

## STATEWIDE LAW ENFORCEMENT RADIO SYSTEM (SLERS) JOINT TASK FORCE (JTF) BOARD MEETING

**Meeting Date: November 5, 2014**

JTF Board Meeting  
Betty Easley Center, Room 152  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399

### **JTF Board Members Participating in Board Meeting:**

LTC Greg Gibson, Chairman, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC)  
SAC Mark Perez, Vice-Chair, Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE)  
Maj. Steve Williams, Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles (DHSMV)  
Maj. Mark Trammell, Department of Financial Services (DFS)  
Cpt. Ben Burns, Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (DACS)  
Wes Kirkland, Florida Department of Corrections (FDOC)

### **Staff and Others in Attendance:**

Stacy Arias, Deputy Secretary, DMS\*\*  
LT. Russ Bass, FHP\*  
Maj. Ryan Burchnell, DHSMV  
Vic Thomas, FHP  
Cindy Peavy, FWC  
Bill Skukowski, FWC  
Michelle Dean, FWC  
Nicholas Simoncini, FDLE  
John Woodard, FDOC  
Leigh Anne Payne, DMS  
John Ford, DMS  
Charles Hadley, DMS  
Carlton Wells, DMS  
Greg Prescott, DMS  
Robert Downie, DMS  
\*Florida Highway Patrol  
\*\*Department of Management Services

Doug Whitfield, DMS  
Nigel Shepherd, DMS  
Kurt Eckel, DMS  
Kendrick Roberts, DMS  
Leon Simmonds, DMS  
Debi Smith, DMS  
Curt Jones, Harris  
Henry Erfurt, Harris  
Piroscka Ventura, Harris  
Adam Black, Harris  
Glenn Grab, Harris  
Dennis Martinez, Harris  
Tal Whiddon, Williams  
Jay Malpass, Motorola  
Rick Rewiski, CI\*\*\*  
Carol Brady  
\*\*\*Communications International

### **Call to Order & Welcome..... Chairman Gibson**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Gibson, at the Betty Easley Conference Center, in Room 152, at 9:30 a.m. The Chair extended a welcome to all attendees. The Chair recognized that this meeting was Major Williams' last one before retiring from the Florida Highway Patrol. Maj. Williams was sitting in for Col. Brierton.

### **Approval of the Minutes..... Chairman Gibson**

**Motion** was made by Maj. Williams and **seconded** by Mr. Kirkland to accept the minutes of the August 12, 2014, as transcribed. **Motion carried.**

**SLERS Partners.....Chairman Gibson**

Chairman Gibson addressed concerns about the “tone” of some JTF Technical Committee discussions about SLERS partners and what constitutes a “first responder.” Some SLERS partners have come on the system and added elements of their overall system to the SLERS network. Now the Board is at a point where street departments, solid waste departments, etc., are being added to the SLERS network. The Board understands that when SLERS partners come on the network, they are looking for a communication solution for all entities, including first responders and waste and street management departments. The Board needs to consider defining first responders related to SLERS partners, and advise SLERS partners at the beginning that the SLERS network is only for first responders.

Maj. Williams agreed with Mr. Ford that more research needs to be done to see if the SLERS partner’s application addresses whom will be added to the system based on the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) licenses. The Board must stay within its limits based on the FCC licensing and do not exceed its capacity. Chairman Gibson stated that the Board also needs to make the intent of the SLERS network clear. Either the intent of the network is for State law enforcement agencies, or the intent is for all law enforcement. Chairman Gibson stated his personal opinion: “This is a first responder network, and the ideal scenario is to ultimately build out a solution that enables all first responder agencies within the State to have the interoperability that we have talked about since Sept. 11 happened.”

Deputy Secretary Arias requested that instead of researching the current situation, the Board should collaborate and have discussions on the future. Chairman Gibson agreed that the Board needs to look to the future, while ensuring the Board stays within our current constraints and limitations.

SAC Perez suggested that the Board considers that our SLERS partners are usually in extreme rural locations, and the reality is our State assets are not necessarily concentrated in those areas. On the initial observation, it may seem that SLERS partners are overloading our capacity. But in reality, SLERS partners are first being impacted by the limited channel capacity. He also stated that it should not be a “red mark” against SLERS partners because it provides us the interoperability when JTF agencies have to go into those areas and have a partnership and collaboration. Sometimes those county and municipal partners are who law enforcement officers will be calling upon for backup assistance. Just because it “looks” like a capacity issue, what the Board needs to consider is the impact it has on the SLERS partners and compare it to the interoperability needs in crucial circumstances.

**EDACS Equipment Replacement Option .....Chairman Gibson**  
*(Enhanced Digital Access Communication System)*

Chairman Gibson stated that Harris is undertaking an effort to assist agencies that lack sufficient capital to meet their needs during this “transition period” in purchasing new equipment. Individuals who are in need of this assistance need to reach out to the vendor and talk to them about options that might exist. He reiterated that the SLERS Strategic Plan states: “*SLERS State Agencies and additional subscribers are advised to purchase adequate stocks of EDACS equipment to meet their needs for the period leading up to the completion of the new system which could extend to the end of the current contract on June 30, 2021. Any newly manufactured equipment purchased must meet with P25 Phase II compliance.*”

Mr. Skukowski stated that he is concerned about the amount of fixed memory on the current generation of Harris’ product. It is very limiting to FWC’s needs. FWC is currently using about 95 percent of the allotted fixed memory, and has been asked to reduce its talkgroups for the new

XGP Code. FWC has some short-term concerns as well as long-term concerns. As they migrate to a new system with added personalities, they are concerned about the possibility of having to run both the EDACS current programming and adding in the new P25 programming, as well as being forced to operate with two different radios. Dr. Martinez from Harris acknowledged FWC's concerns, and stated that they have been working towards solutions and are making progress.

#### Enhancement Sites Update .....John Ford

- Lake County Simulcast Channel Expansion – Channels six and seven are on the air as of October 10, 2014.
- Pinecrest – Continuing to work on contract issues with CenturyLink.
- Zephyrhills – T1 circuit installed and being tested.
- Levy – Structural Analysis has passed. Building permit completed. Pending approval of Federal Antenna System Registration (ASR).
- Florahome –Waiting on Putnam County Public Works (PCPW) to review the building permit. Once PCPW submits their approval, the building permit will go to the Putnam County Board of County Commissioners for approval.
- Sanderson – Site walk on October 22 revealed that there are three microwave dishes and an antenna at the top of this tower. As a result, DMS will extend the tower height by 20 feet. The Department of Management Services and the Department of Transportation (DOT) will work in partnership; DMS will share a building with DOT.
- SW Corbett – Site drawing package is completed. Waiting on approval from South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD).
- Delray Beach – Site is on the air as of September 30, 2014.

#### Mobile Radio System (MRS) Update .....John Ford

The Department of Management Services received a quote of \$39,066.91 to replace the MRS tower, including the installation and retrofit of the trailer axles, dual band tower top amplifier (TTA), and dual band antenna. Based on this quote, DMS filed a state insurance claim, and received a compensation check in the amount of \$26,407.81. The Department of Management Services will use the enhancement funds for the remaining costs. The difference includes a \$2,500.00 deductible, \$1,687.00 in depreciation, and \$8,472.10 in axle upgrades not covered by the state insurance. As previously approved by the Board, DMS will also use the enhancement funds to retrofit the second MRS trailer. The manufacturer has agreed to complete the work, without charging labor, which is approximately \$20,000.00 per trailer.

Florida Highway Patrol has made a request to deploy the second trailer in support of the Disney Wine and Dine Half Marathon during November 7- 9, 2014. Until the MRS trailers are retrofitted, the tower will only be extended to 75 feet, which provides additional strength to the tower because of overlapping sections of the tower.

#### Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) Update ..... Nick Simoncini

- SOP 1 (Definitions) has been updated. **Motion** was made by Maj. Williams and **seconded** by SAC Perez to accept SOP 1. **Motion carried.**
- SOP 5 (Radio System Hardware and Software Changes and Maintenance) has been updated. **Motion** was made by Maj. Trammell and **seconded** by Maj. Williams to accept SOP 5. **Motion carried.**

- SOP 11 (System Key Security) has been updated. **Motion** was made by SAC Perez and **seconded** by Mr. Kirkland to accept SOP 11 with the additional changes of removing two vendor specific references. **Motion carried to accept SOP 11 with additional changes made.**
- SOP 18 (Mobile Radio System Trailer Deployment) changes have been made. **Motion** was made by Maj. Williams and **seconded** by Capt. Burns to accept SOP 18. **Motion carried.**
- SOP 20 (Affiliate Partners) has been sent back to the SOP Sub-Committee with concerns for further editing. LTC Gibson stated that SOP 20 does not differentiate between short-term and long-term affiliate users. If a JTF agency has to loan three or more radios to an affiliate user for any length of time, then you would need approval of the Technical Committee. This sets up a process that hinders our ability to perform our core missions. Take an example from the FWC world: FWC has an issue with immigration and need to partner with the U.S. Coast Guard for rapid response needs. If FWC hands them more than three radios, according to the language in SOP 20, then FWC will need the Technical Committee's approval. It looks like this SOP allows the Technical Committee to have veto authority on who can come on as affiliate user for any length of time. The Board may not want to delegate that kind of authority. Before the Board takes this SOP for consideration, comments from the Board members are needed. Maj Williams stated that this was not the intent of the SOP. Nick Simoncini stated that the intent of the SOP was for permanent affiliate users, not for casual, loaner radios. The SOP is for the permanent loan of radio(s). LTC Gibson asked whether permanent/temporary status is defined in any existing SOP. Nick Simoncini stated he believes affiliate was defined in the SOP, and the SOP Committee needs to clarify the definition. Maj Williams agreed to return SOP 20 back to the Technical/SOP Committee for clarification.

#### **Disposition Codes..... LT Russ Bass**

The Disposition Codes are located within SOP 13, and have been updated to remove and add codes as requested. **Motion** was made by Maj. Williams and **seconded** by Maj. Trammell to accept the Disposition Codes' changes. **Motion carried.**

#### **Security Update ..... Major Burchnell**

Seventy-seven users have been approved, eight were denied, 25 are pending background investigations, and 18 are inactive. On the pending investigations, the Security Manager has added a new procedure to let managers know who is pending and why, on a weekly basis. Almost all of the pending applications are because of incomplete packages. As a reminder, the online portal is almost done; it's probably less than 30 days from completion. Also, an agency reported one radio lost/stolen that was deactivated and was found the next day and reactivated. There have been no other infrastructure or thefts reported.

Chairman Gibson requested that Mr. Thomas and Mr. Simoncini come to the front of the meeting for a special presentation to Maj. Williams. A "walkie-talkie" radio set and a plaque were presented to honor Maj. Williams for his years of service to the State of Florida. Several in attendance spoke regarding the impact he has made on them as individuals, as well as the positive impact to Florida's Public Safety Community.

**BeOn Update..... Curt Jones**

Dr. Martinez, the Chief Technology Officer for Harris Radio Frequency (RF) Communications, provided a presentation to update everyone on BeOn. Additionally, Harris had a prototype BeOn vehicle on display in the parking lot for attendees to review the technology.

**Election of Officers for 2015 ..... Chairman Gibson**

Chairman Gibson opened the floor for nominations of the new JTF Chairman to begin January 1, 2015. Maj. Williams nominated SAC Perez, the nomination was accepted. With no other nominations being made, the nominations were closed. **Motion** was made by Maj. Williams and **seconded** by Mr. Kirkland to accept the nomination of SAC Perez as Chairman of the JTF Board for 2015. **Motion carried.**

Chairman Gibson then opened the floor for nominations of the new JTF Vice-Chair to begin January 1, 2015. SAC Perez nominated Maj. Trammell, the nomination was accepted. With no other nominations being made, the nominations were closed. **Motion** was made by Maj. Williams and **seconded** by Mr. Kirkland to accept the nomination of Maj. Trammell as the Vice-Chair of the JTF Board for 2015. **Motion carried.**

**Requested Agenda Items for Next Meeting ..... Chairman Gibson**

The floor was opened for any agenda items for the next meeting. None being heard, Mr. Ford noted to contact him for any agenda item for the next Board meeting.

**Next Meeting (As announced on November 5, 2014)**

- Tuesday, February 17, 2015, at 9:30 a.m.  
Betty Easley Conference Center  
4075 Esplanade Way, Room 152  
Tallahassee, FL 32399

**NOTE:** *The meeting date has been changed to Wednesday, February 25.*

SAC Perez addressed Chairman Gibson and thanked him for his years of service as the current Chairman. SAC Perez stated that he hopes to do at least half the job that Chairman Gibson has done over the years, driving us forward and keeping the vision alive.

**Adjourn:** Motion to adjourn was made by Maj. Williams and seconded by SAC Perez. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Debi Smith, Department of Management Services