

Radio System Interoperability Committee

Meeting Notes – August 13, 2002

Chief Chiarenzelli asked about using the ITAC channels to communicate between local police and fire vehicles when they are out of range of their own town system. George Pohorilak replied that mutual aid communications is beyond the capabilities of ICALL/ITAC at present, but may be possible in later stages. The training guide is ready, and will explain the purpose of the national mutual aid channels, and the rules for their use. Mike Stemmler stated that police radios should have talk around capabilities for situations where there repeater is not available. ITAC/ICALL will not solve this problem.

Chief Chiarenzelli stated that Westport has been using the ICALL/ITAC channels because the national mutual aid system has been dormant for 10 years. He feels that they should not be asked to give up this usage. This was discussed by Mike Stemmler and Chuck Beck. Any usage of the national mutual aid channels must be within FCC rules, and not in conflict with the State Police system, which holds the license for these channels. All use of the system must be coordinated, whether repeated or direct.

George Pohorilak passed out final versions of the common channel procedures manual and the instructors guide. We are ready to go once the equipment is received.

Skip Thomas appointed a workgroup to draw up specifications for radio equipment – handheld, mobile, and control and base stations. The group will be chaired by Jack Bates from OPM. Other members are: Eric Fine, Westport Fire Department; George Carbonnell, DOT; Greg Piontek, DEP; Bob DiBella, OEM; Mike Stemmler, DPS; Gordon Shand, DPH; Chief Michael Varney, Ellington Fire Department; and Chief Paul Jakubson, Madison Police Department. The workgroup will report back to the full committee at the next meeting on Tuesday, September 17th.

There was a discussion about how to license the radios being purchased. George Pohorilak said that they could be licensed under the State Police license. George Carbonnell said that DOIT holds the state's 700 license, and the radios could come under that. The radios will have to remain state property, and be covered by MOU's. This will require some discussion with the State Police to work out.

Chief Chiarenzelli asked about maintenance of the radio equipment. If a battery fails after a year, who is responsible for the cost of replacement? Chuck Beck said that the state is providing the basic equipment. Maintenance is the responsibility of the town or agency which is given custody of the equipment.

The next meeting was set for September 17, 2002 at 1:00 p.m at the Department of Public Safety.