

DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT & HOMELAND SECURITY
Public Safety State Interoperability Executive Committee

MEETING MINUTES

January 15, 2008

DOT Research Lab, 280 West Street, Rocky Hill, CT 06067

Welcome & Introductions:

The meeting was called to order at 1310 hours by the Co-Chair, Mike Varney. The following individuals were in attendance: John Barbagallo (COE), George Carbonell (DOT), David Coyle (CSP), Anthony Diaz (Hamden PD), Robert DiBella (DEMHS), Jim Farkas (Region 5), Eric Fine (Region 1), Chuck Fuller (OSET), John Gustafson (CMED-NH), Bill Hackett (DEMHS), Phil Halibozek (DPS), Paul Jakubson (CPCA), Jeffrey Merwin (Region 1), Philip Mikan (DEMHS), Tyler Millix (CFCA), Jeffrey Otto (Region 4), George Pohorilak (OSET), Gordon Shand (DPH), Mike Stemmler (DPS), Matt Valleau (CAP/DPS), Mike Varney (DOIT), Keith Victor (Region 3), Tom Walsh (DEMHS), John Warren (CTNG), Ed Wilds (DEP), Kris Wohlgemugh (DOIT), Sandra Baker (DEMHS), Rob Delano (USCG), Andrew Ely (USCG), Nick DeLia (City of Groton F.D.), Joseph Carlone (DOC), Dan Soule (LCD) and Nick Varanelli (DEP)

Public Comment: None

Review of Minutes: Motion to accept the meeting minutes of the December 18, 2007; made by John Gustafson seconded by Keith Victor - accepted unanimously.

Presentation of Region 1 Communication Vehicle: Mike Varney announced that agenda items will be moved based on schedule constraints of some meeting participants. Agenda Item #4 (Display of Region 1 Communication Command Vehicle) was moved to the end of the meeting and New Business Item #10a (Region IV request for portable radios) was moved to the top of the agenda.

Request from Region IV for ICALL/ITAC portables for USCG – Chief Nick DeLia addressed the committee to inform them of a request submitted by the City of Groton F.D. for ICALL/ITAC portable radios to be housed, utilized, and supported by the Coast Guard Station in New London for maritime safety & security and interoperability. Andrew Ely, USCG, reported on several emergencies where the USCG responded to incidents and ICALL/ITAC would have been useful in providing a direct link to partnering agencies. He also indicated the radios would be maintained at their base and deployed with the boats. George Pohorilak asked whether there are any restrictions in the grant to provide federal funded equipment to a federal agency. Bill Hackett indicated there is a restriction in the grant guidance and the radios cannot be directly given to USCG. Region 4 would be issued the radios and when an incident occurs the Regional Coordinator can distribute them as necessary to handle the emergency. John Gustafson endorsed the concept as long as there is an agreement in place and the City of Groton is responsible for the radios. Chief DeLia agreed to take total responsibility for radio roundup and battery exchange for the equipment.

A motion was made by Keith Victor, seconded by John Gustafson to provide control stations for Long Island Sector Sound and New London and 6 portables to be used out of the USCG station in New London with a control station. DEMHS Grants Division staff will work out the specifics to ensure there are no issues with grant guidance. Chief Jacobson requested a vote to accept the motion by voting members. Vote was unanimously approved.

PSIC Grant Update:

Mike Varney stated that PSIC was received by DHS and the peer review process is currently being conducted. Jim Donnelly (New Britain) and Keith Victor (Region 3) are two CT representatives working as peer reviewers to other states. Keith Victor reported the next national peer review meeting is scheduled the 2nd week in February and peer reviews should be completed prior to that meeting. Reviews will determine whether or not all requirements have been met.

Sub-Committee Reports:

- a. Technical Committee – George Carbonell reported that STOCS equipment have been tagged & tested and the Committee is preparing for receipt of the PSIC Grant.
- b. Training & Exercise Workgroup – Mike Varney announced that individuals will be solicited for the Training & Exercise Workgroup. A training program for the STOCS boxes will be developed in the near future.
- c. 700 MHz Planning Workgroup – George Pohorilak reported the workgroup is moving forward on two major tasks - to identify the gaps and needs of the existing regional system and to design and develop regional replacement systems as a part of Investment Justification 3.

Report of Interoperability Usage and incidents during previous months:

4 ICALL / ITAC activations (3 Waterbury P.D.; 1 Mashantucket Pequot Public Safety).

Old Business:

- a. Status on Portable Radio Inventory & Training Programs – George Pohorilak requested that the process begin in identifying training modules for SCIP Plan. Mike Varney agreed to send out a request to the Committee Members for suggestions. Eric Fine addressed his concerns with the appropriate individuals receiving COML training and suggested that a target audience be identified with an established prerequisite for eligibility.
- b. Grants –Nothing to report
- c. Prime Mover Radios & Licensing – Bob DiBella reported that written approval from Region 19 was received and he is currently waiting for written approval from Region 8 before he can send the license to the FCC.
- d. Transit Security Grant – Next meeting scheduled for January 17th at 1:00 p.m., DEMHS, 25 Sigourney Street, 6th Floor – Rm. B.
- e. State Foam Trailer Program Communications – Mike Varney spoke with Jeff Morrisette, State Fire Administrator and a meeting is being scheduled to poll the operators of the units to obtain their needs and requirements.

Regional Reports:

Region 1 (Eric Fine) - ESF 8 and ESF 2 committees have joined together and the Region has been working on communications issues with the health districts. A funding request was submitted by the City of Bridgeport as they are due to replace all of their equipment for fire and police in September. A cache of approximately 600 VHF radios will be available. Gordon Shand noted that he will be meeting with the Public Health officials to discuss their communications needs.

Region 2 (John Gustafson) - Work is in progress to get the ESF Committees put together under the June deadline. Development of regional communications projects is underway for the one million dollars available and will begin working with municipalities in deciding what projects they want to fund.

Region 3 (Keith Victor) - Discussions with the Supreme Court Police, Judicial Marshals, and Capitol Police are taking place to develop a working relationship in order to tie the three communication systems together. Region 3 is also working with Massachusetts officials who are developing the (Western Massachusetts Law Enforcement Council (WMLEC)) regional system. Massachusetts will be using the national terminology of UTAC 1, 2 & 3 which is equivalent to STACS 1, 2 & 3 and will allow cross talk between the systems.

Region 4 (Jeff Otto) – The next REPT meeting is scheduled for January 23, 2008. ESF Committees will be stood up at that meeting. There has been discussion on combining the efforts of the Resource Management ESF with the Communications ESF. Would like input from others if similar actions have taken place in their regions. Questions or input relating to Region 4 should be addressed to the ESF 2 Committee.

Region 5 (Jim Farkas) – Bill Hackett announced that Jim Farkas has been nominated to serve as a voting member and representative for Region 5. He will be receiving a letter from Commissioner Thomas confirming his appointment. Jim Farkas reported the ESF 2 function is moving slowly. There is a lack on interest and some conflict with volunteer and full-time personnel on meeting schedules but he will continue to work through it and move forward. He is working together with the firefighter ESF function to define communication needs. Region 5 is in the preliminary stages of exploring having a central notification point for the entire Region to support the many ESF functions which will require a notification system.

New Business:

Public Safety Spectrum Trust (PSST) – Bill Hackett announced that he notified NEMA and DEMHS Commissioners of his resignation from the PSST due to the many time constraints placed on his schedule for meeting attendance and participation.

Red Cross Charter Oak Chapter is receiving a national communications response vehicle. The vehicle will be on display at the Red Cross in Farmington on Saturday, January 19th.

Correspondence/Grant Reviews – Nothing to Report

Next Meeting - Tuesday, February 19, 2008 – 1:00 p.m., DOT Research Lab, Rocky Hill.

Motion to adjourn meeting made by Tyler Millix seconded by Keith Victor
Accepted unanimously – meeting adjourned to view the Region 1 Communication Vehicle at 14:32 hours.