

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
Public Safety Interoperability Communications Committee
MEETING MINUTES
August 18, 2009
DOT Research Lab, 280 West Street, Rocky Hill

Welcome & Introductions:

The meeting was called to order at 1305 hours by Co-Chair William Hackett. The following individuals were in attendance: Stephan Brown (DOT/Bradley), George Carbonell, Andy Celli (Motorola), Robert DiBella (Glastonbury), Jim Farkas (Region 5), John Gustafson (DEMHS), William Hackett (DEMHS), Jeffrey Merwin (Region 1), Philip Mikan (USCG), Tom Walsh (DEMHS), Jeff Otto (Region 4), Gregg Prevost (Region 2), Dan Soule (LCD), Matt Valteau (CAP/DPS), Keith Victor (Region 3), Kris Wohlgemugh (DOIT), Jerry Zarwanski (OSET), Paul Zito (DPS), Len Lucien (CT Transit), Paul Scarcella (Hamden P.D.), Jonathan Best (CT DPH), Juan Ramirez (Verizon Wireless), Sandra Baker (DEMHS), Dave Coyle (CSP), Joe Salmeri (CSP), and Bob Davis (Verizon Wireless)

Public Comment: None

Review of Minutes:

Motion to accept meeting notes of May 19, 2009 - first by Keith Victor and seconded by Jeff Otto; motion unanimously approved.

PSIC Grant Update:

John Gustafson briefed the group on the PSIC Grant progress. Co-Chairman Mike Varney, Paul Zito, Steve Verbil and John Gustafson, has a very productive meeting with Motorola concerning their project proposal. Revisions were made and a final proposal is expected to DPS by early September.

A request for procurement of several items of equipment to be installed in the Mobile Communications Vehicles is underway; meetings with several GSA vehicle vendors are expected to take place in September.

The primary actions in IJ 3 have related to the development of the State 700 MHz Plan.

Sub-Committee Reports:

- a. Technical Workgroup – George Carbonell provided an update on the deployment of STOCS boxes - 54 boxes have been deployed; 21 towns/agencies are waiting for deployment - most are due to submit MOAs. There are no grants currently up for review.
- b. Training & Exercise Workgroup – No Report.
- c. 700 MHz Planning Workgroup – John Gustafson gave a presentation on the draft 700 MHz plan. Motion to adopt draft plan – 1st Gregg Prevost, 2nd Jeff Otto; unanimously approved. Open discussion - motion made to authorize draft and place in the PSIC – unanimously approved.

- d. 4.9 GHz Workgroup – No Report.

Report of Interoperability Usage and incidents during previous months:

Joe Salmeri is the new POC due to the retirement of Theresa Freeman. June and July reports were submitted. For the month of July there were 7 ITAC activations by the Communications Center; 7/3/09 Ridgefield Fire Dept – ITAC 4 for communications failure at Fire Dept; 7/7/09 Region 15/Car 3 – ITAC 4 for a tactical situation in South Windsor; 7/11/09 CSP 2106 - ITAC 2 & 3 to support operations at Sailfest 2009; 7/17/09 Troop W – ITAC 81LP/A1R for Air Museum Space Day; 7/18/09 DEMHS – ITAC for Millstone Communications Drill; 7/27/09 Quinebaug Valley Dispatch – ITAC 4 Killingly water rescue; and 7/30/09 Glastonbury PD – ITAC 1 for search and rescue operation. 10 ITAC/ICALL tests were conducted.

Bob DiBella reported 2 incidents in Glastonbury involving lost persons – successful rescues; Keith Victor reported on usage during South Windsor incident and advised that future briefings will take place regarding cellular systems. Bob Davis informed the committee of Verizon's Crisis Response Team and how to obtain the system. John Gustafson reported ITAC 3 was used for Millstone Host Community Training.

Old Business:

Co-chair William Hackett announced there will be a review of voting membership due to recent retirements. Peter Boynton will begin as DEMHS' new commissioner next week due to the retirement of Commissioner James Thomas.

- a. Transit Security Grant – The final contract was received from New York, purchase requisitions are being processed.
- b. Interoperable Emergency Communications Grant Program (IECGP) – All grants approved. Regions 2, 4 & 5 are complete, Regions 1 & 3 need updated plan. A statewide plan will be written once all regions are done. CT will have a small field operating guide. A review & update will be done annually.
- c. CSPERN System – Gustafson reported 600 units now purchased. 1st delivery scheduled for August 24th. An advisory bulletin will go out from the Commissioner. Paul Zito recommended inclusion of minimum installation specifications. Jeff Otto asked how many radios were going to municipalities. A list will be published with that information. Keith Victor announced there will be a Training session at POST in West Hartford through recertification and that it will be open to State Agencies.

South Windsor incident was re-addressed during the CSPERN discussions. Philip Mikan stressed the importance of an after action and/or reporting on lessons learned. Jeff Otto recommended the committee think of ways to implement with the agencies that were involved in the incident. William Hackett will discuss the issue with Mike Varney and table it for discussion at the next meeting.

Regional Reports:

Region 1 (Jeff Merwin) – Region 1 conducted a meeting last month. Nothing additional to report.

Region 2 (Gregg Prevost) – Region 2 conducted a TIC Plan kickoff. The region is finalizing procurement for '07 regional funds.

Region 3 (Keith Victor) – Reported the T-BAN info was sent to Massachusetts for comment. The Region purchased wireless headsets for their apparatus and discovered the headset is broad banded and keys up the radios. He informed other regions to be careful if similar purchases are made.

Region 4 (Jeff Otto) – Received preliminary TIC Plan info with positive comments, however more work needs to be done. Region is conducting second series of vendor meetings for interoperability systems.

Region 5 (Jim Farkas) – Region received Plan and has more work in progress. A consultant was hired to license sites for build-out of LCD.

New Business:

- a. 2013 Narrow Banding Mandate – John Gustafson and Steve Verbil along with the regional ESF 2 Chairs participated in a conference call hosted by the DHS Office of Emergency Communications (OEC), regarding the 2013 FCC narrow band mandate. Briefly by 2013 all VHF and UHF radios systems must be operating in a narrow band 12.5KHz as opposed to the current 25.0KHz wide band mode. There is concern that many systems throughout the country are not ready for this and there is a clear possibility that when they make the transition, it will impact Interoperability.

Chairman Hackett tasked the Technical Committee with developing a narrow banding plan to address the following:

- Development of a plan template to assist municipalities
 - Development of a plan to assist regional systems
 - Develop and carry out a Plan to assist the Regional CMED's as they are in fact a statewide system.
- b. Mass Decontamination Trailer Radio Capabilities – Approval needed to allow radios to be removed from trailers. Sending issue to technical committee for review.

Additional items discussed under new business (George Carbonell): Review of wireless headsets, aircards and development of a standard specification for EMS mobile radios will be sent to the technical committee.

Correspondence/Grant Reviews: Nothing to Report

Next Meeting: September 15, 2009 at 1:00 p.m., DOT Research Lab, 280 West Street, Rocky Hill

Adjourn: Meeting adjourned at 14:41 p.m.