

MARRS Management Council Committee
May 28, 2025, Hybrid/TEAMS
Meeting Summary

Welcome & Call to order

Worth Hunsinger called the meeting to order, and self-introductions were done in the room. Eric Winebrenner performed a roll call of those online.

- Approval of the February 26, 2025, Meeting Summary

Tony Avery moved to approve the February 26, 2025, meeting summary with the correction of all the VDAs in the Open Discussion session being changed to BDAs. Scott Stephenson seconded it. The motion was approved.

- **System Owners Update**

- Cass County, MO – Marie Beauchamp – Nothing to report
- Excelsior Springs, MO – No report
- Independence, MO – Doug Christianson – Nothing new
- Johnson County, KS – Worth Hunsinger – Nothing new
- Johnson County, MO – Steve Ewing – They shut off their old system yesterday and are working totally on their new system.
- Kansas City, MO – Jim Brame – In the process of buying new equipment.
- Lee's Summit, MO – Travis Forbes – Their new communications center is under construction which includes a new tower.
- Platte County – Tony Avery – In the process of replacing UPS, microwave power plants, and three of their tower sites.
- Wyandotte County – Darrell Banner – Nothing new

- **System Access**

Access to MARRS Encrypted Talk Groups – Clarification – Chris Skinrood

- This conversation came up in a discussion around FIFA and the additional resources that are going to be needed. There was talk about public works being involved in barricades/fencing and such, and if city entities would have access to encrypted talkgroups in the event that they would need to work with PD or Fire during some of these events. Public works being a part of local governments was also discussed; so, do they fall under that local government's umbrella for a need during this event time (FIFA) to have access to encrypted or not? Skinrood noted that he had shared in these conversations that anything that would come up would most likely be moved over to PD and Fire encrypted and anything else that would have a regional need would be kept on unencrypted line(s). Haynes said that patching is how this is managed on a daily basis. Skinrood said he believed the conversation point that brought this to light was with all the resources that will be here during the World Cup, will there be exceptions to how things are done. He noted that he was not on the FIFA Communications Committee, so he was not sure how they were seeing this play out. Eric Winebrenner noted that Mark Whelan and Steve Hoskins were on the FIFA Communications Committee and during the Users/Tech committee meeting, it was shared that this has yet to come up in the FIFA Communications Committee meetings.

Skinrood feels there is a need to review and re-access everything; get clarification on who has what. Hunsinger suggested carrying this over to the next meeting. Brame said he would not be opposed to possibly allowing certain agencies to have the encrypted talkgroups for three months or so (during the World Cup if that would help) as long as someone was guarding the entrance. and they were removed after the event. This was discussed. Winebrenner asked if this group wanted to also carry this topic over to the Users committee, and they agreed to that being done.

Kansas Department of Emergency Management – Eric Winebrenner/Mark Whelan

- After the Users/Tech meeting, MARC received an email from the Ks Department of Emergency Management requesting access to regcomm channels. They would like to add them to their portable radios.

Whelan shared that the Regional Coordinators for KDEM cover the MARC Ks counties and often respond on MARRS skill events. Hunsinger added that this request also included the encrypted channels which he believes comes back to the Public Safety umbrella. Skinrood said Reg Comm 14 has been set aside for emergency management. He then asked how far and wide this group was willing to push the radio system beyond Wyandotte and Johnson County, KS?

Winebrenner read what was in the MARRS guidelines regarding those who should be on the system.

Brame shared that KCI was going to AES. They have a command staff that is not law enforcement but are government employed, but their website says they are a law enforcement agency.

It was agreed that neither Kansas Department of Emergency Management nor KCI would be allowed access to the MARRS encrypted channels.

Fire Codes Mandates & In-Building Coverage: BDA Management and Technical Recommendations – Scott Stephenson

- Stephenson and Brandon Williams (Fire) met with the Fire Marshals committee. The national fire marshals committee is coming into cities and wants to create mandates requiring new buildings to have a certain amount of BDA coverage. Does this group have technical recommendations for minimal BDA requirements we would like forwarded to the fire marshals committee, for inclusion consideration, in the document they are creating. Skinrood read an email that he had received about this/repeaters coverage. May asked if they were proposing mandates if BDA drops a certain amount from outside to inside? Stephenson explained what he believed they are trying to do is mandate a minimal amount of signal level for each room on each floor inside. If it does not meet with this, then the building would be required to have some kind of amp system installed.

John Muench, Motorola, said a national requirement had been set in 2019 that is starting to hit the books and be enforced. He outlined it as a requirement of making sure new buildings meet the code for which Fire tests signals to get in. This is because fire marshals have the authority to give buildings occupancy approval. This is also done to make sure that the inside signals do not interfere with the outside signals. He shared that Motorola has a users' group that would be a good resource to participate in. Avery asked Muench to send their users' group information to our system owners and he agreed to send it.

Skinrood asked if there was going to be a national training on this? Muench said there is an advocacy group called Safer Buildings Coalition that goes around providing seminars for fire marshals. But certification is not provided for this training. Motorola is connected to My Set, which is connected to an engineering organization that has a course set up for different areas. There are some courses available that are certified training. This would be a good thing for the fire marshals to add to their mandates: anyone that is going to be designing or installing these needs to be certified.

Hart said that Florida's radio shops have staff positions that manage the permitting process and are funded by the permit application fees. This person approves building drawings and designs before they can be permitted/implemented, and they also go out and do testing before the building can receive occupancy permits. The downside is that this is not a full-time position. So, these employees are also required to support other radio shop duties. Motorola has gone as far as to recommend the city also put in a GIS layer.

Proposed ISSI Enhancements for World Cup – Technical Review and Committee Routing – Roger Strobe

- He is working on organizing the ISSI and maximizing it for all our interop. He will write up a specific document and get it to the technical committee.
- **Open Discussion**
 - Chris Maiers reported that there has been quite a bit of sidebar work with some interferences that have occurred throughout the country. He was able to provide some information to the Kansas City Police Department on this.
 - Work has been done on delivering a lot of training courses to the MARC area for specific positions such as COMT, Tactical Dispatcher, and Incident Communications Manager.

- Tactical Dispatcher – This course is scheduled for June 10 - 13. There have been a good number of registrations, and it is nearing capacity.
- Incident Communications Center Manager – This is slated to be delivered July 21 – 23. This is a course that basically teaches the students how to manage tactical dispatchers in an austi or semi-austi environment. This course does not get a lot of promotion but is a good course because it teaches more of a supervisory methodology in these types of scenarios. It is recommended that anyone who supervises dispatchers take this course. This course not only prepares you for deployment, but it is good practice for any situation where you might have an outage which would get you into a tactical situation. This INCM could really assist you in managing your dispatchers in these types of operations.
- COMMEX – This is scheduled for August 25- 27. We are still working on a location, but it will be in the Kansas City metro area. Work is being done on the measles and there have been some good meetings about this.

There have been some discussions with federal law enforcement on what things may look like for the special events.

The big thing to keep in mind is there have been some recent security alerts that have come out about commercial networks or networks that our equipment may rely on. The idea here is to work with your service providers to make sure they are using protective items such as DNS and items of this sort to make sure your data is secure in transit from point A to point B.

The meeting was adjourned.

2025 MARRS Management Council Meeting Dates

o August 27 and December 17