

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
Public Safety Interoperability Communications Committee
MEETING MINUTES
December 16, 2008 at 1:00 p.m.
DPS Headquarters
1111 Country Club Road, Middletown, CT 06457

Welcome & Introductions:

The meeting was called to order at 1310 hours by Co-Chair Bill Hackett. The following individuals were in attendance: Brenda Bergeron (DEMHS), George Carbonell (DOT), Anthony Diaz (Hamden PD), Robert DiBella (DEMHS), Brian Fernandez (ARC-DST), Charles Fuller (OSET), Theresa Freeman (DPS), John Gustafson (DEMHS), William Hackett (DEMHS), Jeff Merwin (Region 5), Bernie O'Donnell (DOIT), Jeff Otto (Region 4), Roy Piper (DEMHS), George Pohorilak (OSET), Gregg Prevost (Valley Shore), Gordon Shand (DPH), Joseph Soto (Greenwich EMS), Dan Soule (LCD), Mike Stemmler (DPS), Nick Varanelli (DEP), Mike Varney (DOIT), Stephen Verbil (DPS), Keith Victor (Region 3), Edward Wilds (DEP), Kris Wohlgemugh (DOIT), Sandra Baker (DEMHS), Frank Kiernan (Meriden), Kitty Ing (Verizon Business), Bob Davis (Verizon Wireless), Will Hickman (Verizon Wireless), Alfred Sanchez (Verizon Wireless) and Carol Babiec (Verizon Wireless)

Co-Chair Bill Hackett announced the following appointments per Commissioner Thomas: Gregg Prevost as the Region 2 Representative and Jeff Otto as a member of the Technical Sub-Committee. Roy Piper also announced that Gregg Prevost is now the Chairperson for ESF2 in Region 2.

Public Comment: None

Review of Minutes:

John Gustafson requested that a revision be made under the STOCS Program - 72 boxes were allocated and not 172 as recorded. A motion to accept the November 18, 2008 meeting minutes was made by Keith Victor, seconded by Jeff Merwin - accepted unanimously.

PSIC Grant Update:

Mike Varney reported 80% of MOUs were returned and DEMHS has forwarded the application to DHS. Once reviewed and notification received, the draw down process of funds can begin. All questions regarding this process should be directed to John Gustafson. A steering committee meeting was held this morning and Motorola gave a presentation on the P25 switch component of the grant. George Pohorilak announced that work is being done with DOIT to hire a short-term project manager for approximately 6 months. Interviews are being conducted.

Sub-Committee Reports:

- a. Technical Workgroup – The workgroup is preparing to accept requests from towns and review purchase orders. STOCS boxes will be relocated from Bradley to DEMHS. All boxes will go to Marcus Communications for a check-up before going to DEMHS. The process is moving along and on schedule for the first week in January.

- b. Training & Exercise Workgroup – Report draft from the after action has been completed and will be sent out for review. The credentialing workgroup met last week to discuss communication typing and was given a copy of the task book for COML created specific to CT. The task book was endorsed by the group and will be used as a format. The group will work on who can sign off on the task book in the coming months. Contact Mike Varney or John Gustafson to get a copy.
- c. 700 MHz Planning Workgroup – George Pohorilak briefed the committee on discussions that took place at December 15th workgroup meeting. He announced that John Gustafson & Steve Verbil met the requirements for special teams. A letter of intent to New Britain has been signed and distributed to allow them to use the DPS switch.
- d. 4.9 GHz Workgroup – No Report

Report of Interoperability Usage and incidents during previous months:

There were 15 tests conducted and 4 ITAC/ICALL activations during the month of November – 11/6/08 - Waterbury Fire Dept used ITAC 3 due to maintenance on their primary radio system; 11/6/08 – Shelton P.D. used ITAC 2 due to primary radio system being out of service; 11/7/08 – Tolland County Dispatch Center used ITAC 2 for a hazardous material incident in the town of Ellington; and 11/8/08 – Fairfield County Coordinator (HQ7) used ITAC 4 for a tanker shuttle drill in the town of Weston. Jeff Merwin reported R1 Med Channel was used for a bus accident. Bill Hackett announced that STOCS will be included in the Interoperability Section of the Annual Local Plan Review reporting in the future.

Old Business:

- a. Status on Portable Radio Inventory & Training Programs – The Committee discussed the role of DEMHS Regional Coordinators in disseminating battery replacement for radios. A meeting to discuss reprogramming of the radios will be held today immediately following the Interoperability Committee Meeting.
- b. Transit Security Grant – No Report
- c. State Foam Trailer Program Communications – John Gustafson made a proposal to Jeff Morrissette and is currently waiting for a response.
- d. Interoperable Emergency Communications Grant Program (IECGP) – Mike Varney briefed the committee on the disbursement process of the grant. Each Region will receive \$87,000. The second year's grant will be 10% less.

Regional Reports:

Region 1 (Jeff Merwin) – Joe Gaudett continues to work on the UASI Grant. A meeting was conducted with Motorola to discuss issues concerning infrastructure and how the project will be done. Region 1 is scheduled to approve the 2 year spending plan for the Region tomorrow.

Region 2 (Greg Prevost) – Frank Kiernan was selected as Vice Chairman of Region 2 ESF - 2. The region is working on regional projects.

Region 3 (Keith Victor) – Dan Vindigni was appointed as the new CREP Chairman for Region 3. Keith Victor provided the committee with details on the planning of a full scale exercise that will be conducted by the states of MA & CT.

Region 4 (Jeff Otto) – Region 4 is continuing to reduce vendors for IT network project. The next meeting is scheduled for January 9th. Bill Hackett presented Jeff with his letter of appointment to the Technical Sub-Committee.

Region 5 (Jim Farkas) – No Report

New Business:

a. State Interoperable Coordinators Meeting

Mike Varney reported on the discussions that took place at the meeting. Forty-eight states were represented. The Office of Emergency Communications & DHS gave feedback & guidance on programs. The presentation will be forwarded to Committee members once it is received in electronic form.

b. Regional Emergency Communications Coordination Working Group

Keith Victor attended a meeting of the Regional Emergency Communications Coordination Workgroup in Maynard, MA. The group is federally mandated and one of the topics discussed was the naming of interoperability channels. Meeting participants toured the facility and reviewed the technology in place. The FEMA Grant Directorate was a meeting participant and Wayne Mulligan of the CT Broadcasting Association gave a briefing. CT, MA & RI were the only States in attendance and it was recommended that conference calls be conducted in the future.

c. Annual Report to EMHSCC

The committee was updated on the following items: STOCS Program; updates to DEMHS high band radio system; Interoperability Communications Grant Program; update to SCIP progress report; Region 3 TIC Plan; and COML Training. The report will be made available to individuals if needed.

Correspondence/Grant Reviews: Bill Hackett read a letter from Chief Denis McCarthy regarding Region 1's Emergency Planning Team. George Pohorilak stated that applications will be considered only if consistent with the State's plan. It was recommended that a response letter be returned to Mr. McCarthy requesting more detailed information. A motion was made to move forward with sending the letter from the Committee to Mr. McCarthy; first Jeff Otto; seconded by Gregg Prevost; unanimously accepted.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, January 20, 2008 – 1:00 p.m.

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn meeting at 1400 hours by George Carbonell, seconded by Jeff Merwin - accepted unanimously.