

DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT & HOMELAND SECURITY
Communication Interoperability Working Group

January 17, 2007 Minutes
DOT Central Lab, Rocky Hill, CT

WELCOME, PUBLIC COMMENT AND REVIEW OF MINUTES:

The meeting was called to order at 1310 hours by the Co-Chair, Michael Varney. The following individuals were in attendance: Stephan Brown (DOT), George Carbonell (ConnDOT), Bob DiBella (DEMHS), Michael Dion (Military), Mike Gardner (CEMA), John Gustafson (CMED-NH), Bill Hackett (DEMHS), John Masciadelli (OSET), Jeff Merwin (SW-CMED), Tyler Millix (CFCA), Bob Muller (New Haven PD), Bernie O'Donnell (DOIT), Jeff Otto (QVEC), George Pohorilak(OSET), Gordon Shand (DPH), Mike Stemmler (DPS), Lee Toffey (DEMHS), Bob Tolomeo (DPS), Matt Valleau (CAP/DPS), Michael Varney (DOIT/CFCA), Keith Victor (CREPC), and Jerry Zarwanski (OSET).

Minutes of the November 21, 2006 meeting reviewed; motion to accept by John Gustafson, second by Matt Valleau, unanimous/moved and will be posted on the DEMHS website.

There were no public comments.

SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- A. Technical Committee: Presented by George Carbonell. Committee is waiting for the chosen vendor to send three STOC's boxes for testing. If the boxes do not work as needed, the next vendor on the list will be contacted.
- B. Governance Committee: Mike Varney asked if this committee should be disbanded until needed again. Motion made by George Pohorilak to disband, second by John Gustafson, unanimous approval.
- C. Training & Exercise Workgroup: See Old Business, section D – TICP Plan.

REPORT OF INTEROPERABILITY USAGE AND INCIDENTS:

- A. Tyler Millix reported that ITAC/ICALL was used in Somers for the Johnson Hosp. Mass Casualty drill and it worked fine.
- B. Jeff Merwin reported it was used for the shooting in Bridgeport with no problems.
- C. Bob Tolomeo reported that the problem that cropped up at the message center has been addressed and the channel will be monitored at all times.

OLD BUSINESS:

- A. Portable Radio Inventory & Training Program: Mike Varney reported that training is being delivered through the Fire Academy with two sessions being held last week and to continue through the end of March. So far a session has been held in Montville and Manchester. Sessions will be scheduled to have two in each DEMHS Region. Training is posted on the Fire Academy website. Jeff Merwin asked testing was any further along in Region 1. Mike Varney responded that it has not been done as of yet and will confirm the procedure with DPS.
- B. ITAC/ICALL Monthly Testing & Training Issues: Gordon Shand asked if there were radios available to fill the vacuum in EMS. The USAR Radios can be used for this. All radios that are to be returned must go to DPS.

- C. Homeland Security Grant Program: reported by Bill Hackett in Libby Graham's absence. Looking to reprogram any non-allocated monies. Already programmed items include the STOC's boxes, Maintenance for ITAC/ICALL system, battery buy, Training for Communication Unit Leader class, VCALL & UCALL, and tower enhancements. Matt Valleau advised that Libby is attempting to reprogram funds to support the CAP upgrades requested. Digital simulcast will allow for secure network throughout the state and video will work with this system.
- D. TICP: The limited full scale exercise in Norwalk, held the first week of December, was highly successful. A full scale exercise will be conducted on 4-28-07. The hot wash and after action reporting is done and has been submitted to the Feds. Most of the recommendations on the corrective action plan document will be initiated. next meeting will be Jan. 31st. On the federal review – problems found were failures of use of equipment and equipment failures themselves. Problems were fixed in real time. The draft scorecard was received the next day from the Feds, and with input from CT it was updated. See handout for scorecard results.
- E. Prime Mover Radios & Licensing: Bill Hackett advised that money has been set aside for licensing and that will rectify the problem.
- F. Annual Report to Coordinating Council & Legislature: Mike Varney advised that additions were put into the report based on agency requests and the report was completed and submitted.
- G. USAR CT-TF1 radios: Bob DiBella reported that the new USAR radios have been programmed. They are using CT group 1,2,3,& 4 instead of STOC's 1,2,3 & 4. Motorola had placed 403 MHz frequencies into the radios as a standard and these were removed. The three USAR frequencies and the 5 STOCs frequencies were programmed in. DMAT and CMED channels are to be added later. Discussion ensued. It was advised that 5 radios have been set aside for DMAT use. The ITAC/ICALL radios that USAR borrowed need to be returned to DPS. It was suggested that a meeting with the USAR group take place.

NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Scorecard for Norwalk Exercise: see TICP above.
- B. Per Mike Varney, Communication Unit Leader training was held in Fairfield. The course went well with good comments from the participants. After a review to incorporate comments, the course will be submitted to NIMS for possible use on a national level. Will hold the class statewide when the Regions are ready.
- C. Bill Hackett – Control Station Directive – there should be no alterations to the ITAC/ICALL base stations. Guidance will be re-issued to all towns again.
- D. Jerry Zarwanski asked the status of the Interoperability Plan as he needs to send it to the adjoining states when it has been accepted by DEMHS. Mike Varney advised that he would check with the Commissioner on this issue.
- E. Jeff Merwin asked about the Reverse Notification System. Mike Varney advised that the RFP was reviewed and accepted and the award is currently with the legal department of the chosen vendor and then will be sent to the state for contact amendments if needed. Once an agreement is reached the contract will be in place.

CORRESPONDENCE/GRANT REVIEWS:

- A. SHSGP grant reviews – Pomfret is in queue, and Killingworth should be received shortly.

B. Transit Security Grant – Mike Varney & Bill Hackett reported that the total grant was \$4,917,000 to be shared by CT/NY/NJ, and CT portion comes in at \$850,000. It will tie in radio frequency systems and allow for communication between the trains and the first responders, and from state to state. Discussion.

MARCUS COMMUNICATION PRESENTATION – As a state vendor Marcus Communications wished to present some new systems. Jeff Otto made a motion to table the presentation until the DEMHS legal department could review the procurement and ethics issues to be sure we were not in violation. Second by John Gustafson. Discussion ensued. Unanimously moved to table presentation.

NEXT MEETING:

Next regular meeting will be **February 20, 2007, at 1300 hours**, at the DOT Central Lab, Rocky Hill. CT.

Meetings open to the public.

Motion to adjourn by Tyler Millix; second by John Gustafson; approved.
Meeting adjourned at 1428 hours.