

Radio System Interoperability Committee

Meeting Notes – April 15, 2003

Skip Thomas announced that multiple training sessions have been scheduled for various times and locations covering the entire state between April 28th and May 28th. See attachment 1. The training materials and instructors are ready to go. He thanked the training subcommittee for the hard work that they have done to reach this point. The Hartford Courant will be doing an article on radio system interoperability [note – published April 17, 2003], and the Governor will be signing the letter concerning the training and availability of the radios.

Eric Fine passed out copies of the training manual and user guide, and walked the committee through it. There is also a yellow, heavy paper summary card which will be laminated, to serve as a quick reminder of operational procedures. There was a discussion of the call-in language to be used. This will be revised to accommodate the concerns raised. There will be no scheduled tests of the interoperability system, because the number of radios issued would require too much time. The radios can be tested individually as each department or agency decides is necessary. Maintenance and repair should be arranged through the State Police Message Center.

Keith Victor of CRCOG asked about PSAP's which operate on 800Mhz and have ICALL/ITAC capability, but need licenses for the ICALL/ITAC. Mike Stemmler replied that they can be put on the State Police license. They should write to him to arrange this.

Chief Varney stated that it is important to train those agencies which have ICALL/ITAC on their own systems to ensure that everyone uses the same operating standards. Skip Thomas said that a letter had been sent to these agencies from the police, fire and EMS organizations urging them to take this training. The Hartford Fire Department plans to videotape a training session and replay it for all of their personnel. Copies could be made cheaply and distributed if anyone is interested. Chief Jakubson said he has made contact with Nassua County, Long Island officials to coordinate use of these channels. Mike Stemmler has had similar contact with Nassua and Suffolk counties and Northern New Jersey.

Skip Thomas handed out a sheet showing the current planned distribution of ICALL/ITAC radios. See attachment 2.

Chuck Beck told the Committee that it appears that much more federal money will be coming to Connecticut soon for homeland security projects. He suggested the Committee begin looking at control station specifications. The state may have only 45 days in which to obligate funds. Mike Stemmler said that a contract for control stations already exists. It features a manual cross-band patching system controlled by the dispatcher. A ballpark figure is \$10,000, but

this can be pared down. George Pohorilak said that there are 107 PSAP's, 5 of which are also CMED's. another 8 are State Police Troops. Some of the PSAP's already have ICALL/ITAC capability. There was a discussion about prioritizing among PSAP's for installing ICALL/ITAC capability.

Skip Thomas appointed a technical committee to look into PSAP and control station issues. The members are: Mike Stemmler, Greg Piontek, Bob DiBella, Eric Fine, Chief Varney, Chief Jakubson, and George Carbonnell. They are tasked with working out the details.

Other business: Captain Martin reported that 761 radios and chargers have been purchased at a total cost of \$699,815.60, out of the \$700,000 available. He thinks the process went very well, considering the complexities.

The next meeting will be held May 20, 2003 at 1:00 pm at State Police headquarters in Middletown.