

EDACS to AFRRCS SWITCHOVER

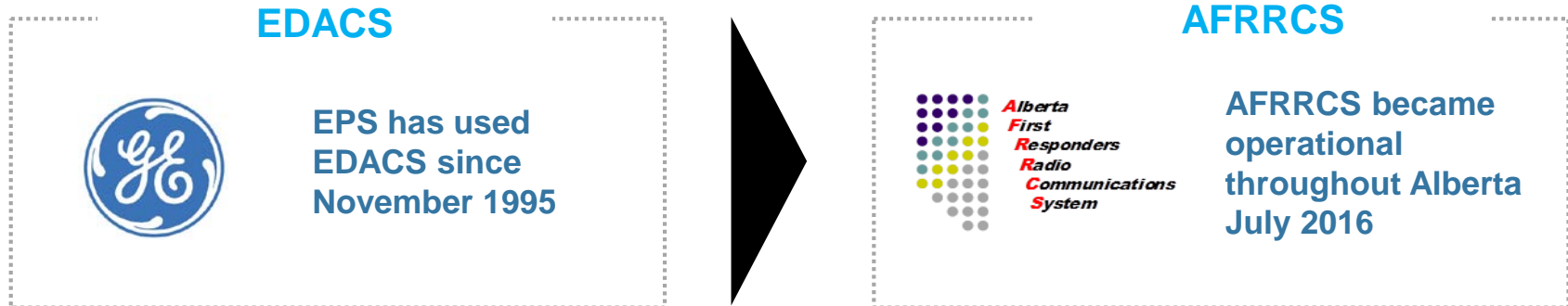
January 21, 2021

CITO Ron Anderson



Purpose or Why are we here today?

- AFRRCS (Alberta First Responders Radio Communications System) initiated in 2014
- EPS signed on at inception
- On January 4, 2021, EPS fully transitioned from EDACS (Enhanced Digital Access Communication System) to AFRRCS (Alberta First Responders Radio Communications System)



EDACS

(Enhanced Digital Access Communication System)

What is it?

- EDACS (Enhanced Digital Access Communication System) is a City of Edmonton owned radio system
- EDACS was maintained by EPS and maintenance vendors: L3Harris, WCI & Wesbell
- Been managed and operated since 1995

Who used it?

First Responders



Fire Rescue



Police



Medical



Secondary Responders

City of Edmonton

- Edmonton Transit
- Edmonton Roadways
- Community Services

AFRRCS

(Alberta First Responders Radio Communications System)

What is it?

- AFRRCS (Alberta First Responders Radio Communications System) is province owned and operated radio system
- Quality, cost effective, secure, reliable, accessible land mobile radio communications supporting all Alberta first responders
- AFRRCS EPS radio transmissions are encrypted
 - Public scanning devices and monitoring NOT possible

A Leading Technology

- Encryption capability for all provided radio channels
- Interoperability with other AFRRCS approved agencies across Alberta
- Designed to respond to major events (forest fires, floods, terrorist attacks) by multiple agencies



Benefits

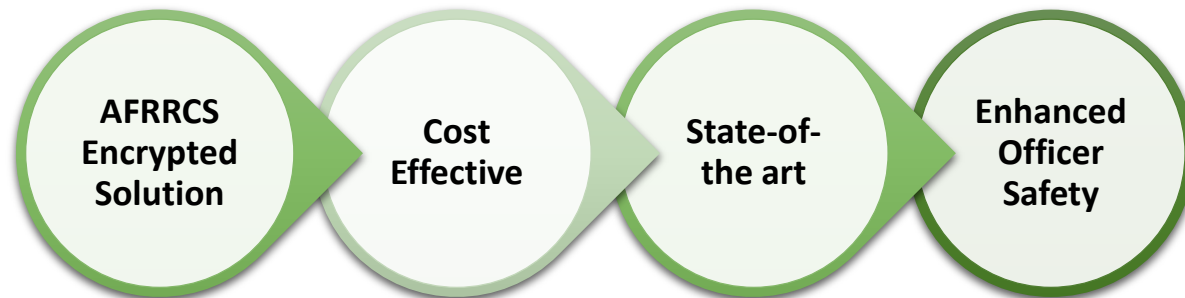
- Fully coordinated joint response
- Improved integrated communications
- Reduced costs for infrastructure and maintenance

Reasons For Encrypted Channels

- **Privacy**
 - Nature of police work requires timely and accurate radio transmissions
 - EPS regularly broadcasts CPIC information over radio talk groups and according to agreement must be encrypted
 - Operational activities often divulge private personal information including names, investigations, criminal and mental health history, as well as phone numbers and addresses for both victims and suspects
 - Identified incidents where persons of interest were using smart phone apps to listen to Police communications while they were being investigated in real-time
 - Creates an **officer** and **public** safety issue

Reasons for Encrypted Channels

- **AFRRCS is architected as an encrypted solution**
 - AFRRCS channels are fully recorded as were EDACS channels
 - Recordings may be requested by the public via a FOIPP
 - Providing physical radio access to external users can compromise the system and violates policies and agreements
 - Agreements in AFRRCS extend past just the EPS, who cannot provide external access on behalf of partners



Summary

- Migration to AFRRCS is now complete
- All EPS radios are communicating on new encrypted system
- EDACS is no longer required

Media access

- Meetings were held with media outlets regularly to notify them of the changes dating back to 2017
- Transitioned to AFRRCS without a specific solution for media due to the potential impact to our frontline officer and media relations resources required for follow up
- Committed to monitoring how this change impacted both our media partners and our internal resources and modify our approach if required

THANK YOU

Subhead to go here

