

DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT & HOMELAND SECURITY
Public Safety State Interoperability Executive Committee
MEETING MINUTES
March 25, 2008
DOT Research Lab, 280 West Street, Rocky Hill, CT 06067

Welcome & Introductions:

The meeting was called to order at 1305 hours by the Co-Chair, Bill Hackett. The following individuals were in attendance: Stephan Brown (DOT/Marine), George Carbonell (DOT), Joseph Carlone (DOC), Anthony Diaz (Hamden PD), Robert DiBella (DEMHS), Michael Dion (Military), Jim Farkas (Region 5), Chuck Fuller (OSET), Libby Graham (DEMHS), John Gustafson (Region 2), Bill Hackett (DEMHS), Phil Halibozek (DPS), Paul Jakubson (CPCA), John Masciadrelli (OSET), Jeffrey Merwin (Region 1), Tyler Millix (CFCA), Matt Morcus (CTNG), Jeffrey Otto (Region 4), George Pohorilak (OSET), Gordon Shand (DPH), Dan Soule (LCD), Nick Varanelli (DEP), Mike Varney (DOIT), Keith Victor (Region 3), Tom Walsh (DEMHS), Sandra Baker (DEMHS), Brenda Bergeron (DEMHS), Gregg Prevost (Valley Shore), John Olexa (CTANG), Donald Denton (TSA Contractor), Dave Rodriguez (TSA/CT), Tim McCoy (DHS/FEMA Region I) and Frank Lalley (DHS/FEMA)

Public Comment: None

Review of Minutes: Motion to accept the meeting minutes of February 19, 2008, made by Keith Victor; seconded by George Carbonell - accepted unanimously.

The meeting began with a briefing by Robert Kasica, DOT Photolog Unit. The Photolog Unit provides a GIS product which contains images every 10 meters along all CT DOT maintained roadways. This information can be used to view building fronts or road signage during or planning for emergencies. Meeting participants were provided with brochures and software for their agencies.

Presentation by DHS/FEMA Region 1 – Communications Planning Initiative

Timothy McCoy and Frank Lalley, representatives from DHS/FEMA addressed the Committee to present the 2008 Communications Planning Initiative. The planning team is charged with developing comprehensive, integrated federal, state, and local communications plans for high-risk communities in preparation for the 2008 hurricane season. Interviews with state and local officials will be conducted to identify key communications risks, resources and assets within the state. FEMA has a deadline of April 30 to complete the process.

PSIC Grant Update:

Mike Varney reported that Doug Harder (ICTAP) is the primary point of contact and Maribel Martinez-Bradwell is no longer assigned to Connecticut. ICTAP is under a new acronym – Office of Emergency Communications Technical Assistance (OECTA). PSIC Grant announcements for those that have been approved should be out by March 31st. As part of the SCIP planning process the steering group will send out a response form to solicit annual updates before the next meeting. Feedback is necessary so the SCIP plan can be updated and the committee can adopt the updated plan before May or June.

Sub-Committee Reports:

- a. Technical Committee – George Carbonell reported that the working group has done a review of the training for the STOCS box and is waiting for input from DEMHS. Mike Varney announced that letters for the initial phase of distribution was sent out and most agreed to accept the unit. Brenda Bergeron has drafted an MOU to outline the responsibility of DEMHS and the Towns and it is currently going through the review process at DEMHS. The Training program is almost complete. Training will be delivered once the MOUs are executed. The initial pilot will be posted on the DEMHS website and available for downloading and use.
- b. Training & Exercise Workgroup – The workgroup met on February 29th and developed a list of practitioners needed to be trained. They also reviewed existing programs within and outside of CT and those that may need to be developed. Discussions took place on the development of a matrix with regard to the practitioners identified and the training programs that will be available. The next meeting is scheduled for Friday at 11:00 a.m. at DOIT.
- c. 700 MHz Planning Workgroup – The State Agency Committee and the Local 700 MHz Committees met several times and they are trying to identify gaps and analysis. George Pohorilak will provide a report on the workgroups progress at future meetings.

Report of Interoperability Usage and incidents during previous months:

ICALL/ITAC Activations – 2 activations with one involving a motor vehicle accident on I-95 in Fairfield, and Troop A for a bank robbery in Waterbury. There were 89 tests conducted – No problems to report.

Old Business:

- a. Status on Portable Radio Inventory & Training Programs – Gordon Shand submitted a list of all EMS provider organizations that are fire affiliated who never received radios. He offered to distribute the radios when they are available.
- b. HLS Grants – Libby Graham announced the two new grant programs – Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) for the Hartford and Bridgeport Areas and the Port Security Grant Program. DEMHS will serve as the fiduciary for the Port Security Program. A consultant will be hired to do a port security risk assessment and a plan.
- c. Prime Mover Radios & Licensing – Bob DiBella reported that DEMHS has licenses for prime movers and decontamination trailers. The Committee agreed to remove this as a future agenda item.
- d. Transit Security Grant – There has been dialogue with MTA Police to help define part of the project. The group meeting on that issue will reconvene next month.
- e. State Foam Trailer Program Communications – Keith Victor attended a meeting to discuss the 8 foam trailers. If approved by the Fire Academy, it was recommended that ICALL/CSPERN be used for communications by having ITAC radios with STOCS frequencies in them. Currently waiting for a response from Jeff Morrissette.

Regional Reports:

Region 1 –Received an overview on the UASI funds that will possibly be coming to Stamford, Norwalk, and Bridgeport which were all identified as an urban area. Region 1 moved forward and amended by-laws to accommodate the Urban Area Workgroup. Work is in progress on SWOT analysis and moving forward on ESF 2 and ESF 8 projects. Mike Varney announced that Eric Fine is retiring from Westport Fire as of Monday.

Region 2 (John Gustafson) distributed SWOT analysis to the Committee. No additional info to report.

Region 3 (Keith Victor) – Region 3 had a SWOT analysis and officials from OECTA attended the meeting. TIC-P training will be held May 29 and 30 at CCSU. UASI working group has been established and will conduct additional meetings to develop the program.

Region 4 (Jeff Otto) – Region 4 is working on its SWOT analysis. A meeting is scheduled to discuss budget issues. Communications issues that have dollars associated with them have been ranked and prioritized. A region wide IP based interoperable communications network is the centerpiece of the communications proposal for the Region.

Region 5 (Jim Farkas) – Working on SWOT analysis. Chairmen for the ESF functions were invited and attended the last meeting. The meeting went well and he recommended other Regions also invite ESF Chairmen to their meetings.

New Business:

Interoperability Coordination Position – The Committee was informed by George Pohorilak that there will be two Emergency Telecommunications Manager positions both funded by OSET. One will be hired at DPS/OSET and the other at DEMHS. The positions are management level and will be advertised on the DAS webpage some time next month. DAS will determine the pay grade for the positions. Both agencies will move forward aggressively to fill the positions.

Correspondence/Grant Reviews: Nothing to Report

Next Meeting: Tuesday, April 15, 2008 – 1:00 p.m., DOT Research Lab, Rocky Hill.

Motion to adjourn meeting made by Keith Victor, seconded by John Gustafson - accepted unanimously Meeting adjourned at 14:55 hours.