

DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT & HOMELAND SECURITY
Communication Interoperability Working Group

August 15, 2006
Minutes

WELCOME, PUBLIC COMMENT AND REVIEW OF MINUTES:

The meeting was called to order at 1307 hours by the Co-Chair, Mike Varney. The following individuals were in attendance: Leslie Bliven (CTNG), George Carbonell (ConnDOT), Robert DiBella (DEMHS), John Gustafson (CMED-NH), Paul Jakubson (CPCA), Jeff Merwin (SW-CMED), George Pohorilak (OSET), Gordon Shand (DPH), Mike Stemmler (DPS), Robert Tolomeo (DPS), Michael Varney (DOIT/CFCA), Keith Victor (CREPC) and Lee Toffey (secretary).

Minutes of the June 20, 2006 meeting reviewed; motion to accept by John Gustafson, second by Keith Victor, 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. A draft statement is finished for the STOC's boxes and the specs have been completed. It will go to DOIT to begin the bid process with a mandatory bid conference. John Gustafson moved that the Interoperability Committee accept the technical committees recommended specs and forward the package to DOIT. Second by George Poholiak, unanimous and so moved. The next phase for the Tech. committee is to discuss Vcall and Ucall and tackle the situation so as to not fall behind.
- B. Governance Committee: The general consensus of the group is that an official list of voting members be produced. Per Michael Varney this will be addressed for the next meeting.
- C. Training & Exercise Workgroup: See Itac/Icall test & training issues under old business.

REPORT OF INTEROPERABILITY USAGE AND INCIDENTS:

- A. George Carbonell reported that Stephan Brown was at the mill fire in Windsor Locks and had some concerns regarding the need to re-visit the issue of STOC's frequencies in mobile units. The issue of battery life interrupting communications is of utmost concern. Issue was discussed among committee members.

OLD BUSINESS:

- A. Portable Radio Inventory & Training Programs: Per Michael Varney, we are waiting for the regions to provide the information on venue times and locations so training can be implemented. Michael will follow-up on this issue.
- B. ITAC/ICALL Test & Training Issues: Michael Varney distributed a handout that outlines the Region 1 Weekly Radio System-wide Test Procedure. The regions can coordinate through Michael or Bill Hackett to get the testing done. Paul Jakubson asked that the second paragraph be clarified with regards to mobile vs. portable. Discussion ensued.

Mike Stemmler reported that 3 mobile stations are not yet installed – Waterbury P.D., New Haven OEM, and Stamford OEM. Michael will send this proposed test plan to DPS for comment and implementation.

- C. Homeland Security Grant Program: Reported on by Lee Toffey in Libby Graham's and Bill Hackett's absence. FY03 funds have been received from DPS; FY04 is 93% obligated/spent; FY05 is 82% obligated/spent; FY06 is in process of collecting MOU's and designation forms with deadline of August 15th (today).
- D. Tactical Interoperable Communication Plan: Michael Varney reported that good feedback has come as a result of the CEO tabletop exercise. A workshop was held for the Region 1 workgroup where actions were testing the plan and updating some missing contact info in the TICP plan. There will be a workshop for Norwalk tomorrow where they will walk through the operations of the TICP plan; and a planning meeting will be held for the exercise in October. Currently waiting for the NIMS Integration Center to approve the curriculum for Communications Unit Leader Training. The goal will be to have one person on-call in every community. It will be a four day class, concept generic but equipment specific for each region. Discussion on training ensued.
- E. Bid for Master Catalog: Per Mike Varney the contract is online and complete with 13 vendors available.
- F. Prime Mover radios and Licensing: Mike Varney advised that we are waiting for an opinion from DPS on licensing. Mike Stemmler advised that that the feeling is that the receiving entity should be responsible for licensing. Mr. Stemmler reported that he would submit this in writing to the chairmen so they may move forward regarding this issue.
- H. Jakubson Proposal: Paul Jakubson advised that he had a meeting with Commissioner Boyle, Col. Lynch and the command staff of DPS. They have narrowed the concept of direction. Commissioner Boyle will be in contact with Commissioner Thomas to determine what if any monies are available. CPCA has agreed to spend \$450,000 on the project with the remaining \$650,000 needing to come from other sources. The plan would use a DPS redundant site and re-utilize it for use as a voted system (analog – 800 mhz) statewide for police departments, single channel-one frequency. Paul will forward a document with the proposal as it currently stands. Discussion on proposal.
- I. Other:

NEW BUSINESS:

- A. NGA Grant – Mike Varney - The National Governor's Association was giving \$50,000 grants to attend a policy academy to write governance plans for interoperability. A proposal was submitted and five grants were awarded. CT did not receive a grant but a second round is expected in late September. The proposal will be worked on to make it more competitive. Also House resolution 5852 requires DHS to require the new assistant secretary to periodically assess communications operability and interoperability in the United States and requires the preparation of a report on national emergency communications, which would recommend steps to improve interoperable communications both in the short and long terms. It also amongst other items would require the development of a statewide tactical interoperable communications plan. Mike Varney advised of the Senate set aside of 1 billion dollars for Interoperability Grants for 700 MHz.

- B. NPSTC Common Channel Nomenclature Questionnaire – Mike Varney will send out questionnaire to group
- C. Keith Victor advised that West Hartford was approved for re-banding. ITAC to be moved to lower bands.
- D. Mike Varney attended ICTAP while in San Diego, Ca. Engineers are to send documents on research and bench training. Mike will forward them when they are received.

CORRESPONDENCE/GRANT REVIEWS:

- A. Correspondence – none.
- B. SHSGP grant reviews:
 - Capital Region Medical Reserve Corps – Under consideration
 - Darien - Previously Approved
 - Durham – Approved
 - East Haddam – Approved
 - Greenwich – Under consideration
 - Madison FD – under consideration
 - Montville – Approved
 - Oxford – Approved
 - Plainfield - Approved
 - Shelton – Under consideration
 - Sherman – Not approved, incomplete
 - Southbury – Not approved, incomplete
 - Stafford – Not approved, incomplete
 - Stratford – Application not applicable
 - USAR – Approved
 - Woodstock – Approved

NEXT MEETING:

Next meeting will be **September 19, 2006, at 1300 hours**, Brainard Field, 269 Maxim Road Hartford.

Meetings open to the public.

Motion to adjourn by John Gustafson; second by George Carbonnel; approved.
Meeting adjourned at 1425 hours.