



JOINT OPERATIONS AND TECHNICAL COMMITTEES REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

LOS ANGELES REGIONAL INTEROPERABLE
COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM AUTHORITY

Tuesday, February 18, 2025, • 1:30 p.m.

OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Leslie Luke, County of Los Angeles Chief Executive Office

Todd Denerson, County of Los Angeles Fire Department

OPERATIONS ALTERNATE COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Robert J. Weber, (Chair), County of Los Angeles Sheriff's Department

Paul Villalobos, Los Angeles Police Chiefs' Association

Antonio Zavala, At-Large Seat #3

Brandon Coatney, At-Large Seat #4

OPERATION COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT/VACANT:

Adam Martinez, County of Los Angeles Department of Health Services

Michael Alegria, Los Angeles Area Fire Chief's Association

Joshua Nelson, California Contract Cities' Association

Jeff LaGreek, At-Large Seat #2

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Leslie Luke, County of Los Angeles Chief Executive Office

Scott England, County of Los Angeles Internal Services Department

Lipin Tan, County of Los Angeles Department of Health Services

Ted Pao, County of Los Angeles Sheriff's Department

TECHNICAL ALTERNATE COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Robert J. Weber, (Chair), County of Los Angeles Sheriff's Department

Antonio Zavala, At-Large Seat #3

Brandon Coatney, At-Large Seat #4

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT/VACANT:

Michael Alegria, Los Angeles Area Fire Chief's Association

Joshua Nelson, California Contract Cities' Association

Jeff LaGreek, At-Large Seat #2

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 both the Joint Operations and Technical Committees meetings to order at 1:35 p.m.

II. ANNOUNCE QUORUM – ROLL CALL

Marissa Bosque 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. September 18, 2024 – Regular Meeting Minutes

Operations Lead Lt. Weber asked the Joint Committees for approval of the minutes. Joint Committee Technical member Scott England motioned first, seconded by Joint Committee Alternate Member Brandon Coatney.

Operations Committee:

Ayes (6): Luke, Denerson, Weber, Villalobos, Zavala, Coatney

Technical Committee:

Ayes (7): Luke, England, Weber, Tan, Pao, Zavala, Coatney

MOTION APPROVED

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS – NONE

There was no public comment.

V. CONSENT CALENDAR – NONE

There were no Consent Calendar items.

VI. REPORTS (B – C)

B. Regional Interoperability Update – Ted Pao and Lt. Robert Weber



Operations Lead Lieutenant Robert Weber greeted the Committees and presented Agenda Item B.

Regarding regional interoperability, Operations Lead Lt. Weber reported LA-RICS was continuing the work of connecting the future Inter Subsystem Interface (ISSI) System and that funding for ISSIs for major systems should be released soon. Operations Lt. Lead Weber further reported LA-RICS is coordinating with all agencies involved in that process such as the City of Los Angeles (City) Police Department (LAPD), City of Long Beach Police Department (LBPD), Interagency Communications Interoperability (ICI) System, Los Angeles World Airports, and the Port of Los Angeles. Operations Lead Lt. Weber went on to say LAPD is working on their system with Motorola Solutions, Inc. (MSI), and he plans to have conversations with them soon. Operations Lead Lt. Weber mentioned that LAPD and the County of Los Angeles (County) have been busy dealing with the issues resulting from the recent wildfires in the region.

Operations Lead Lt. Weber shared, regarding the recent wildfires, the primary use of the LA-RICS system by non-subscribers / affiliates was the ISSI system that LA-RICS has with ICI, which worked well. Operations Lead Lt. Weber further shared much work needs to be done regarding programming with most of the agencies in the ICI System, and LA-RICS is continuing to push these coordination efforts. Operations Lead Lt. Weber went on to say, thankfully, during the wildfires, there was enough programming that different agencies on the ICI System were able to patch onto the regional channels, and communication was clear with no issues. Operations Lead Lt. Weber said in addition, the County of Los Angeles Sheriff's Department (LASD) worked with the National Guard and the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES). Operations Lead Lt. Weber stated the National Guard programmed their radios to the trunked system and used the regional channels to communicate on an encrypted system. Operations Lead Lt. Weber further stated Cal OES used the Los Angeles Regional Tactical Communication System (LARTCS) 800 frequencies, and LA-RICS turned on LARTCS for those 800MHz channels enabling the National Guard to communicate.

Operations Lead Lt. Weber went on to say these channels were provided for them primarily to communicate on their own as they are a large entity, and it opened more communication channels and communication with Cal OES. Operations Lead Lt. Weber expressed the LARTCS 800MHz channels are nation-wide, and they worked well. Operations Lead Lt. Weber further expressed LA-RICS worked on some connections with LAPD to transfer to analog since they were having issues with connection out of their command



post in Zuma Beach, and this resulted in LAPD using Push-to-Talk (PTT) to communicate with only people in their command post. Operations Lead Lt. Weber went on to say LA-RICS does not yet have significant connection with LAPD, which is a challenge. However, LASD continues security efforts in areas affected by the Palisades Fire and hopes to report more progress this year.

Operations Lead Lt. Weber shared LA-RICS is in communication with ICI System managers, and LA-RICS will aid ICI agencies that are not connected to regional channels and encourage them to consider programming their radios to regional channels. Operations Lead Lt. Weber mentioned LA-RICS has had ICI connections for almost two (2) years and is pushing for progress. Operations Lead Lt. Weber mentioned one agency on the ICI System lost communications during the fires and transferred to the regional channels, as they were in a critical stage of performing evacuations from the wildfires, and although this type of connection is not the intended purpose, it was used for public safety purposes, and it worked well. Operations Lead Lt. Weber further mentioned the LA-RICS system worked well capacity-wise without major issues.

Operations Lead Lt. Weber asked Operations Alternate Member Paul Villalobos how the coordination of programming radios was with the ICI agencies. Operations Alternate Member Villalobos reported he was working the City of Arcadia, City of San Marino, City of South Pasadena, City of Covina, City of Glendora and possibly the City of Irwindale to keep them updated. Operations Lead Lt. Weber shared LA-RICS requested funding from the Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) Authority for this radio programming purpose, which was not approved, however, he hopes sharing interoperability impediments and updates from these agencies to the UASI Authority will be helpful in LA-RICS receiving funding from the UASI Authority in the future. Operations Lead Lt. Weber expressed the LA-RICS system proved to be resilient amidst the wildfires and will continue moving forward with interoperability efforts.

Operations Lead Lt. Weber asked the Joint Committee if they had questions. Operations Alternate Member Villalobos mentioned the cities that he was coordinating with to program radios were the City of Arcadia, the City of Covina, the City of South Pasadena, the City of San Marino, the City of Sierra Madre, the City of Glendora, and possibly the City of Irwindale.

Technical Member Scott England asked if this programming included Talkgroups, IDs, and analog channels to which Operations Alternate Member Villalobos said yes as he continues coordination with LASD



agencies that surround the cities with the regional LARTCS channels. Operations Lead Lt. Weber mentioned the National Guard using the LARTCS channels for a big incident, such as the recent wildfires, would be an example for the need of programming radios.

Technical Member England asked about the connections of other ICI subsystem interfaces such as the Los Angeles Countywide Integrated Radio System (CWIRS) and Sheriff's Training and Regional Services (STARS) and emphasized the need to move forward with these subsystems. Operations Lead Lt. Weber said LA-RICS would continue to move forward on interoperability efforts, and these subsystems and the funding for them should be discussed offline by the County agencies to secure funding for the same and if there is a funding gap, they should be brought back to the Joint Committees for discussion.

Technical Member England stated there may be transition points for those agencies that have the proper frequencies and older systems to interface with which allows them to slowly move to the LA-RICS system. Technical Member England further stated many agencies do not have funding for newer radios, and connecting to the ISSI interfaces allows for such a transition which would be good for LA-RICS. Operations Lead Lt. Weber expressed that ISSI connections are expensive, and although it may not be feasible, it is worth exploring.

Operations Alternate Villalobos shared that most of the agencies he is working with is on T-Band radios for the most part, with some of the agencies using tri-band, hopefully getting LARTCS so they are using Very High Frequencies (VHF) and Area Tactical Channels (A-TAC), but not Ultra High Frequencies (UHF.) Technical Member England stated this was an advantage since there is an interface of choice regardless of what radio is being used.

Joint Committee Member Brandon Coatney said it was mentioned at the Los Angeles Area Fire Chief's Association (LAAFCA) meeting that some repeater sites for Verdugo Dispatch went offline and did not have a backup power source. Joint Committee Member Coatney asked Operations Lead Lt. Weber if LA-RICS supplied channels to them and that he did not hear any specific issues pertaining to that on the ICI side. Operations Lead Lt. Weber heard there were some communication gaps and was not aware of how long those gaps were. Operations Lead Lt. Weber asked Operations Alternate Villalobos if he had insight regarding this.



Operations Alternate Member Villalobos reported that on Tuesday, January 7, 2025, busy signals were received, and the City of Monterey Park Police Department transferred to the legacy VHF channels. Operations Alternate Member Villalobos mentioned he is aware that Verdugo Dispatch has a different Mode 4, which indicates a heightened level of readiness or response, potentially signifying a large-scale emergency where multiple units and coordinated actions are required across the jurisdictions served by the Verdugo Fire Communications Center.

Operations Lead Lt. Weber reported that an agency had switched to the regional channels to communicate, but other than that, he was unaware of LA-RICS supplying channels for agencies to use. Operations Lead Lt. Weber further reported that LA-RICS was readily available to supply channels should their communications need arise. Joint Committee Member Coatney expressed that at the meeting he heard LA-RICS stepped in and aided agencies. Operations Lead Lt. Weber expressed the regional channels that LA-RICS provided were important as many agencies were able to patch in which allowed them to communicate.

Land Mobile Radio (LMR) Subject Matter Expert (SME), Dana Gower, reported the City of Sierra Madre switched to the ICI System for primary communication while the City of Montebello cells busied out with much of the users from South Bay; there were no site restrictions enforced. Mr. Gower further reported the issue was resolved within two (2) hours. Mr. Gower went on to say ICI had concerns over losing power at two (2) sites and accepted generators from MSI to use. Technical Lead Pao mentioned that a generator at one of the repeater sites did not start. Mr. Gower asked Technical Lead Pao if the site went off the air. Technical Lead Pao said the site remained on-air as the site went to battery backup power. Operations Lead Lt. Weber stated what was important to note was that regional channels were heavily used.

This concluded the Regional Interoperability Update report with no additional discussion.

C. LMR Network Operation Status and Issues – Ted Pao

Technical Lead Pao provided a PowerPoint Presentation and shared poignant information from Enclosures 1 (TMON Map), Enclosure 2 (JPA Report), and Enclosure 3 (MSI Astro P25 Performance).

Technical Led Pao stated the January 2025 firestorm in the Los Angeles region marked one of the most challenging emergency response scenarios



the LA-RICS LMR Network has faced. Technical Lead Pao further stated that LA-RICS supports two (2) of the largest safety agencies in the nation and plays a critical role in communication capability for first responders during the various wildfires throughout the County, which also provides essential communication services to day-to-day operations.

Technical Lead Pao reported the fires were driven by an unusually strong Santa Ana wind event, which led to powerful gusts, especially where the lower harbor area meets wildland. Technical Lead Pao further reported the forecasting of high wind elevation resulted in multiple Public Safety Power Shutdown (PSPS) events across the LMR System. As a result, back-up generators were activated to support radio equipment at impacted sites.

Technical Lead Pao shared Enclosure 1 showed the locations of twenty-three (23) sites, including the Catalina sites that were using generator power to keep the radio equipment activated because of the PSPS event or due to the fires. Technical Lead Pao further shared that while the Catalina Island sites may seem distant from the primary fire areas, its coverage was crucial for coastal canyons in the Palisades, Topanga, and Malibu regions, and throughout the wind events, sites came on and off generator power depending on wind conditions and power grid status. Technical Lead Pao went on to say, notably, power pole damage occurred at Topanga Peak (TOP), Green Mountain (GRM), Mount Disappointment (MDI), and Saddle Peak (MCI), and in total, the system operated four thousand one hundred and twenty-two (4,122) generator hours across thirty-four (34) sites during January to maintain radio network services.

Technical Lead Pao expressed that considering the extreme circumstances, the Authority believes the LMR Network performance during the 2025 firestorm was exceptional. Technical Lead Pao went on to express that from the standpoint of providing uninterrupted services to first responders, the system readiness and survivability under extreme conditions and operational functionality all exceeded expectation. Technical Lead Pao mentioned that while the Authority was fortunate the GRM site was not completely overwhelmed by fire, the Network demonstrated fulfillment in the face of multiple large fires. Technical Lead Pao said the LMR Network provided first in class service delivery, reliability, and public safety grade survivability, even when other systems, both public network, and regular and commercial broadband carriers struggled with generator failure, backhaul problems, and capacity overload.

Technical Lead Pao stated moving forward, LA-RICS would prioritize securing the necessary permits for weed abatement and similar



maintenance activities ahead of planned work. Technical Lead Pao further stated LA-RICS would investigate additional methods to fireproof equipment focusing on the danger of flying embers.

Technical Lead Pao further stated two (2) years ago, LA-RICS submitted a Right of Entry permit to California State Parks for brush clearance work around site GRM and a response from California State Parks is yet to be received; LA-RICS continues to pursue this permit.

Technical Lead Pao took a moment to acknowledge the crucial support of the Authority's partners during these challenging events by extending gratitude to MSI for their continued support.

With Enclosure 2, Technical Lead Pao reported comparisons of statistics between December 2024 and January 2025 of analog channels by talk time, January 2025 conventional Push-to-Talk (PTT) counts and talk time by cell with a focus on January 7, 2025, to January 14, 2025. Technical Lead Pao further shared Narrowband Mobile Data Network (NMDN) message counts for December 2024 and January 2025 in which the NMDN message counts peaked due to the Franklin Fires in December 2024 and peaked again during the Palisades and Eaton Fires in January 2025. Technical Lead Pao went on to compare statistics of the top fifteen (15) Digital Trunked Voice Radio Subsystem (DTVRS) Talkgroups between December 2024 and January 2025.

In conclusion, Technical Lead Pao shared that on Enclosure 3, the report summarized the system's performance between January 3, 2025, and January 22, 2025. Technical Lead Pao further shared the report is an analysis on utilization, network usage/talk time, call details, and system availability. From the report, Technical Lead Pao also shared images of the minimal impact the fires had on the LA-RICS sites.

Technical Lead Pao concluded his report with no additional discussion.

Operations Lead Lt. Weber emphasized the resiliency of the LA-RICS system and the value it brings for interoperable communications.

VII. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS –

D. SCHEDULE OF JOINT COMMITTEES MEETING



Operations Lead Lt. Weber addressed the Joint Committee schedule contained in the agenda packet, but did not call the item for a vote, therefore, the item will be carried to the next meeting.

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 adjourned the Regular Joint Operations and Technical Committee Meeting at 2:17 p.m., with the next Joint Committee Meeting to be held on Tuesday, March 18, 2025, at 1:30 p.m., at the LA-RICS Headquarters, 2525 Corporate Place, Suite 200, Large Conference Room, Monterey Park, California, 91754.

Operations Lead Lt. Weber called for a motion to adjourn the Regular Joint Committee Meeting, to which Alternate Operations Committee Member Villalobos motioned first.

APPROVED