MARRS Technical/Users Committee
February 7, 2024
Meeting Summary

- **Welcome & Call to order**

  - Approval of November 8, 2023, meeting summary

  Marie Beauchamp moved that the November 8, 2023, meeting summary be approved. Jeff Brame seconded the move. The motion passed without opposition.

- **<u>Users Committee</u>**
  - Independence School District Access Request
    - Eric Winebrenner said at the last MARRS Management Council meeting, the MARRS system subscribers' policy for non-public entities was approved by the Council. This document gives some oversight into how these agencies would be considered for MARRS access. After the policy was passed, Winebrenner received a letter from Independence City Manager, Zach Walker requesting the City of Independence be able to address this committee to ask for their request to be reconsidered. He introduced Independence Mayor Rowland who was at this meeting to address this body regarding their request.

      Mayor Rowland stated that Independence's was asking for reconsideration and if there is another way to resolve their issue. Chris Skinrood shared background information regarding who is allowed on the MARRS system which outlined the reason for the MARRS Management Council's decision.

      There was a continued discussion regarding Independence's request. Skinrood shared that Independence PD was a site owner and could provide the school district with talk groups but noted that would not allow the school district access to the complete MARRS system. Independence could start their own police department and they would have access once they were certified as a law enforcement agency.

      Skinrood shared that at the last MARRS meeting, it was decided to deny access to the encrypted side, but this does not stop them from contacting Independence PD to see if they could get something on their PD system. Doug Christianson noted that Independence School District has a talkgroup on their system. He also shared the Independence PD had offered to put their talkgroup on their dispatch consoles so dispatch could communicate directly with the school if needed. Jason Peterson shared that Independence PD's current procedure is if there is a need for lockdown or notification, the High Schools have assigned SROs that have access to PD radio, and most of the middle schools have split coverage because they do not have enough SROs across the city to cover every school but are in quick contact with school in need of emergency contact.

      The request by the Independence School District to reassess their request for Encrypted access to the MARRS system was not supported by the Users Committee.

  - Federal Reserve Bank - Access Request – Jeff Brame
    - They are requesting access and have been approved by the city and the SUA has been signed by both sides. They want approximately 100 radios. They would be on the Kansas City side and are wanting access to the RegComms and encryption. The Federal Reserve is a federal PD.

    Scott Boden moved to recommend to the MARRS Management Council approval of the Federal Reserve Bank Police Department's request for access to the MARRS system since they have agreed to the original MARRS terms. Larry Tarrant seconded the move. The motion passed without opposition.

  - Rockhurst University Department of Safety and Security – Access Request – Jeff Brame
    - Both the Kansas City PD and Rockhurst University PD have signed all the required paperwork. They are requesting their own talkgroup with approximately 20 radios. They will only be on KCPD but will have access to RegComms and encryption. KCPD will manage their encryption. Rockhurst University Department of Safety and Security is a police department.

Jeff Brame motioned to recommend to the MARRS Management Council putting Rockhurst University Police Department on the MARRS system. Tony Avery seconded the motion. The motion passed without opposition.

- Wellington Napoleon Fire District – Jeff Brame
  - They are requesting to come on the system for interoperability for mutual aid with Fort Osage Fire Departments. This would be for four radios now, but they are working on a sales tax to get more radios. If the sales tax passes, it would change to 35 radios. This is only for access for the RegComms. Independence will be the agency managing this agreement.

- Subscriber Access Agreement Update
  - Skinrood noted that in the last meeting, there was discussion around trying to get clarification on defining what a public safety entity was in the policy.

    Winebrenner researched this and provided some information which listed definitions for police departments, law enforcement officers, fire department emergency medical services. This information was shared in the chat and Nikki Thomas will email it out. The information was reviewed and discussed for addition to the MARRS policy. It was shared that adding the verbiage to the MARRS policy that entities were required to have an ORI number for access to the system would help clear up the questions around who should or could have access. Fire departments would continue to be defined as it already is outlined in the policy. Winebrenner suggested changing on the line "agency requesting encrypted access to the MARRS regional system shall have a valid ORI number assigned by the FBI" to add the words law enforcement to the front of this line would be sufficient. There was a discussion. Skinrood suggested changing the verbiage to say, "law enforcement agencies requesting access should have a valid ORI" and the definition for Fire and EMS remain the same. Nikki Thomas will email out the proposed definitions and MARRS subscriber documents. This will be voted on at the next meeting.

- **Technical Committee**
  - MARRS System Reports/Upgrades
    - Cass County – Marie Beauchamp – Finalizing cybersecurity installations.
    - Excelsior Springs – Larry Tarrant – Nothing new.
    - Independence – Doug Christianson – Nothing new.
    - Johnson County, KS – Paul Haynes – City police have encrypted all their channels, and they are going back and cleaning up duplicate channels across the county.
    - Johnson County, MO – Steve Ewing – They are ready to start breaking ground on their new radio system.
    - Kansas City, MO – Jeff Brame – Almost have all portables Motorola radios out and have half of their portables.
    - Lee's Summit – Jamie Taylor – Nothing new.
    - Platte County – Tony Avery – In queue on active eye. Other than that, just doing preventive maintenance and realignment done.
    - Wyandotte County - Darrell Banner – Finishing up active eye. Replacing around 800 radios.

Encryption Programming – Non-MARRS Agencies – Eric Winebrenner/Tony Avery/Jeff Brame
- At the last MARRS Management there was a large discussion on how non-MARRS agency were going to get their radios encrypted, who would be responsible for handling this or if the encryption key were going to be given to a non-MARRS agency. Avery said this stemmed back to Leavenworth already having access to the RegComms channels, but they are not a MARRS users; strictly have access for an interoperability standpoint. The discussion was if they are a non-MARRS participant how do we go about ensuring they have the encryption key to load their radios? If they are not allowed to have the key then, per our policy this would require the responsibility falls to someone else to bring and sit there while the encryption is loaded. The question is "who's responsible is it to go and be there for this or rekeying?" This was discussed.

Tony Avery moved to recommend to the MARRS Management Council to allow Leavenworth County Sheriff's office access to ACS 1426 encryption key after verification of all requisite MARRS documentation is completed for the use in programming of radios solely owned by Leavenworth County Sheriff's Office which will be managed by Midwest Mobile. Jeff Brame seconded the motion. The motion passed without opposition.

- Open Discussion

- o Brame asked if other entities were going to be allowed on the LTC server. This was discussed. Beauchamp suggested directing non-public safety agencies to use First Net. Toby Alderidge said they just had a meeting this morning discussing a demonstration with Motorola and having talked to Motorola about getting demos and being able to truly trial the full functionalities of Smart Connect and all the items and being able to use the LTC. Motorola shared with them that they would not be able to do anything until someone at KCMO Fire Department provided approval to use their box since KCFD made the initial equipment purchase and it being tied to the MARRS system.
- o Skinrood noted that Clay County Sheriff's department reached out to him with a request from North Kansas City School District with the same request as Independence School District and he told them no, but they could bring their request before the MARRS committee.
- o Christianson said that there was a need to assign talkgroups. Right now, only PD has been assigned. Need to assign Fire and EMS. Skinrood asked Thomas to put together a list of which Fire departments have encryption capabilities and who will be on the system or not. It was decided to use the assignments listed below.

  15 – would be Emergency Management
  16 – 18 Fire – 16 primary Fire
  19 – 25 Others (open/encrypted for special events)
  26 – 28 LE pursuit – 28 primary/pursuit

Tony Avery moved to recommend to the MARRS Management Council the classification of each channel as listed above. Paul Haynes seconded the motion. The motion passed without opposition.

- o Kimberly Jennings asked if there was a way to control the sound on the consoles since some callers come across loud while others you can barely hear. Brame said they had tried to control this on the radio side. He asked for them to make a list of which ones were low and which ones were high or who they would like changed and email that list to him.

The meeting was adjourned.

2024 MARRS User/Technical Committee Meeting Dates
May 15 • August 7 • November 6