

**Communications Interoperability Working Group**  
**27 April 2004**  
**Meeting Notes**

Meeting called to order at 1310 by Skip Thomas. There were no public comments. Whereas there were a significant number of new personnel present, self introductions were done. Upon completion, a motion to accept the March 24 meeting notes was made, seconded, and unanimously approved.

***OLD BUSINESS:***

**800 MHz I-CALL/ITAC handheld radios** - Rosemary Salerno advised that they are scheduled to be completely distributed May 20<sup>th</sup> through the 27<sup>th</sup> to emergency management managers. People picking up such radios must do so at the scheduled time.

**Desktops** – Mike Stemmler advised that there has been significant progress in installation and distribution. 87 are installed bringing the total to 130. There are 19 PSAP I-CALL/ITAC control stations in process of installation. 40 OEM in process. 25 PSAP, and 30 OEM to be contacted and firmed up.

**CG Sector Long Island Sound** – Training of personnel is complete. Additional training is available.

**Technical Committee** – Chief Varney reported the technical committee has met. They are in the process of going through an asset inventory based on radio equipment spectrum use. Training, required to keep personnel active and up to date in operations of the system can be coordinated through the fire service.

**Life Star** – There is no news on Life Star. They are awaiting a letter.

**Letter to Governor** – Skip Thomas reported that no response has been received to date from the letter sent on 11 March (*CT Plan for Enhanced Public Safety Communications Interoperability*). As a postscript it was stated that the National FBI article (hand out) is a mirror of what we have been trying to do in CT. We are not where we want to be yet but on the command level we are primarily there.

**Information Sharing / Interoperability** – 1 Million of “04 Homeland Security Funds” has been set aside in an effort to bridge information and Interoperability among the 172 government agencies. There was agreement that we need to get moving as soon as possible in order to assure that interagency interoperability is a priority.

**UCONN System Test** – It was reported that the ITAC system faced its first major test at the recent UCONN spring bash. Although for technical reasons the system was basically inoperable on day one due to both participants having their own repeaters on, by the second and third day of the event “we had it down”. The primary lessons learned were:

- Major events require a **full time engineer** during the event to be available for immediate troubleshooting.
- **Training** - ongoing training is mandatory. (In this situation although training was provided it may not have been effectively passed on to staff). Lt. Wayne Rioux stated that testing of existing units needs to be ongoing. This can be done as a roll-call training tool.

Prior to distribution, all of the radios were tested. It was noted that ICALL towers can be placed and brought up as needed. With policies and procedures in place, they should be kept with written protocols. Failure to do so may result in chaos. Some of the background noise may simply be an improperly adjusted squelch.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

It was discussed that we should wait until the fall to approach the governor for help with funding as part of the new biennial budget/

Homeland Security has received 24 million dollars in funding of which 19 million will be used at the local level and 5 million at the state level. With ICALL / ITAC rolled out we now need a strategy to do the legwork. We need to work “expeditiously” to develop a workable statewide plan.

It was noted by Chief Jabukson that we can plan all we want for major incidents but it is the day to day small incidents that make the need present at the local level.

It was noted that the clock for this money began on April 19<sup>th</sup>. The money is for supplemental equipment and not for new projects. Planning money is also available under the grant. 15 RPO’s already exist. Regions are looking to the state level for guidance.

Two million will be requested in an effort to address interoperability issues. It was suggested that items be filtered back through the system.

Rosemary Salerno advised that assigning radios for first select-persons is problematic. This has been resolved.

The next meeting is set for 1300 hours, Tuesday, 25 May, 2004 at DPS HQ, in Middletown.

Meeting was adjourned at 1501.

Respectfully Submitted  
Lt. Wayne M. Sinclair  
Department of Motor Vehicles