

**DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT & HOMELAND SECURITY**  
**Communication Interoperability Working Group**

**May 16, 2006**  
**Minutes**

**WELCOME, PUBLIC COMMENT AND REVIEW OF MINUTES:**

The meeting was called to order at 1304 hours by the Co-Chair, Mike Varney. The following individuals were in attendance: Chuck Beck (DOT), Brenda Bergeron (DEMHS), Stephan Brown (DOT), Andrew Campion (New Haven), George Carbonell (ConnDOT), Robert DiBella (DEMHS), Libby Graham (DEMHS), John Gustafson (CMED-NH), Bill Hackett (DEMHS), Tyler Millix (TCMP), Jeff Otto (Quinebaug Valley), Roy Piper (DEMHS), George Pohorilak (OSET), Gordon Shand (DPH), Mike Stemmler (DPS), James Thomas (DEMHS), Matt Valleau (CAP/DPS), Michael Varney (DOIT/CFCA), Keith Victor (CREPC), Jerry Zarwanski (OSET) and Lee Toffey (secretary).

Minutes of the April 18, 2006 meeting reviewed; motion to accept by John Gustafson, second by Stephan Brown, unanimous/moved and will be posted on the DEMHS website.

There were no public comments.

**SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

- A. Technical Committee: Presented by George Carbonell. One STOCs box is fully operational, still waiting for second to be returned by the vendor (Bear Communications) for retesting. Using newer radios seems to alleviate the interference issues found with the units. Daniels Electronics stated they did not get word to submit a box and will have one for testing by May 17<sup>th</sup>. George stated that there will be a large Task Force 52 Drill on June 8<sup>th</sup> and suggested testing the boxes at this time before finalizing specs. Discussion on boxes and the fact that some towns may not want to participate with STOCs project.
- B. Governance Committee: Mike Varney turned this portion over to Brenda Bergeron, legal council for DEMHS, who stated that they have taken the working group documents done in the past and some new information and have drafted a set of bi-laws. This document was handed out and discussed. Quorum number was tentatively increased to 8 plus the Chair, and a discussion will be held to clarify who the voting members will be and who should remain as part of the committee. George Pohorilak requested that the name of the committee be changed to the Executive Board for clarification purposes since that is the title the Feds are using and looking for at the state level. Chuck Beck suggested that the core entities focus on the issues and fringe people should remain part of the planning but not necessarily be a voting member. Keith Victor requested that the RPO's be added to the committee. John Gustafson stated that more than 50% for a quorum was too high a number and felt that once the money was gone, fewer and fewer members would attend the meetings. Commissioner Thomas asked that all comments on the bi-laws be emailed to Michael Varney by May 31 so the document could be sent for review by all and voted on at the next meeting.
- C. Training & Exercise Workgroup: Per Mike Varney a meeting was held and they have updated the initial ITAC/ICALL training agenda and will send the info to the committee once it is completed. The Fire Academy and POST will be doing the training and a schedule will be set up to do training and battery exchange in each of the regions. The

ITAC/ICALL cards have also been updated to add the CTS group to report problems or get help.

**REPORT OF INTEROPERABILITY USAGE AND INCIDENTS:**

- A. Gordon Shand reported that the system was used for the UCONN Spring weekend events with no problems.
- B. Andrew Campion stated that New Haven used the system for their Board of Education evacuation drill and also for the visit from the President of China. It worked well both times.
- C. Tyler Millix reported that Tolland County frequently uses the system and has no issues with it.
- D. Mike Varney advised that the Town of Union used ITAC/ICALL to coordinate water drops with Trooper 1 while fighting brush fires. No problems reported.
- E. It was suggested that these usages be publicized in the DEMHS newsletter to let people know how the system is working and some of its uses.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

- A. Portable Radio Inventory & Training Programs: Gordon Shand asked about the EMS radios that were supposed to be allocated and were deterred somewhere else. Meeting with Rosemary Salerno in order.
- B. ITAC/ICALL Test & Training Issues: The loop with the CSP Message Center needs to be closed.
- C. UASI: Bill Hackett advised that UASI has hired a consultant to do interoperable planning for the region. They asked about 4.9, 700, 900, and video streaming. They may wish to meet with the committee to keep in line with State initiatives.
- D. Homeland Security Grant Program: Libby Graham reported that FY04 is 84% spent or obligated and FY05 is 80% spent/obligated, and thanked everyone for all the hard work.
- E. Tactical Interoperable Communication Plan: Bill Hackett went to a federal conference on May & 9<sup>th</sup>. The main push at the convention was governance. Using a secure portal the Area 1 TIC plan was submitted to the Feds. On October 28<sup>th</sup> an Improvised Explosive Device drill will take place in Norwalk to test the plan.
- F. Bid for Master Catalog: Per Mike Varney the Small Business Set-aside portion of the catalog is online and the remainder of the master catalog should be online shortly. With both portions, approximately 14 vendors and virtually all manufacturers will be represented.
- G. Prime Mover radios and Licensing: Mike Varney advised that he is still waiting for an answer from DPS.
- H. ICALL/ITAC Proposal: Multiple options have been brought to the table. No decision yet.
- I. Other:
  - 1.) George Pohorilak – DPS wishes to go forward with consultants in regard to the Public Safety Data Network. Discussions will be had with all involved to gather data. Project should be completed within 4–6 months.
  - 2.) Reverse Notification RFP will close at the end of next week, then review, ranking, and award.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- A. John Gustafson brought up the use of STOCs channels in Mobile units. Many requests are coming in. Gordon Shand suggested that command vehicles should be able to enter the channels into vehicles so calls will not be missed, thus keeping the low power restrictions.
- B. Roy Piper advised that he will be turning receipt of the grant applications over to Bill Hackett as he will be transferring positions in DEMHS.

**CORRESPONDENCE/GRANT REVIEWS:**

- A. Correspondence – none.
- B. SHSGP grant reviews: Approved – Colchester, Haddam, Mansfield and Lebanon (4).  
Out for review are Monroe, New Haven, Meriden and Stafford.

**NEXT MEETING:**

Next meeting will be **June 20, 2006, at 1300 hours**, DOT Central Lab, Rocky Hill.

Meetings open to the public.

Motion to adjourn by George Carbonell; second by George Pohorilak; approved.  
Meeting adjourned at 1419 hours.