

Public Safety Communications Interoperability Committee

25 May 2004

Minutes

Meeting called to order at 1308 by Skip Thomas.

Public comment was made that Chief Jacobson was unable to attend this meeting as he is spending time with his son who is being deployed overseas later this week. The committee expressed its best wishes for both and will keep them in our prayers.

The Chair welcomed new members from The Department of Corrections. In addition a special note of New Haven's presence was acknowledged. It was noted that New Haven is one of the USDHS Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) sites. (ODP Information Bulletin #111 handed out).

This was followed by self introductions.

A motion to accept the April 27th minutes was made, seconded, and unanimously approved.

OLD BUSINESS:

I-CALL/ITAC Radio Inventory - Although not present, Rosemary Salerno advised Chief Thomas by e-mail that significant progress has been made with the distribution of the radios.

Chief Varney advised he is in the process of surveying fire departments in an effort to find those that may have fallen through the cracks. He has found a couple of small departments in the process who were not on the list such as Torrington Fire. In addition, he advises that there is still a training need as some of the recent finds are unable to attend the required training

Desktop Control Stations – Mike Stemmler advised that there has been significant progress in installation and distribution. He advises they are at about the $\frac{3}{4}$ mark for installations to date.

ITAC/I-CALL Training - It was reported that some entities may be reluctant to test their capabilities because of lack of familiarity with the radios. In some form the trainers trained may not have effectively brought back to their jurisdictions the needed information to make them comfortable using the system. It was noted that every opportunity has been afforded to those needing training to attend.

DEP advised that feedback from foresters who recently were trained was positive.

The Department of Corrections is seeking training. They were advised to contact Captain Halibosek at CSP set the training up. It was noted that their radios have the full CSP template and that training appropriate to that radio is needed.

Technical Committee Update - Chief Varney reported that the data base the committee is working on is basically put together. He will be meeting with Chief Jacobson over the next month to tie up loose ends.

Other Old Business - 1. Life Star Update – A copy of a letter sent to Assistant Chief Gary Allen of West Hartford (dated 4/8/04) from Life Star was received by this group. They are requesting inclusion into the ITAC/I-CALL system. After discussion of merit, it was recommended that the Life Star Communications Center receive a desktop radio and each helicopter receive a portable.

2. Chief Varney advised that Chuck Beck asked him to attend a meeting of the Windham Council of Governments. The meeting had a presentation on trunking systems and did a good job explaining to officials the scope of such a system. In the course of the meeting, it was made known that town managers are “passionately disappointed” that they have not been included in the discussions of this group. It was suggested that perhaps we should contact the Connecticut Council of Municipalities and CASHO to offer inclusion.

3. It was reported that the Corridor Communications Project, a project in the works since 1993, is held back until 2007. The Federal DOT money earmarked for lower Fairfield county was re directed. A new plan is being developed and formatted and will be ready for the next round of money that will become available. The planning begins at this stage so that a plan is in place when the money becomes available.

NEW BUSINESS

Homeland Security Update re Interoperability – Discussions from other old business dovetailed perfectly into discussion of PA 04-199. This is the act that merges the Bureau of Homeland Security and OEM into a new partnership agency. There will be a 24 member council as part of the agency that oversees radio interoperability issues. This new group is scheduled to become effective January 1, 2005. They will look at all levels of communications interoperability including wireless data transfer. A discussion of funding issues associated with this merger relative to interoperability was discussed. It was also discussed that this group may become a subset of the 24 member council.

2nd Round Battery Order – Planning will begin for the second round of battery orders for portables.

TOPOFF – Chief Varney reported that Connecticut has been chosen as the national site for this exercise. This will be participated in by many jurisdictions including NJ, CT, Canada, and the United Kingdom. This is the third in a series of drills and will involve state, local and 22 Federal agencies.

Next Meeting – June 29th, 2004 – State Police HQ Midpoint – Room 348

Meeting Adjourned at 1430 hours.

Respectfully Submitted,
Lt. Wayne M. Sinclair
DMV