

**DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY
MANAGEMENT & HOMELAND SECURITY
Public Safety State Interoperability Executive Committee
MEETING MINUTES
June 17, 2008
DOIT, 101 East River Drive, East Hartford, CT 06108**

Welcome & Introductions:

The meeting was called to order at 1312 hours by the Co-Chair, Michael Varney. The following individuals were in attendance: Joseph Carlone (DOC), David Coyle (CSP), Jim Farkas (Region 5), Chuck Fuller (OSET), John Gustafson (Region 2), John Masciadrelli (OSET), Jeffrey Otto (Region 4), George Pohorilak (OSET), Gordon Shand (DPH), Dan Soule (LCD), Mike Stemmler (DPS), Matt Valleau (CAP/DPS), Nick Varanelli (DEP), Keith Victor (Region 3), Kris Wohlgemugh (DOIT), Jerry Zarwanski (OSET), Greg Prevost (Valley Shore), Sandra Baker (DEMHS), Mario Bruno (ARC), Chris Antonelli (Mutual Ink), Donald Denton (TSA), Brian Fernandez (ARC), Edward Wilds (DEP), Andy Celli (Motorola), and Bernie O'Donnell (DOIT)

Public Comment: None

Review of Minutes:

Motion to accept meeting minutes of May 20, 2008 made by Keith Victor; seconded by John Gustafson - accepted unanimously.

PSIC Grant Update:

Nothing to Report

Sub-Committee Reports:

- a. Technical Committee – STOCS Program MOAs were sent out. The training program is developed. There were some modifications made. Once the list of contacts from the MOAs is received, training will be scheduled and the STOCS Boxes will be issued. The classes will be small – 8 on average per class due to the hands-on component. As feedback is received from each training class updates will be made. The second wave of applications is done and ready for distribution. DEMHS is currently working on it.
- b. Training & Exercise Workgroup – Keith Victor gave a report on the exercise held at Camp Rell. Region 1 is running a COML program on Thurs, Fri and the following week with 30 people registered. Mike Varney announced he will be taking the new Federal COML training pilot at the end of the month. He will report on it at the next meeting.
- c. 700 MHz Planning Workgroup – George Pohorilak reported that the workgroup meeting scheduled for 6/16 was canceled. There is an issue with the Cap Rad Sort not being the same for each state. Modifying Region 19 plan and doing own sort is an option. The Group is trying to figure out where they stand and how to challenge Cap Rad Sort allocations. An update will be provided at the next meeting.
- d. 4.9 GHz Workgroup – Nothing to Report

Report of Interoperability Usage and incidents during previous months:

A written report was submitted to Co-Chair Mike Varney from Major Philip Halibozek. There were nine (9) ITAC/ICALL activations and ninety eight (98) tests. Millstone operations center conducted 92 of the test and all other were from various agencies.

There was a discussion and questions from Gregg Prevost with regard to the Colchester fire - 2 ITAC channels were used successfully for the incident. There was a request for a STOCS unit to the incident and it was denied. Mike Varney stated he discussed the issue with Bill Hackett who informed him that the request came in from outside the command structure and when confirmed through command it was not needed. There was also discussion regarding the timeframes this occurred. Mike Varney asked Gregg Prevost to obtain written details of what took place along with any questions or concerns and he would get them answered.

Old Business:

- a. Status on Portable Radio Inventory & Training Programs – DEMHS received radios and they are being checked by Tom Walsh. No additional information to report.
- b. HLS Grants – Mike Varney received correspondence from DHS on the Federal Program for EOC upgrades (75/25 split) that must be requested from the State. The closing date for the grant application is at the end of July. The DHS Office of Communications has a 50 million dollar grant this year for interoperability. The grant is geared towards governance procedures, training and exercising and not for purchasing. Guidance will be coming out soon.
- c. Transit Security Grant – Nothing to report.
- d. State Foam Trailer Program Communications – Jeff Morrissette is waiting to hear back from DEP. No additional information to report.
- e. DPS I-CALL Repeater Upgrade – Mike Stemmler reported that the upgrade to the I-CALL system is completed, tested and operational. It is a simulcast I-CALL system in the non-repeat mode. If an incident commander needs wide area communications for coordination effort, they can request that the repeater be turned on. Under normal operations it is a listen on the input, talk on the output with no repeat unit in the field. It is a shared channel and does not change or circumvent the use of the 39 I-CALL repeaters for local communications. The Statewide system is directly for the need of a wide area communications channel. Gregg Prevost made a recommendation that dispatch centers have two control stations – one for coordination and the other for operations. John Gustafson indicated that nothing prohibits organizations from buying two control stations if necessary.

Regional Reports:

Region 1 – COML training scheduled for the next two weeks. There was a Communications Vehicle dedication to the Regional Team a little over a week ago.

Region 2 (John Gustafson) – Nothing to report

Region 3 (Keith Victor) – Region 3 conducted TIC-P workshop and had 55 in attendance from various agencies. Developed common terminology and reviewed interoperability channels. ICTAP will conduct CASM training the week of July 14. The course is limited to 25 students per class. Once the logistics are finalized a broadcast will go out for anyone who wishes to attend. It will be geared towards Region 3, but anyone can take the class. Region 3 developed an Interop Channel Recommended List as part of their planning process. Keith Victor indicated the National Response Interop Channels were included in the breakdown. Other regions suggested the federal channels be programmed in the radios from the Federal Frequency Guide to allow the ability to talk to federal assets.

Region 4 (Jeff Otto) – A meeting was held with Chief Elected Officials to hear and discuss any objections to decisions made by the Region – None were raised. Worked on purchasing procedures and had some dialogue on establishing ownership guidelines for durable equipment that will last beyond the duration of the contract. Work is in progress on the resource typing.

Region 5 – Nothing to report

New Business: Nothing to report

Correspondence/Grant Reviews: Nothing to report.

American Red Cross Presentation:

Brian Fernandez began with providing a brief overview on the ARC Emergency Communications Response Vehicle equipment and its capabilities. Mario Bruno gave a briefing on ARC's services they provide during emergencies and requested permission for the ARC to be integrated into the State's interoperable communications during disasters. Mario Bruno will submit a formal request outlining the communication needs of the ARC so it can be presented to the voting members of the committee for approval.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, July 15, 2008 – 1:00 p.m.

Motion to adjourn meeting and view ARC communications vehicle - accepted unanimously
Meeting adjourned at 14:22 hours.