



JOINT OPERATIONS AND TECHNICAL COMMITTEES REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

**LOS ANGELES REGIONAL INTEROPERABLE
COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM AUTHORITY**

Tuesday, March 19, 2024 • 1:30 p.m.

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| OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: |
| Adam Martinez, City of Los Angeles Department of Health Services |
| Joshua Nelson, California Contract Cities Association |
| OPERATIONS ALTERNATE COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: |
| Brian Hoffman, City of Los Angeles Chief Executive Office |
| Grant Grunbaum, County of Los Angeles Fire Department |
| Robert J. Weber, Chair, County of Los Angeles Sheriff's Department |
| Phil Ambrose, Los Angeles Area Fire Chiefs Association |
| Paul Villalobos, City of Monterey Park Police Department |
| Ric Walczak, At-Large Seat #8 |
| OPERATION COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT/VACANT: |
| Jeff LaGreek, At-Large Seat #9 |
| Vacant, At-Large Seat #10 |

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| TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: |
| Scott England (VC), County of Los Angeles Internal Service Department |
| Ted Pao, Chair, County of Los Angeles Sheriff's Department |
| Joshua Nelson, California Contract Cities Association |
| TECHNICAL ALTERNATE COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: |
| Brian Hoffman, City of Los Angeles Chief Executive Office |
| Robert J. Weber, County of Los Angeles Sheriff's Department |
| Adam Martinez, City of Los Angeles Department of Health Services |
| Phil Ambrose, Los Angeles Area Fire Chiefs Association |
| Ric Walczak, At-Large Seat #8 |
| TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT/VACANT: |
| Jeff LaGreek, At-Large Seat #9 |
| Vacant, At-Large Seat #10 |

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| OFFICERS PRESENT: |
| Scott Edson, LA-RICS Executive Director |
| Marissa Bosque, LA-RICS Project Team Member for Committee Secretary, Beatriz Cojulun |



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

I. CALL TO ORDER

Operations Committee Alternate Chair Lieutenant Robert Weber called the meeting to order at 1:36 p.m.

II. ANNOUNCE QUORUM – ROLL CALL

Nadine Luscombe took roll call and acknowledged a quorum was present for both Joint Operations and Technical Committees.

Operations Lead Lt. Weber welcomed the Joint Operations and Technical Committees Members and proceeded with Approval of the Minutes.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – (A)

A. February 20, 2024 – Regular Meeting Minutes

Operations Lead Lt. Weber asked the Committees for approval of the minutes. Joshua Nelson motioned first, seconded by Vice-Chair Scott England.

Operations Committee:

Ayes (8): Hoffman, Grunbaum, Weber, Martinez, Villalobos, Nelson, Walczak

Technical Committee:

Ayes (7): Hoffman, England, Weber, Martinez, Pao, Walczak

Operations and Technical Alternate Member Chief Ambrose arrived at 1:57 p.m., after the Minutes had been carried into motion.

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 – Brian Smyth

Program Director Smyth greeted the Chair and members of the Committee.

Updates

Project Director Smyth reported the LA-RICS Technical Team is reviewing options for future remote door control, cameras (both stationary cameras and cameras with pan-tilt zoom), motion detection, and an upgraded master key plan for an additional layer of security to LA-RICS shelters. Project Director Smyth further reported that proposals for these options are currently being reviewed for compliance with the project budget.

Project Director Smyth stated the Jacobs Project Management Team (PM Team) is working with the City of Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) on filing a Right of Entry (ROE) permit for site Green Mountain (GRM) to establish permanent power to the site. Project Director Smyth further stated the anticipated start date for this work is April 15, 2024, however, this date is likely to slip because LADWP does not want to offer LA-RICS indemnification in order to be included in the LA-RICS ROE.

Project Director Smyth shared that Southern California Edison's (SCE) solar power plant near site Burnt Peak (BUR1) has an anticipated completion date of December 2024. Project Director Smyth further shared the PM Team is ensuring that procurement is in place in order for the site to be ready for permanent power once SCE's solar power plant is completed. Project Director Smyth mentioned the PM Team is working with SCE to provide design documentation to allow the PM Team to develop a bid package, and the bid process is anticipated to begin in September 2024.

Project Director Smyth shared updates on conditions to site access roads and reported the County of San Bernardino is repairing the site access road for East Sunset Ridge (ESR) and that sites Tejon Peak (TPK) and Grass Mountain (GMT) are accessible via a 4-wheel drive vehicle. Project Director Smyth mentioned that site access roads for sites Mount Lukens (MTL2), Loop Canyon (LPC), Hauser Peak (HPK), and Mount McDill (MMC) are clear for access.



Project Director Smyth stated that a Biologist Survey was performed on site Tower Peak (TWR) on March 15, 2024, and that environmental clearance was issued to ensure compliance with the Catalina Island Conservancy's environmental regulations. Project Director Smyth further expressed that equipment for tower demolition was shipped from the mainland to Santa Catalina Island on March 18, 2024. Project Director Smyth shared that tower demolition will begin on March 21, 2024, with an anticipated completion date of March 27, 2024. Project Director Smyth further shared the migration completion date for site Castro Peak (CPK) is anticipated for May 21, 2024, and that an Invitation for Bid (IFB) is being developed.

Logistics

Project Director Smyth highlighted some logistical activities in constant rotation for the PM Team schedules, such as refueling of roll-up generators, which are refueled bi-weekly, and stationary generators which are refueled as needed. Project Director Smyth stated the PM Team is performing scope verification walks and pursuing an IFB for comprehensive systemwide weed abatement. Project Director Smyth further stated that sites under citation or at risk of citation from the United States Forest Service due to weed abatement are completed. Project Director Smyth mentioned the PM Team constantly performs scouting of site roads to ensure site access is available. Project Director Smyth further mentioned there are a significant number of Heating, Ventilating, and Air Conditioning (HVAC) Preventative Maintenance (PM) work as well as bi-annual fire suppression PMs.

Tower Site Cover Sheets

Project Director Smyth shared updates on tower site cover sheets, which is a repository of site leasing information which can be referred to when responding to collocation requests to LA-RICS' towers. Project Director Smyth further shared site details within these cover sheets, such as site access information, in particular, dates for weed abatement, fuel polishing, generator PMs, HVAC unit services, Direct Current (DC) powerplant services, and site generator and model tank sizes. Project Director Smyth expressed that site permit information for Air Quality Management District (AQMD), Certified Unified Program Agency (CUPA), California Environmental Reporting System (CERS), Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), and Federal Communications Commission (FCC) registration is in this repository.



Procurement

Project Director Smyth reported that an IFB is being developed for a rollup generator, stationary generator, and equipment installation work at site Saddle Peak (MCI). Project Director Smyth further reported the PM Team is looking into proposed upgrades to enable remote monitoring of power usage at submeters, re-keying of all door locks, remote door control, key card access, security cameras with motion detection, and orderwire phone install at Sheriff's Communication Center (SCC).

This concluded the Project Mangers report with no additional discussion.

C. Regional Interoperability Update – Operations Lead Lt. Weber

Operations Lead Lt. Weber reported the Authority has been continuing work on the Agreements for ID sharing with Interagency Communications Interoperability (ICI) and other Entities.

Operations Lead Lt. Weber further reported the Ad Hoc Committee meeting took place on March 14, 2024, and items discussed were procedures on communications with Law Enforcement and Los Angeles County Fire (LACoFD), and using the technology the departments have for different types of incidents. Operations Lead Lt. Weber mentioned the meeting resulted in significant progress.

D. LMR Network Operation Status and Issues– Technical Lead Ted Pao

Technical Lead Pao stated there were no operational system-wide issues that resulted from February's adverse weather conditions. Technical Lead Pao further stated that some sites, specifically (2) sites, Verdugo Peak (VPK) and Mt. Disappointment (MDI), experienced challenges with water intrusion in the coaxial cables and connectors. Technical Lead Pao mentioned a jumper cable replacement at MDI resolved the issue. Technical Lead Pao shared that Motorola Solutions Incorporated (MSI) determined the cap on the antenna at VPK may have been picked off by birds, causing water to enter the antenna, which caused a high voltage standing wave. Technical Lead Pao further shared the issue was resolved with a new antenna being installed.

Technical Lead Pao stated the nationwide shift involving the transition of MSI's customer service-facing website from the MyView Portal to the



Customer Hub encountered initial challenges, impacting not only the LA-RICS account, but also other accounts across the country. Technical Lead Pao further stated that, notably, the incomplete carryover of site IDs caused a majority of sites to be missing under the LA-RICS account. Technical Lead Pao expressed proactive measures were underway and staff were collaborating with the MSI support team and were conducting training sessions to ensure a seamless adaptation to the updated system.

Technical Lead Pao reported the County of Los Angeles Lifeguard Division successfully transitioned to the LA-RICS Digital Truck Voice Radio System (DTVRS) for day-to-day operations. Technical Lead Pao further reported this transition provided County of Los Angeles Lifeguards with enhanced Talkgroup capabilities and enabled efficient communication based on operational needs and geographical areas.

Technical Lead Pao shared system statistics for February 2024, beginning with the Narrowband Mobile Data Network (NMDN). Technical Lead Pao further shared LACoFD utilized NMDN to dispatch Computer-Aided Dispatch (CAD) messages to all its units with Mobile Data Computers (MDCs).

Technical Lead Pao reported that NMDN was the first LA-RICS Subsystem and agency migrated for its Day-to-Day operations and that there were an estimated twelve hundred (1200) NMDN devices on the data network. Technical Lead Pao further reported that, with proper subscriber equipment, NMDN radio, modem, and a CAD interface, other Agencies can utilize NMDN as a primary CAD dispatch system, or to mitigate commercial network coverage issues, or even as a redundant backup system when commercial networks have failed.

Technical Lead Pao shared data for the NMDN Message Count for February 2024 and highlighted a range of twenty thousand (20,000) to just under thirty thousand (30,000) for messages OUT count and ten thousand (10,000) to just over eighteen thousand (18,000) for IN messages.

Technical Lead Pao further shared data for messages IN and OUT for the year to date which indicated close message counts for January 2024 and February 2024, with potential variations throughout the year.

Technical Lead Pao mentioned the Top 15 Cell Use Time for the P25 Talkgroup reached an estimated two hundred and eighty thousand (280,000) minutes. Technical Lead Pao further mentioned the Downtown cell had forty thousand (40,000) minutes, the South Seven Hundred (700) cell had twenty-



nine thousand (29,000) minutes, and the Downtown Ultra High Frequency (UHF) had twenty-eight thousand (28,000).

Technical Lead Pao shared the top fifteen (15) sites that had the most cell usage time. Technical Lead Pao further shared the sites processed just over one million, seven hundred thousand (1.7) calls, with a potential monthly system-wide count nearing two (2) million calls.

Technical Lead Pao reported usage for the Top 15 Talkgroups, with Inglewood Police Department (IGPD) leading with the most Talkgroup minutes with under twenty-seven thousand (27,000) minutes and the Men's Central Jail (MCJ) using twenty-five thousand minutes (25,000) for February 2024.

Technical Lead Pao added the Push-to-Talk (PTT) Count illustrated the MCJ site which had the highest PTT count, nearing one hundred and twenty thousand (120,000) counts.

Technical Lead Pao reported data for the Top Agency Use for February 2024, with the County of Los Angeles (County) Sheriff's Department (LASD) having the most Talkgroup Time followed by IGPD and LACoFD.

Technical Lead Pao concluded his report with no additional discussion.

E. Mobile Communications Unit Presentation – Operations Lead Lt. Weber.

Operations Lead Lt. Weber introduced Deputy Manna Elliot who presented Agenda Item E.

Deputy Elliot stated the Mobile Communications (MCU) unit with LASD started in 2002 in response to the shooting that took place at Stevenson Ranch, California in 2001 and the problems that arose during the Democratic National Convention in 2000 at the then Staples Center in Los Angeles. Deputy Elliot elaborated that, at both incidences, there were Federal, State and Local Agencies present but were unable to communicate with each other.

Deputy Elliot further stated the County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors provided LASD seven hundred and fifty thousand (\$750,000) dollars to purchase their first truck in 2002. Deputy Elliot mentioned, at the time, there was only one (1) company that made the trucks since Interoperability was only used in the military.



Deputy Elliot mentioned the first use of Interoperability for LASD was during former President Ronald Reagan's funeral on June 11, 2004. Deputy Elliot explained that Interoperability works well instantly, however, problems may arise if the user is not properly trained. Deputy Elliot further explained LASD implemented internal policies to resolve these issues, and that LASD has a communications professional perform the Interoperable connections to avoid harmful interference with other radio systems, specifically Trunked Radio Systems or Simulcast Radio Systems.

Deputy Elliot expressed Interoperable communications allowed the user to talk to most Agencies in the Los Angeles County area, most surrounding LASD stations, all State Agencies in the County that LASD works with, including the California Highway Patrol (CHP), Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) police, university police departments, National Guard, and investigative units for entities such as Medi-Cal. Deputy Elliot added some of the channels may require pre-coordination since the channels may not be monitored on the radio.

Deputy Elliot mentioned the contact for deployment for any preplanned future events which could be a Public Safety Exhibition or a Warranty Service out of a jurisdiction is CFMB Operations at 1-323-881-8002, cfmboperations@lasd.org or the MCU Unit at 1-323-881-8261.

Deputy Elliot shared different types of equipment that are available to an allied Agency such as Cached Radios, Communications Trucks, FirstNet Cell Sites, Interoperable Gateways, Mobile Dispatch Center that was recently used for the Pasadena Rose Parade 2024, Mobile LA-RICS Sites, Mobile or Portable Repeaters, Radio Technicians, Satellite Communications and Phones. Deputy Elliot further shared Base Station Radios and Consolettes are available depending on what the Agency may require for the event.

Deputy Elliot expounded on the capabilities of the MCU which has multiple satellite links, including sixty-four (64) radios installed with frequency ranges from UHF to nine hundred and fifty-six (956) (MHz). Deputy Elliot mentioned the Communications truck had four (4) dispatch points, mobile interoperability, and a hybrid phone system.

Deputy Elliot expressed that smaller trucks are available, and they have the ability to function as the larger truck, only on a smaller scale such as maneuvering through roads the larger truck is unable to do. Deputy Elliot further expressed those smaller trucks can create interoperability patches and telephone service. Deputy Elliot mentioned the smaller trucks have the



ability to provide fuel during longstanding events, and the trucks are robust vehicles.

Deputy Elliot further mentioned the vehicles that LA-RICS provided LASD funding for shares the same capabilities and limitations that American Telephone and Telegraph Company (AT&T) FirstNet trucks have meaning they can become over saturated and have limited bandwidth. Deputy Elliot added the user's department needs to be "whitelisted" to be able to use the truck by contacting an AT&T representative, otherwise it may take up to two (2) days to process.

Deputy Elliot reported the AT&T FirstNet truck has a few miles of range available depending on the area and what is trying to be accomplished. Deputy Elliot added currently, what is "whitelisted" on the trucks are Law Enforcement vehicles and Fire apparatus. Deputy Elliot explained there are no handheld cellular devices since Los Angeles County is using FirstNet for the backhaul to dispatch calls over the computers in the trucks.

Deputy Elliot shared the Mobile FirstNet truck includes a workstation with racks for future expansion and has the capacity to add LA-RICS capability on the racks.

Deputy Elliot further shared details of the Mobile Dispatch Center truck which had CAD dual radios, foot pedals and traditional telephones which enabled traditional dispatching. Deputy Elliot mentioned LASD had a truck that has the LA-RICS system installed as well as multiple amenities such as a conference room, restroom, and kitchenette.

Deputy Elliot concluded his presentation and asked if there were any questions from the Committees Members.

Operations Lead Lt. Weber asked if the site on wheels (SOW) was a DTVRS site.

Deputy Elliot responded the SOW is a traditional LA-RICS radio site and added if the user was leaving the service area, there would be additional Federal forms that need to be filled out along with frequency mitigation. Deputy Elliot added it gives the user the capability to support other Entities, including Warrant services outside of Los Angeles County.

Vice-Chair England asked if the SOW has the Interoperable "XX and YY" channels pre-programmed into the site for standalone trunking.



Technical Lead Pao responded the SOW currently does not have those channels but will have them eventually.

Operations Lead Lt. Weber explained to the Committee Members the SOW had deployed primarily for the Pasadena Rose Bowl Parade before the LA-RICS System was up and running. Operations Lead Lt. Weber further explained the SOW had been used for several years in a row using the trunk system for the Rose Bowl Parade.

Operations Lead Lt. Weber mentioned MCU "B" had seven hundred MHz available along with UHF.

Operations Lead Lt. Weber thanked Deputy Elliot for his presentation.

VII. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS – NONE

VIII. MISCELLANEOUS – NONE

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

X. CLOSED SESSION REPORT – NONE

XI. ADJOURNMENT AND NEXT MEETING

Operations Lead Lt. Weber called for a motion to adjourn the Regular Joint Committee Meeting, to which Vice-Chair England motioned first.

Operations Lead Lt. Weber adjourned the Regular Joint Operations and Technical Committee Meeting at 2:09 p.m. and stated the next Joint Committee Meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 16, 2024, at 1:30 p.m., at the LA-RICS Headquarters, 2525 Corporate Place, Suite 200, Large Conference Room, Monterey Park, California, 91754.