

DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT & HOMELAND SECURITY
Communication Interoperability Working Group

October 17, 2006 Minutes
DOT Central Lab, Rocky Hill, CT

WELCOME, PUBLIC COMMENT AND REVIEW OF MINUTES:

The meeting was called to order at 1330 hours by the Co-Chair, Bill Hackett. The following individuals were in attendance: George Carbonell (ConnDOT), Michael Dion (CTANG), Libby Graham (DEMHS), John Gustafson (CMED-NH), Bill Hackett (DEMHS), John Masciadelli (OSET), Jeff Merwin (SW-CMED), Jeff Otto (QVEC), Vincent Sciortino (CTNG), Gordon Shand (DPH), Mike Stemmler (DPS), Bob Tolomeo (DPS), Matt Valleau (CAP/DPS), Michael Varney (DOIT/CFCA), Keith Victor (CREPC), Tom Walsh (DEMHS), Brandi Walter (CTNG), John Warren (CTNG), John Zaleski (Motorola) and Lee Toffey (secretary).

Minutes of the August 15, 2006 meeting reviewed; motion to accept by John Gustafson, second by Paul Jakubson, 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. 1) STOCs specs should be out to the vendors tomorrow with the bidders Pre-Conference at DOIT on Oct. 26th. The bid closes Nov. 13th. It is recommended that the Technical Committee members attend the pre-conference if possible, to answer any questions and clarify needs. 2) The next project is to look at the current radio contract and identify those radios acceptable for purchase using the HLS grant funds, the list to be highlighted. 3) It is requested that the make and model information be added to the current Interoperable Request Form to insure that appropriate equipment is being purchased. Also submission in a PDF or Word format would alleviate some problems with opening the documentation.
- B. Governance Committee: Per Bill Hackett, the names of the voting members of the Committee have been submitted to Commissioner Thomas for his review and approval.
- C. Training & Exercise Workgroup: See information under Old Business, section D – TICP.

REPORT OF INTEROPERABILITY USAGE AND INCIDENTS:

- A. Jeff Otto advised that a large drill in Brooklyn involving DEP used ITAC/ICALL with some STOCs channels and a remote dispatch center. The system worked relatively well, but he noted that when the large departments came on board for the Hazmat detail, they used their own radio system to communicate internally. Discussion ensued on the need for specialized units to use their internal communications system for internal needs.
- B. John Gustafson reported on the training effort at New Haven Harbor Station. ITAC/ICALL worked exceptionally well until an outside party put up a repeater to listen in on the exercise. It is unknown who this was. Discussion continued and the question of whether the repeaters needed to be ID'd was broached.
- C. Vincent Sciortino attended the USAR exercise at the Windsor Locks Training Pile on Friday and advised that the unit used the following channels: STOCs 1 – Communication,

STOCs 2 – Logistics, STOCs 3- Hazmat, STOCs 4 – Rescue 1, and STOCs 5 – Rescue 2. They need to be notified that they can not continue to do this. In a real incident they will not be heard.

- D. George Carbonnel questioned if the final STOCs Plan has been put on the web yet. Advised that the Coordinating Council has just approved it and will be online shortly. George also stated that USAR will have the UHF license for their three channels in the next week.

OLD BUSINESS:

- A. Portable Radio Inventory & Training Programs: Per Michael Varney waiting to receive training schedule from the CT Fire Academy. Mike Stemmler has the current inventory.
- B. ITAC/ICALL Test & Training Issues: No Report.
- C. Homeland Security Grant Program: Reported on by Libby Graham. Funds for FY2006 should be available in mid-January. A TA was held at the LOB yesterday with approx. 30 people in attendance for the 2006 grant application process. The question was raised, when speaking of the High-Band Directive, if the State portion of the project was in process. Libby advised that funds have been set aside to do the upgrades to the State side of the system. The guidance for FY2007 should be received sometime in December. The Transit Grant (NY, NJ, CT) has us partnered for a regional transit security plan. The project is being driven by the NY Transit Authority as NY has not only the largest need but is the administrator of the funding. All parties are at the table with CT representatives coming from DOT and DEMHS (Hackett, Rigney, Graham). Proposals so far include communications and site hardening. Discussion.
- D. Tactical Interoperable Communication Plan: Michael Varney reported that the full scale exercise will be October 28th in Norwalk. There has been a significant amount of training leading up to this event including a week long Communication Unit-Leader Program. This was attended by 20 people and included NIMS plan forms, technology specific to the region, capabilities that exist in the State, and was the first time this given to a multi-hazard, multi-discipline group. The plan has been submitted to NIMS and may be used nationally. Any committee members wishing to attend the drill, please let Michael know in advance, as you must be credentialed to get in. Be in Norwalk at 7am for a safety briefing and badging. This is an all day event.
- E. Prime Mover radios and Licensing: Mike Stemmler will facilitate getting a letter from DPS to Commissioner Thomas and Brenda Bergeron to move this along. Discussion on how to license.
- F. DEMHS VHF Directive: Refer to Grant Report.

NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Annual Report to Coordinating Council and Legislature - Michael Varney will send out a notice to all sub-committees to write their accomplishments and projects to be submitted to Melanie Kerr for the Annual Report.
- B. Introduction of new participant: Major John Warren of the CTNG will be replacing Leslie Bliven on the committee. He advised that last week they tested a system that can be used on the State level. It is currently located at Bradley Int'l Airport but can be transported for demonstration. He will give a capabilities briefing at the next meeting. John Gustafson questioned we have an inventory of all the equipment

available for use throughout the State. Discussion ensued on some known capabilities and need. Bill Hackett advised that the Fire Grants are out and requests for RIOS equipment and Incident Command equipment have been made, so there will probably be more capabilities in a short time.

- C. Gordon Shand advised that a vendor spoke of a heavy duty satellite solution to lost phone communication exists. The company will lease the capacity of the system on a monthly basis and in an emergency incident, whoever holds the lease has first use of the equipment if it is needed. He suggested that this may be useful on a large Regional basis such as all of New England. Discussion.
- D. Bill Hackett advised that as the grant monies for the set aside projects (2004 & 2005) are consumed, financial reports will be submitted by the Grant Unit.

CORRESPONDENCE/GRANT REVIEWS:

- A. Correspondence – none.
- B. SHSGP grant reviews:
 - Approved: UCONN Health Center PD; Colchester; Stafford; Ansonia
 - Pending: Shelton; Killingly; Civil Air Patrol

NEXT MEETING:

Next regular meeting will be **November 21, 2006, at 1300 hours**, location to be determined.

Meetings open to the public.

Motion to adjourn by John Gustafson; second by George Carbonnel; approved.
Meeting adjourned at 1505 hours.