

**DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT & HOMELAND SECURITY**  
**Communication Interoperability Working Group**

**March 27, 2007 Minutes**  
**Bradley Air National Guard Base, East Granby, CT**

**WELCOME, PUBLIC COMMENT AND REVIEW OF MINUTES:**

The meeting was called to order at 1305 hours by the Co-Chair, Michael Varney. The following individuals were in attendance: Peter Beckwith (USAR), Stephan Brown (DOT), George Carbonell (ConnDOT), Bob DiBella (DEMHS), Mike Dion (Military), Mike Gardner (CEMA), John Gustafson (CMED-NH), Paul Jakobson (CPCA/MadisonPD), Christopher Marvin (CREPC), John Masciadelli (OSET), John Murdock (CTNG), Bernie O'Donnell (DOIT), Jeff Otto (QVEC), George Pohorilak(OSET), John Ricci (USAR), Vincent Sciortino (CTNG), Gordon Shand (DPH), Mike Stemmler (DPS), James Thomas (DEMHS), Lee Toffey (DEMHS), Bob Tolomeo (DPS), Matt Valleau (CAP/DPS), Michael Varney (DOIT/CFCA), Keith Victor (CREPC), Tom Walsh (DEMHS), Doug Whalen (BDL Fire) and Jerry Zarwanski (OSET).

Minutes of the February 20, 2007 meeting reviewed; motion to accept by Keith Victor, second by John Gustafson, 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. In discussion with the vendor over remaining issues with the STOC's boxes. Until settled the contract will not move forward. Gordon Shand asked if the entire unit could be put in one pull able device instead of being in three parts. it was discussed that this would not be feasible to keep it under the 50 lb OSHA limit, and that in it's current configuration it is an easier application for more potential users.
- B. Training & Exercise Workgroup: No activity. Of note – Rich Fournier, Region 1 Coordinator will have a planning meeting this Monday (April 2) for the upcoming Norwalk exercise.

**REPORT OF INTEROPERABILITY USAGE AND INCIDENTS:**

- A. CCSU used the ITAC/ICALL system and a trailer to band together CCSU Public Safety, CSP and New Britain Police.
  - B. ITAC/ICALL used at the Buckland Mall for a hostage incident.
  - C. CSP and Old Saybrook used the system for an incident on March 2.
  - D. Redding also used the system for an incident.
- No problems reported with any of the usages of the System.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

- A. Portable Radio Inventory & Training Program: Mike Varney reported that training is continuing to be delivered through the Fire Academy.
- B. ITAC/ICALL Monthly Testing & Training Issues: No change.
- C. Homeland Security Grant Program: Michael Varney will speak on the subject later in the meeting.

- D. Prime Mover Radios & Licensing: Michael Varney advised that DEMHS is going through the process to license.
- E. USAR CT-TF1 radios: The 50 ITAC/ICALL radios are returned to CSP. The new radios have been programmed with the three USAR frequencies and 5 STOC's channels. Two or three will be programmed with the CMED channels.
- F. Unit Leader Training: Per Michael Varney the program has been submitted to DHS and the final edition is on CD if anyone needs a copy. At the NGA conference, CT was the only state with a Communications Unit Leader program and many states have requested the program. Discussion ensued.
- G. Transit Security Grant: NY/NJ/CT submitted a grant request and are waiting for a response. Will submit an enhanced grant request for FY07 once an answer is received.
- H. National Governors Association Workshop & PSIC Grant – report by Michael Varney. Commissioner Thomas, with the Governors office, tasked a group to attend the conference. It was comprised of Michael Varney, George Carbonell, Keith Victor, and George Pohorilak. It explained the upcoming Public Safety Interoperability Grant and the requirements to being eligible. The amount CT is eligible for is \$30 million but the formula for allocation is still being determined by Washington. The may use the risk assessment as a portion of the formula. Best guess is that CT may receive \$15 million. There is a required 20% match from non-federal funds (can be in-kind monies) and 5% of the allotment can be used for planning and development of the application. By mid-July the grant guidance and allotment numbers should be released. Sept. 30, 2007 is the deadline for the grant application, then a review and the award of the monies, with 90% of the allocation given the first year. Guidance seen so far relates to technology and training, and needs to be tied in some way to the 700MHz system (data or voice). No training or A&M monies available and a statewide communications plan will need to be written. Discussion. Guidance will be sent out to the group once it is received. A brief will be put together for the Commissioners of DEMHS, DPS and DOIT, and an oversight group with a point person should be created.
- I. DEMHS Advisor Newsletter for March is on the web at [www.ct.gov/demhs](http://www.ct.gov/demhs) and features Interoperable Communications.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

- A. Updates from Regions:
  - Region 4 – Jeff Otto – no meeting was held.
  - Region 3 – Keith Victor – received UHF license.
  - Region 2 – John Gustafson – will convene a meeting. Asked if TIC Plan was synonymous with the Strategic Plan – Advised they were tow different plans.
  - Region 1 – Jeff Merwin – no report, was unable to attend meeting.
  - Region 5 – Tom Vannini – Absent.
- B. IAFC Handout – International Association of Fire Chief's handout entitled "Common Fire ground Noise May Cause Unintelligibility of Digital Radio Transmitters."
- C. Gordon Shand advised he received a 700 MHz plan from Motorola. Short discussion.

**CORRESPONDENCE/GRANT REVIEWS:**

A. SHSGP grant reviews – Bill Hackett reported by email. Currently in the process are:

Wallingford  
North Stonington  
CCAC  
Groton  
Mohegan Sun  
Civil Air Patrol  
Killingworth  
Cheshire  
CMED  
Pomfret

Commissioner Thomas spoke to the group regarding the idea of a governing board in each region for communication; the improved slide show for the ITAC/ICALL training; the progress of the High-band radio mandate; and the great progress and hard work of the committee. Thanks to all.

**NEXT MEETING:**

Next regular meeting will be **April 17, 2007, at 1300 hours**, DOT Central Lab, Rocky Hill.

Meetings open to the public.

Motion to adjourn by George Carbonell; second by Steve Brown; approved.

Meeting adjourned at 1405 hours.

Presentation by Bradley Air National Guard on Communication Capabilities and Resources.