Captain Xenophon “Yo” Gikas has 29 years of professional firefighting experience with the Los Angeles Fire Department. Throughout his career he has held numerous titles and positions including: Communications Officer, Chief Officer’s Staff Assistant, Firefighter, Dispatcher, and Urban Search and Rescue Commander. He is currently assigned as Floor operations captain at the Metropolitan Fire Communications Center.

Captain Gikas is currently leading the fire departments automatic vehicle location and GIS migration project. He applies a unique combination of specialized communications skills, GIS knowledge, and information systems development experience in support of local, state, and national level programs improving public safety technology and services. He is an advocate of open standards and systems as the foundation to solving the interoperability challenges facing public safety responders. Captain Gikas has served many national programs and technology working groups as a subject matter expert in communications and information technologies including: past chair of the Department of Homeland Security Virtual USA GIS working group and Department of Homeland Security First Responder Resource group. He is currently the chair of the Southern California Chapter of the National Alliance for Public Safety GIS Foundation and vice chair FIRESCOPE Emerging Information Technology specialist group.

He is a NENA certified ENP, a communications specialist for FEMA-US&R, California Task Force One as well as Technical Rescue Specialist. He is a certified hazmat technician and swiftwater rescue technician.

Captain Gikas attended the University of California at Los Angeles and California State University at Northridge earning a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration with an emphasis in accounting and information systems.