

# Orange County Communications & Emergency Operations Center

Loma Ridge, California

## Project Description:

In a forward-looking move a number of years ago, Orange County centralized most of the county's public safety and governmental services radio systems into a single centralized integrated system. It pioneered many of the modern frequency sharing techniques commonplace today. The hub of the County's radio transmission system is at the Loma Ridge Facility located on a 1,320 ft high ridge at the west end of Silverado Canyon. In addition to extensive communication capabilities, the EOC has stores of fuel, food and water, and can serve 140 emergency authorities in self-contained mode for up to two weeks.

Due to the County's need several years ago to consolidate operations, the Sheriff Department's emergency management operation was relocated to the Loma Ridge Facility. While the County emergency management operation has become recognized as one of the West Coast's leading agencies of its type, it is now sorely cramped for space and the modern technological support capabilities that permit efficient and effective incident planning and management.

## ACSI's Responsibilities:

ACSI had been engaged by the County to assist with relieving the problems faced at the Loma Ridge Facility. First, ACSI prepared designs for modernizing and upgrading the facility electronic security systems so that it might be better protected in today's more uncertain world. These systems are all configured to provide greatly expanded protection of the extensive facility site, its one mile entry drive, the building and the County's significant investment in radio, microwave, dispatch and E-911 equipment.

A similar upgrade of the EOC facility Multi Media Information System has also been planned and designed by ACSI..

More specifically, the facility security system has been completely replaced with the inclusion of an expanded and remotely controlled/monitored facility gating, integrated vehicle entry pedestals, modern high sensitivity (day-night) and infrared(night vision) cameras, multi-channel DVRS recording, digital image analysis and alarming, digital site and facility entry intercom system and proximity card-based access control system.

In a separate engagement, ACSI served as a member of an assessment and programming team to consider and



make recommendations regarding future expansion of the Loma Ridge facility and the potential relocation of emergency management operations to a separate facility.

From a radio systems perspective, additional technical space must be created to accommodate implementation of the coming 800 MHz radio system rebanding and installation of the interoperable radio systems associated with the nationwide APCO 25 program. From an emergency operations point of view, the highly limited physical access to the Loma Ridge Facility is also a serious problem that needs to be dealt with. ACSI is pleased to be a part of this study as it will ultimately bring invaluable benefit to the County and its residents.

