

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
Public Safety Interoperability Communications Committee
MEETING MINUTES
May 19, 2009
DOT Research Lab, 280 West Street, Rocky Hill

Welcome & Introductions:

The meeting was called to order at 1306 hours by Co-Chair Michael Varney. The following individuals were in attendance: George Carbonell (DOT), Jim Farkas (Region 5), Brian Fernandez (Red Cross), John Gustafson (DEMHS), Jeff Merwin (Region 1), John Masciadrelli (OSET), Bernard O'Donnell (DOIT), Philip Mikan (USCG), Jeff Otto (DPS), Gregg Prevost (Region 2), Gordon Shand (DPH), Matt Valleau (CAP/DPS), Stephen Verbil (OSET), Kris Wohlgemugh (DOIT), Bill Callion (City of Stamford), Richard Mielhall (Newington P.D.), Keith Victor (Region 3), John Warren (Military), Paul Zito (DPS), Kitty Ing (Verizon Business), Sandra Baker (DEMHS), Frank Kiernan (Region 2/ESF-2), and Bob Davis (Verizon Business)

Public Comment:

Bob Davis announced that on July 23, 2009, Verizon Wireless RF team will give a presentation at the East Hartford Sheraton to discuss redundancy and security of the radio frequency network. The event will be held from 8:30 am – 12 noon.

Review of Minutes:

Motion to accept meeting notes of April 21, 2009 - first by Gregg Prevost and seconded by Jim Farkas; motion unanimously approved.

PSIC Grant Update:

Steering group met on 5/19/09 to review activities and future goals. IJ1 –Steve Verbil gave a report on P25 Switch & Public Safety Data Network; IJ2 – John Gustafson gave a report on mobile communications vehicles equipment list, status of procurement process and STR ; IJ3 – Report given by Stephen Verbil.

Sub-Committee Reports:

- a. Technical Workgroup – The workgroup is waiting for more grants to review. 43 STOCS boxes were deployed. Phase 1 & 2 are coming to an end. Battery change out needs to be accomplished. A meeting w/DEMHS Commissioner must take place to discuss how to disperse additional boxes. There are 12 MOUs pending.
- b. Training & Exercise Workgroup – A request will go out to solicit volunteers to sit on this workgroup.
- c. 700 MHz Planning Workgroup – A meeting was held on 5/18/09. The planning group discussed the need for decisions to be made with regard to methods of delivering services to users; future capabilities and requirements; and operability.
- d. 4.9 GHz Workgroup – No Report.

Report of Interoperability Usage and incidents during previous months:

11 ITAC activations; 4/2/09 Waterford drill; 4/2/09 Quinebaug Valley gas tanker rollover accident; 4/4/09 NCAA final four security detail; 4/5/09 Stafford Fire Dept medical coverage at a fair; 4/7/09 Quinebaug Valley Dispatch communications test; 4/8/09 UCONN women's basketball team at Bradley Airport; 4/8/09 Trumbull Police SWAT Training; 4/19/09 Danbury Fire Dept tanker accident drill; 4/23/09 UCONN Spring Weekend; 4/24/09 New Have Fire Dept preparations for a funeral; 4/27/09 New Haven Fire Dept for a funeral. 5 ITAC tests were conducted.

John Warren, Military Dept., reported usage for CST Exercise at Camp Rell; Gordon Shand reported 800 MHz ICALL/ITAC was used for UCONN Spring Weekend worked well without technical issues. ICALL/ITAC was used for Millstone Hostile Action Exercise in Waterford and they did experience some coverage issues in Waterford.

Interoperability Grant Approvals:

Interoperable Emergency Communications Grant Program (IECGP) - Region 1 – submitted; Region 2 – submitted; Region 3 – approved; Region 4 – approved; and Region 5 - submitted

Old Business:

- a. Status on Portable Radio Inventory & Training Programs – ICALL/ITAC batteries are in the regions. Must call DEMHS Regions to replace batteries.
- b. Transit Security Grant – John Gustafson gave report on the status of PC-1/Procurement. Currently waiting for funds from NY.
- c. Interoperable Emergency Communications Grant Program (IECGP) – All grants submitted. Region 4 & 5 using it to write TIC Plan. No status on Regions 1, 2, & 3. Mike Varney reported for the State side that development is underway for training programs. Assistance will be needed to put together an all day training event for the IECGP grant.
- d. RECCWG Activities –Mike Varney and Keith Victor attended the meeting. RECCWG is required by FEMA's statutory authority. Individuals should be nominated to serve on group and recommendations will come from the Interoperability Committee. National Communication Service was also discussed at the meeting. Contact Mike Varney if anyone wants more info. Next RECCWG meeting is 7/15/09 at the CT Fire Academy in Windsor Locks. MERS Unit is invited to attend. Any business dealing with interoperability can be conducted that day and there will not be a July Interoperability Meeting. Meeting announcement will be sent out soon.

Regional Reports:

Region 1 (Jeff Merwin) – Currently have planning activities underway and is making some progress.

Region 2 (Gregg Prevost) – Set to meet vendor next week for phase 1 project under 2007 funding. 2008 funding was approved – \$68,000 for CMED interconnectivity and enhancements, and \$50,000 to put together a baseline region wide public health network. CCM Conference was held last week where all the regions gave an overview on their projects and goals with the main emphasis on ITAC/ICALL systems.

Region 3 (Keith Victor) – West Hartford has ATAC 91 & 94 repeater in service. June 18th at CST in Windsor Locks the region is having training. All four command posts will be present.

Region 4 (Jeff Otto) – Continuing work on data collection for TIC Plan. Hope to have it completed by May 29th. 2008 budget funding is coming up for vote.

Region 5 (Jim Farkas) – Region received info on COML training and is hoping to get individuals in at Westchester County. Final spending proposal has been put together and approved by the workgroup now it will go to the First Selectman for approval. \$150,000 was included to expand Litchfield County dispatch to provide more regional communications. TIC Plan coming up in the next couple of weeks.

New Business:

- a. Report from National Conference on Emergency Communications - Mike Varney attended the conference that had approximately 400 participants. Some of the key issues discussed were regarding extending the performance period for PSIC grant and how to handle NEPA Reviews (environmental site issues). Materials from the event will be shared with the committee when made available. Mike also discussed creating a Field Operations Guide (FOG) for Communication Units within the state. State set asides will be used to print the guides.
- b. SCIP Implementation Workshop – All day workshop scheduled for Wednesday, June 17 at Rentschler Field, East Hartford. Issues to cover – Update SCIP; issue updated version; determine how SCIP can help enable National Communications Plan. Target Audience will be Regional Communications Working Groups; the Interoperability Committee. 100 participants are expected.
- c. CSPERN – Money is available to purchase 600 radios for CSPERN usage. Formal notice for application will go out next week. A survey will be sent to cities and towns for needs assessment.
- d. FCC Docket Regarding T-Ban Channels – Steve Verbil gave the committee a briefing on this issue. There is a docket before the FCC for modification to the Commission's rules regarding the use of T-Ban Channels. The rules require that you be within 50 miles of the center of urban areas defined. The urban areas include NY and Boston. The proposal before the FCC is to extend the range to an 80 mile circle. Peter Moncure made recommendation FCC regarding use of frequencies. Motion made that DOIT and the Chair of the Interoperability Committee file comments thru the FCC in support of Peter's recommendation. 1st Otto, 2nd Gregg Prevost; unanimously approved. Further discussion took place. Vote unanimously approved for Mike Varney to send comments based on discussion. All comments should be submitted to Mike Varney by noon tomorrow.

Correspondence/Grant Reviews:

- 2 Reports - recommended approvals (portable radios for Simsbury and Glastonbury)
- Newsletter of Office of Emergency Communications.

Next Meeting:

Motion made to cancel June meeting unless otherwise called; 1st by Gregg Prevost, 2nd by George Carbonell. Unanimously approved.

Adjourn: Meeting adjourned at 14:31 p.m.