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