



# JOINT OPERATIONS AND TECHNICAL COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

**LOS ANGELES REGIONAL INTEROPERABLE  
COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM AUTHORITY**

Tuesday, July 18, 2023 • 1:30 p.m.

<b>OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:</b>
Leslie Luke, County of Los Angeles, Chief Executive Office
Dayton Calhoun, County of Los Angeles Fire Department
David Sum, County of Los Angeles Sheriff's Department
Adam Martinez, County of Los Angeles Department of Children Services
Vincent Capelle, Los Angeles Area Fire Chiefs Association
Aaron Fate, Los Angeles County Police Chiefs Association
Jeff LaGreek, At-Large Seat #9
<b>OPERATIONS ALTERNATE COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:</b>
Shannon Robledo, Los Angeles County Police Chiefs Association
Ric Walczak, At-Large Seat #8
<b>OPERATION COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT/VACANT:</b>
Vacant, California Contract Cities Association
Vacant, At-Large Seat #10

<b>TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:</b>
Leslie Luke, County of Los Angeles, Chief Executive Office
David Sum, County of Los Angeles Sheriff's Department
Lipin Tan, County of Los Angeles Department of Health Services
Vincent Capelle, Los Angeles Area Fire Chiefs Association
Ted Pao, Chair, Los Angeles County Internal Services Department
Jeff LaGreek, At-Large Seat #9
<b>TECHNICAL ALTERNATE COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:</b>
Dayton Calhoun, County of Los Angeles Fire Department
<b>TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT/VACANT:</b>
Scott England, Vice-Chair, County of Los Angeles Fire Department
Vacant, California Contract Cities Association
Vacant, At-Large Seat #10

<b>OFFICERS PRESENT:</b>
Scott Edson, LA-RICS Executive Director
Beatriz Cojulun, LA-RICS Committee Secretary



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

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Technical Lead Ted Pao chaired the meeting today due to Operations Committee Chair Lieutenant Robert Weber was out of town on business. Technical Lead Ted Pao called the meeting to order at 1:33 p.m.

**II. ANNOUNCE QUORUM – ROLL CALL**

Committee Secretary Beatriz Cojulun said there was quorum present for both Joint Operations and Technical Committees (Joint Committees).

**III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – (A -C)**

**A. March 21, 2023 – Regular Meeting Minutes**

Agenda Item A

**B. May 2, 2023 – Special Meeting Minutes**

Agenda Item B

**C. June 20, 2023 – Regular Meeting Minutes**

Agenda Item C

Technical Lead Pao asked the Committees for approval of the minutes.

Joint Committee Member Vincent Capelle motioned first; Joint Committee Member Leslie Luke motioned second.

Operations Committee

Ayes 9: Luke, Calhoun, Sum, Capelle, Ambrose, Fate, Robledo, Walczak, LaGreek.

Technical Committee

Ayes 9: Luke, Calhoun, Sum, Tan, Capelle, Ambrose, Pao, Walczak, LaGreek.

**MOTION APPROVED.**

**IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS – NONE**

There was no public comment.



**V. CONSENT CALENDAR – NONE**

There were no Consent Calendar items.

**VI. REPORTS (D – F)**

**D. Land Mobile Radio System Update – Brian Smyth**

Program Director Smyth presented Agenda item D the Land Mobile Radio (LMR) System Update.

Program Director Smyth presented the Integrated Master Schedule (IMS) Milestone dates. Program Director Smyth said the cut over date for the Digital Trunk Voice Radio Subsystem (DTVRS) is complete as of May 1, 2023. Program Director Smyth said the cut over start for the Los Angeles Regional Tactical Communications System (LARTCS) start date is September 22, 2023. Program Director Smyth added the Analog Voice Radio System (ACVRS) start date for the cut over is October 9, 2023 and the Narrowband Mobile Data Network (NMDN2) cutover start date is December 7, 2023. Program Director Smyth added the Final System Acceptance is projected for December 20, 2023. Program Director Smyth said the information was based on the Motorola Solutions, Incorporated (MSI) schedule with Data Date (DD) of June 13, 2023. Program Director Smyth said those are the dates they are working towards and intend to improve on those dates.

June Progress

Program Director Smyth said MSI's effort is now shifted towards the cutover preparations of the LARTCS, the ACVRS and the Narrowband Mobile Data Network NMDN2 Subsystems cutovers.

Program Director Smyth went on to add that restoration work at Mount McDill (MMC) is nearing completion, and work at the Frost Peak (FRP) site has been completed.

Program Director Smyth further added there was a Request for Quote (RFQ) for a short-term commercial power solution at the Green Mountain (GRM) site which is in final review and a Notice to Proceed (NTP) is forthcoming.

Program Director Smyth informed the Committees the Right of Entry (ROE) authorizations and migration coordination are underway with the County of Los Angeles (County) Internal Services Department (ISD) and the migration installation will start on Monday, June 26, at the Mount Lukens (MTL2) site.



Program Director Smyth mentioned that MSI warranty reports have been obtained for NMDN1 from the first three (3) months of this year and are currently under review.

### July Focus

Program Director Smyth reported that MMC site restoration work due to storm damage is to be worked on in July. Program Director Smyth further reported that Whitaker Middle Peak (WMP) site has outstanding road repair work with the team currently evaluating a proposal from ISD.

Program Director Smyth stated that some sites were encountered public safety power shut offs through Southern California Edison (SCE), which the team would be monitoring the run times on the generators per the Air Quality Management District (AQMD) agreements currently in place (for the purpose of applying for a variance, if needed).

Program Director Smyth expresses that in preparation for fire season and clearing defensible areas, critical sites weed abatement would be the next focus. Program Director Smyth acknowledged Captain August Dougherty for providing site fuel assessment reports, which were essential in developing a scope in weed abatement.

Program Director Smyth concluded by saying the project is at the point of completion in construction, therefore, shifting activities to cutover and implementation.

Program Director Smyth concluded his report. There were no questions.

### **E. Regional Interoperability Update – Technical Lead Ted Pao**

Technical Lead Pao expressed that with the Authority's continued efforts to complete the region's system-of-systems interoperability. LA-RICS operation and the technical staff worked with the City of Los Angeles (City) Mayor's Office and other system operators, such as Interagency Communications Interoperability (ICI), LA City Police Department (LAPD), the City of Long Beach, Los Angeles World Airports (LAWA), Port of Los Angeles Police, and other stakeholders in order to bring this priority project to the forefront now that these systems have been completed or are in the completion stage.

Technical Lead Pao reported that during June 2023's Regional Interoperability Working Group meeting, LA-RICS also presented the non-trunking interoperable capability of its various voice and data subsystems. Technical Lead Pao said the P25 trunking interoperability, along with the LA-RICS analog conventional



channels, would offer a complete interoperability capability to the Los Angeles region which it has never enjoyed. Technical Lead Pao further reported that in the months to come, radio communications leaders, system operators, and other stakeholders need to come up with interoperability protocols and standard operating procedures to fully exploit the various interoperability tools LA-RICS is providing, in conjunction with other P25 system operators.

Technical Lead Pao stated that in the Regional Interoperability Working Group meeting, it was mentioned the system is not only a P25 trunk interoperability system, the Authority has the capability of the LARTCS system, which has the national interoperability 800 MHz frequencies and Ultra High Frequency (UHF). Technical Lead Pao also said that VHF channels are being utilized for brush fires by LA County Fire Department. LARTCS also include two (2) Low Band frequencies. Technical Lead Pao went on to say that on the UHF analog conventional voice system, they have the fire channels and regional analog channels, which the region can access for interoperability also. Technical Lead Pao concluded by saying that it is not necessary to only have trunking interoperability, but it is possible to have analog conventional interoperability.

Technical Lead Pao concluded his report. There were no questions.

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

Technical Lead Pao presented slides to discuss the Spectrum and Licensing issues. Technical Lead Pao said the slides tallied up the talk times by the cells using the P25 UHF and 700 MHz cells and showed the numbers in calls and minutes for the month of June 2023. The slides showed quite a bit of utilization.

Technical Lead Pao added the top twenty (20) talk groups being utilized by various agencies such as LACoFD, LASD Aero Bureau, including the LASD Special Unit Dispatch, local tactical talkgroups, and the District Attorney (DA) dispatch. Technical Lead Pao pointed out the LASD Men's Central Jail (MCJ) talkgroups which recently started the service and is using a lot of minutes in a short span of time. Technical Lead Pao show the slide comparing Push-to-Talk (PTT) verses talk time, which showed high PTTs count versus airtime minuties since each PTT transmission is only three (3) to six (6) seconds for law enforcement transmission, where LACoFD and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) have longer transmissions in duration of fifteen (15) to thirty (30) seconds. This irects in more PTTs than airtime minutes. Technical Lead Pao showed PPT talk time per cell.

Technical Lead Pao concluded his report. There were no questions.

**VII. DISCUSSION ITEMS – (G – H)**



- G. Review of Bobcat Fire Communication Issues** - Operations Vice-Chair Chief Dayton Calhoun
  
- H. Law/Fire Unified Command Scenarios** – Operations Vice-Chair Chief Dayton Calhoun

Operations Vice-Chair Calhoun provided a two (2) discussion item presentation, with topics being a 2020 Incident Review and Standardization; as well the Bobcat Fire from September 6, 2020, through December 18, 2020, which was the largest fire County ever had.

Operations Vice-Chair Calhoun referred to map slides indicating the size of the fire and the map burn scars, which was there for over five (5) years. Operations Vice-Chair Calhoun further expressed there is potential for major events such as debris and mud flows to occur in the future.

Operations Vice-Chair Calhoun continued his presentation by saying the incident was presented as an initial action zone and LACoFD since it started in the forest area, using the United States Forest Service (USFS) communications plan. Operations Vice-Chair Calhoun went on to say that during the Bobcat fires, LACoFD used both their own channels and the USFS channels which is not typical or preferred. Operations Vice-Chair Calhoun said it is preferable to have communications plan to come out of one (1) organization.

Operations Vice-Chair Calhoun said that presently, LACoFD uses Very High Frequency (VHF) channels. Operations Vice-Chair Calhoun detailed that for Vegetation fires, the State and Federal governments require the LACoFD to use VHF communications channels, as well as a vegetation fire communications plan. Operations Vice-Chair Calhoun stated that other departments who do not have a VHF communications plan will use their own communications capabilities. Operations Vice-Chair Calhoun further stated that if departments are instructed to use a unified command, all departments will switch over to a mutual aid VHF communications plan.

Operations Vice-Chair Calhoun said the LACoFD considered that very dangerous and does not like to switch communication plans once operations have started.

Operations Vice-Chair Calhoun shared that LACoFD went from twelve (12) V channel sites to twenty-four (24) sites and, twenty-seven (27) all together with twenty-four (24) site giving tremendous coverage. Operations Vice-Chair Calhoun believes that if the Bobcat fire happened today, the LACoFD would be able to cover from the foothills in Monrovia all the way to Palmdale using the LARTCS



interoperable channels. Operations Vice-Chair Calhoun said it is a significant change in how and where LACoFD does business.

Operations Vice-Chair Calhoun continues to reference a map slide indicating the twenty-seven (27) sites using the VHF LARTCS. Operations Vice-Chair Calhoun said the program also does old coverage testing and they are very impressed with both Ultra High Frequency (UHF) and VHF channels, which has exceeded map predictions.

Operations Vice-Chair Calhoun talked about guidance for Standardization, which included daily operations and special events. Operations Vice-Chair Calhoun expressed hypotheticals such as how would departments going to work with each other using mutual aid verses automatic aid and initial action unified command. Operations Vice-Chair Calhoun went on to say that for instance how would the City of Los Angeles Police (City) Department (LAPD) talk with County LASD, as well as how would the City communicate with the County, and how would the Verdugo Peak's (VPK) site talk with LACoFD on a day-to-day basis since they see each other daily and not only at events. Operations Vice-Chair Calhoun said they receive roughly two- hundred and fifty (250) mutual aid calls per day.

Operations Vice-Chair Calhoun mentioned that at the SoFi Stadium in Inglewood can hold two-hundred and twenty (220) plus special events. Operations Vice-Chair Calhoun also said that other special events such as the Pasadena Rose Bowl, the World Cup, and the Olympics which are call-controlled events, can have extended incidents, civil disturbances, and catastrophic events.

Operations Vice-Chair Calhoun provided various samples of communication plans from different battalions reflecting department overviews and reference guides. Operations Vice-Chair Calhoun found discrepancies and suggested having a meeting to review validation, standardization, distribution, and socialization in the way the Authority operates using day-to-day, verses a staged or special event, as well as having different expectations and requirements for each. Operations Vice-Chair Calhoun indicated the need to assess the effectiveness and adjust policy procedures in training to fit the changing technology. Operations Vice-Chair Calhoun said that LA-RICS would continue expanding it with offer different functions and accessories, adapting to these changes.

Operations Vice-Chair Calhoun expressed that implementation would include accessing effectiveness and adjusting policy, procedures, and training. Operations Vice-Chair Calhoun expressed the need for liaisons with partner agencies and mutual aid partners, as well as having tabletop exercises, field exercises and simulations.



Operations Vice-Chair Calhoun expressed the need to work around subscriptions for the departments that are not subscribers, as well as a good playbook which would keep all departments updated and informed.

Operations Vice-Chair Calhoun was asked about LACoFD's plan going forward and if implementation was already set said, to which he said the cutover would occur on October 1, 2023, as well as the completion of training for dispatch and field operations. Operations Vice-Chair Calhoun mentioned that all of the dispatches are currently on analog conventional and departments are not using digital yet. However, Operations Vice-Chair Calhoun said that it has been used as a talk around and administrative functions, like in remote areas for the lifeguards and Battalion Chiefs. Operations Vice-Chair Calhoun further added there is a plan to start to expand with lifeguards and move from there. Operations Vice-Chair Calhoun added shared that some department are resistant to use Immediate Danger to Live and Health (IDLH) with digital, due to departments currently having continual coverage for the large area. Operations Vice-Chair Calhoun said there may be a need for change within the culture of departments, so they keep in mind it is a great alternative, should the need arise.

Operations Vice-Chair Calhoun was asked if the cutover date had any effects on fire ground mutual aid or automatic aid responses within the region on the digital side for LA-RICS, and he went on to say that departments would operate similar to the way, e.g. West Covina Department operates using the administrative channel replaced with a dispatcher on the command channel. Operations Vice-Chair Calhoun confirmed the digital side would not be using LA-RICS. Operations Vice-Chair Calhoun went on to say that LA-RICS is only for special events such as SoFi Stadium and others, not operational or mutual aid. Operations Vice-Chair Calhoun mentioned the Authority is losing an opportunity, but hopes to see what can be done in the future.

Operations Vice-Chair Calhoun shared that LACoFD operates on the conventional side along with digital capabilities talking to other departments that are on digital, e.g. like ICI and West Covina.

Operations Vice-Chair Calhoun referenced the communications plans he previously discussed and expressed that he would like the plans allocated somewhere they can be posted, updated, and validated, which would allow all departments to view when changes are made. Operations Vice-Chair Calhoun he would like departments to know it is an updated reliable source, which a mutual agreement could occur. Operations Vice-Chair Calhoun believes that by seeing how others operate, betters of all departments.

Executive Director Scott Edson said tactical Talkgroups are available to the departments with no identifications (IDs) needed, using the same regional





Talkgroups that are patched together. Executive Director Edson reported that Operations Lead Lieutenant Robert Weber provided a demonstration at the May 2, 2023, Joint Committees meeting.

Executive Director Edson said the system was funded by Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI), and cities opted-out at one point due to cost concerns. The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) at that time, expressed there was no need to opt-out since they would not be charged under the older funding plan, which was due to the increase of money obtained to support a systems-to-systems model. Executive Director Edson described it as having many smaller systems patched together through Inter Subsystem Interface (ISSI) connections and to interoperate that way.

Executive Director Edson explained the system IDs and individual radios refer to the original model known as the “umbrella model.” Executive Director Edson said as the Authority “the system of systems model” comes closer to using the system, more agencies such as Fire and law enforcement anticipate exchanging IDs and be directly interoperable without tactical patches. Executive Director Edson further explained that LA-RICS must morph into a hybrid system so the Authority could allow, agencies have the local Sheriff station surround them, which LA-RICS (independent entity) would make that happen. Executive Director Edson talked to ICI and they said they would provide all of the needed IDs, as well as giving mutual aid IDs. Executive Director Edson shared there are tactical frequencies public safety could use, for instance, tactical one (1) through four (4) are for fire agencies; five (5) through eight (8) are for law enforcement; twelve (12) through sixteen (16) are for regional law enforcement with ISSI switch; and all frequencies could be pre-identified for the purpose of coordinating the departments on which frequency to join.

Joint Committee Member Capelle stated that on the Fire they use IDLH much more than LAPD and law enforcement, they use tactical on digital in their areas. Joint Committee Member Capelle shared that West Covina Fire uses analog when going out to a fire scene.

Executive Director Edson asked Technical Lead Pao if the analog system required IDs on everyone’s systems, to which Technical Lead Ted Pao said they do not. Executive Director Edson explained because the frequency is analog it only needs a Private Line (PL) tone and does not require IDs.

Operations Vice-Chair Calhoun provide Orange County as an example of an instance in which they contacted Brea Fullerton letting them know of available patch access channels, allowing us of the same patch. Operations Vice-Chair Calhoun said that LACoFD is using access channels which are digital and are accepting IDLH on a different Talkgroup.



Operations Vice-Chair Calhoun said it has been mentioned in Los Angeles Area Fire Chiefs Association (LAAFCA) to coordinate a Tactical Interoperable Communications Plan (TICP) with everyone, having a single co-plug. Operations Vice-Chair Calhoun expressed that a Lead is needed to run the depository of communication plans.

Joint Committee Member Capelle suggested for the next Joint Committee meeting, Committee Members should start to work on standardization, to which Operations Vice-Chair Calhoun agreed with and went on to add that it would take small steps towards large goals and be prepared for the larger events.

Executive Director Edson mentioned that LA-RICS would ensure that LACoFD would have digital Talkgroups they could use for their activities and would be made available as needed, as well as being able to include equivalent channels on different systems.

Operations Vice-Chair Calhoun said LACoFD is preparing for multiple agencies not being able to get onto the same frequency, which if it happens and they get mutual aid, the dispatch is given a tactical frequency. Joint Committee Member Capelle said that at the West Covina Fire Department there are enough digital channels to free them, allowing others to use for IDLH. Joint Committee Member Capelle said their Department is ready for this change and suggested the Joint Committees plan a presentation for the upcoming LAAFCA desert even on October 2023.

Operations Vice-Chair Calhoun mentioned the California Great ShakeOut in October 2023, as he looks forward to using the disaster and communications plan, along with the Authority's system implementing the overage and coverage systems. Operations Vice-Chair Calhoun said the event would be the biggest push to go digital.

Joint Committee Member Capelle wondered if law enforcement prefers using tactical channels in order to avoid a potential breakdown to patch the draw. Operations Vice-Chair Calhoun said the Authority was improving upon the system, but currently no one is willing to self-fund that type of system.

Joint Alternate Committee Member Walczak shared that was present for the demonstration at the March 21, 2023, meeting and was satisfied with it and could see it working. Joint Alternate Committee Member Walczak reflected on the difference in interoperability agencies, such as within the ICI Group there is confusion as to what works and does not work. Joint Alternate Committee Member Walczak said that within the different subgroups and agencies, they may program Covina's systems differently than another agency using the same system. Joint Alternate Committee Member Walczak went on to say the technology is there and it can be connected, but there is a need to know what is being connected, including



to what and where, needing to be standardized. Operations Vice-Chair Calhoun agreed.

Executive Director Edson wondered if LACoFD and law enforcement were in a situation where if there is a wildfire and LASD are there, how would the currently communicate. Operations Vice-Chair Calhoun said they talk digitally by incorporating TICP and have integrated all LA-RICS channels for the LASD side.

Executive Director Edson wondered if LASD could change over to the current system when Deputies need to be sent for road closures or evacuations and currently do not have a full command post set-up. Operations Vice-Chair Calhoun said they would be able to, but might use an agency representative and use dispatch-to-dispatch if it is an initial action, and if on scene, either a Deputy or Sergeant would need try to find the closest on scene resource.

Executive Director Edson questioned that if in the future, would the command post have additional channels to talk to as the same regional channel LASD would be on, or would it be on either an analog channel or would it be like a command post situation where agencies talk to the local representative and instruct them what to do. Operations Vice-Chair Calhoun responded by saying they would set-up for a standing operation, they would look towards instant management for an extended attack, and follow the Federal and State communications plan. Operations Vice-Chair Calhoun said other partners will be able to use the system, as well as LASD could use Fire channels.

Executive Director Edson shared that some tactical channels are encrypted and others are not. Executive Director Edson mentioned that if there was a major incident where area G cities and various cities were coming in to help on a major fire, law enforcement representatives would be able to change regional tactical. Executive Director Edson also mentioned that for instance in evacuations for cities, such as Claremont or Covina, all departments could be on the same Talkgroup, with LASD being dispatched to different operations. Executive Director Edson expressed that this was his vision.

Operations Vice-Chair Calhoun said LACoFD recently had the Suzanna area planning in Calabasas and though the technology is new to the department, LACoFD is planning exercises to put into practice.

Joint Committee Member Capelle said Police and Fire in his region have been unwilling to combine the use of radio technology by both departments. Joint Committee Member Capelle shared that when he assigned to the City of Compton, his department had good communication with LASD, allowing for application of the LA-RICS system.



Operations Vice-Chair Calhoun said LACoFD discourages firefighters to use law enforcement channels unless it is a life safety issue. Operations Vice-Chair Calhoun said if it is a common Talkgroup, they are able to use all of the digital encrypted LASD channels but cannot use it over the air.

Operations Vice-Chair Calhoun concluded his presentation. There were no questions.

## VII. MISCELLANEOUS – NONE

### ITEMS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION BY THE COMMITTEE –

Technical Lead Pao suggested that for preparedness the Joint Committee work on the standardization of the Regional Interoperability at the next meeting.

Joint Committee Member Capelle suggested LA-RICS (Joint Committees) presenting an Interoperability visual presentation to the LAAFCA, to which Technical Lead Pao said it would be added to the next meeting.

Joint Committee Member Capelle mentioned that cost is still an issue for users of the LA-RICS system. Operations Vice-Chair Calhoun said there are monies available through the UASI grants.

## XII. ADJOURNMENT AND NEXT MEETING

Technical Lead Pao called for a motion to adjourn the Regular Joint Committee Meeting, Operations Vice-Chair Calhoun motioned to close the meeting.

Technical Lead Pao adjourned the Regular Joint Operations and Technical Committee Meeting at 2:27 p.m. and stated the next Joint Committee Meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 15, 2023, at 1:30 p.m., at the LA-RICS Headquarters, 2525 Corporate Place, Suite 200, Large Conference Room, Monterey Park, California, 91754.