

**STATE OF CONNECTICUT**  
**Public Safety Interoperability Communications Committee**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**November 18, 2008**  
**DOC Training Center**  
**275 Jarvis Street, Cheshire CT 06410**

**Welcome & Introductions:**

The meeting was called to order at 1310 hours by Co-Chair Michael Varney. The following individuals were in attendance: Brenda Bergeron (DEMHS), Stephan Brown (DOT/Bradley), Joseph Carlone (DOC), Anthony Diaz (Hamden PD), Robert DiBella (DEMHS), Jim Farkas (Region 5), Theresa Freeman (DPS), John Gustafson (DEMHS), Jennifer Hendry (ICTAP), William Hackett (DEMHS), Chris Marvin (CREAC/Rid Team), John Masciadrelli (OSET), Jeffrey Merwin (Region 1), Philip Mikan (USCG), Tyler Millix (CFCA), Matt Morcus (CTNG), Jeffrey Otto (Region 4), George Pohorilak (OSET), Gregg Prevost (Valley Shore), Steve Savage (NWCT Public Safety), Gordon Shand (DPH), Joseph Soto (Greenwich EMS), Dan Soule (LCD), Gene VanBlaricom (DEP), Mike Varney (DOIT), Stephen Verbil (DPS), Keith Victor (Region 3), John Warren (CTNG), Kris Wohlgemugh (DOIT), and Jerry Zarwanski (OSET)

**Public Comment:** None

**Review of Minutes:**

Motion to accept meeting minutes of October 21, 2008 made by Jeff Otto; seconded by Jeff Merwin - accepted unanimously.

**PSIC Grant Update:**

Currently 75% of MOUs have been returned. The Dept of Homeland Security (DHS) must have 75% of towns signed on to release funds. Phil Mikan reported that 75% is needed to begin rollout, but must have 100%. Bill Hackett informed the committee that DEMHS has been reaching out to the locals through EMD meetings the Commissioner is conducting with the municipalities.

**Sub-Committee Reports:**

- a. Technical Workgroup – No Report.
- b. Training & Exercise Workgroup – John Gustafson reported that 72 STOCS boxes were allocated and MOUs would be going out soon. The goal is to have all MOUs out and a training schedule for returned MOUs by January 1, 2009. The STOCS Boxes will remain charged until deployed. CT hosted a COML training class three weeks ago and there will be additional training held in MA and NJ. The workgroup will try to get CT participants in for those additional sessions.
- c. 700 MHz Planning Workgroup – The 700 MHz Workgroup meeting was held yesterday. George Pohorilak stated that Jim Donnelly, New Britain's Telecommunications Director requested to use the State switch for local purposes. The 700MHz workgroup passed the resolution which also includes municipalities to have access to the switch.

- d. 4.9 GHz Workgroup – The workgroup continued discussions on Cross Sound Ferry requesting the use of 4.9 GHz Spectrum. Some funding has been received thus far for their project. The workgroup is planning to set up a meeting to obtain more details.

### **Report of Interoperability Usage and incidents during previous months:**

8 ITAC activations during the month of October – 10/2 Fairfield County Car 7 used ICALL to report motor vehicle accident; 10/3 Bradley Fire Dept. used ITAC 4 for Salute to Veterans event in Hartford; 10/4 Ledyard Fire Chief used ITAC 2 for a drill at Dow Chemical; 10/8 Coventry Police Dept used ITAC 1 for missing person search; 10/9 Waterford Police used ITAC 2 for missing person search; 10/10 Colchester Fire Dept used ITAC 2 for fireworks display; 10/11 Northwest Regional Hazmat Team used ITAC 4 for pandemic drill; and 10/26 Fairfield County Coordinator, HQ-7 used ITAC for an aerial operations drill at the Trumbull Mall. Interoperability Usage Reports for September & October were submitted to the Committee by MSgt Theresa Freeman.

November 1<sup>st</sup> the City of Bridgeport conducted a Terrorism Exercise at the University of Bridgeport. STOCS were used and ICALL/ITAC 4 was used at the scene. Both were used because not everyone had STOCS programmed in their radios. Mike Varney reported that ITAC was used to communicate during the sodium hydroxide event in Ellington. The incident commander had to call DPS Communications to switch towers three times and good communications was made after switching to the third tower location.

### **Old Business:**

- a. Status on Portable Radio Inventory & Training Programs – Gordon Shand reminded the Committee that he is still waiting for distribution of the radios for EMS agencies attached to the fire service. John Gustafson indicated that 100 new ICALL/ITAC radios were purchased and decisions will be made on how to allocate them. DEMHS will disseminate 3 new batteries for each town as well as 6 new batteries for the radios in the decontamination trailers. The batteries will be distributed through the DEMHS Regional Offices.
- b. Transit Security Grant – No Report
- c. State Foam Trailer Program Communications – Keith Victor will be meeting with Mark Decaprio of DEP to discuss this issue.
- d. Interoperable Emergency Communications Grant Program (IECGP) – Mike Varney received notification from DHS that grant funds have been allotted. He will put out the grant package in the next couple of weeks. The allotment is similar to last year's amount and the application is due early January.

### **Regional Reports:**

Region 1 (Jeff Merwin) – University of Bridgeport EOC was activated during the drill. Region 1 meeting scheduled tomorrow to discuss 2009 funding.

Region 2 – No Report

Region 3 (Keith Victor) – Region 3 had five members who received COML Training.

Region 4 (Jeff Otto) – Region 4 is moving forward to reduce vendors for IT network project. Currently down to 9 vendors from 17. The Region wishes to move forward with TIC Plan under the ICGP Grant.

Region 5 (Jim Farkas) – Conducted the monthly meeting. The Region did not have COML training participants but hope to have future attendees from the Region. Plan to work with First Selectmen to get them on board since the Region has the largest number of defaults with PSIC Grant MOUs. Jim reported a need for CASM training in the Region and announced that work on 2009 funding is underway.

**New Business:**

DHS Reps briefed the committee on the Region 3 Exercise Tabletop. The focus was on interoperability communications with a tornado scenario to support the State Correctional component. The after action was a walk thru of what communications & interoperability communications worked in that scenario. There were 25 identified communications gaps, some SOP gaps and small technology gaps. The final after action report will be available in the coming weeks.

Doug Harder, ICTAP, briefed the Committee on ICTAP's request & approval process. Due to a funding shortage, there will be no development for CASM Training and only maintenance and technical support will be available. All questions or comments should be sent to Mike Varney and he will forward them to ICTAP.

Gordon Shand addressed the recent interoperability procurement in Eastern CT of 50 fire apparatus interoperability radios that is non-conforming to CTs interoperability initiatives. According to Jeff Otto, they have a short range tactical bridge that is limited to the dept/apparatus and has ¼ mile radius of operation. Bill Hackett indicated that the funding for this purchase was obtained through a grant issued directly to the fire dept and does not fall under the purview of the Interoperability Committee. George Pohorilak indicated that he wants to ensure there is a statewide approach to try and coordinate applications. He also suggested that provisions may need to be put in the interoperability plan.

Bill Hackett informed the committee that a Radiological Emergency Preparedness (REP) Scheduling Conference will be held December 10 -12<sup>th</sup>. Dominion changed the format and they will only need an Interoperability Moderator. Mike Varney was asked to be the moderator for CT.

**Correspondence/Grant Reviews:** Nothing to report.

**Next Meeting:** Tuesday, December 16, 2008 – 1:00 p.m.

**Adjournment:** Motion to adjourn 1405 hours – accepted unanimously.