

State of Connecticut
Public Safety Interoperability Executive Committee
DESPP HQ – 1111 Country Club Road Room 349
Middletown, Connecticut
Tuesday March 19, 2019 1300 hrs
Meeting Minutes

Welcome & Introductions:

The meeting was called to order by SIEC Chairman John G. Gustafson.
A quorum was established.

The following individuals participated:

Nick Carlone	CT-DOT
Robert DiBella	Glastonbury EMD/CEMA
Judith Reynolds	DPH
Keith Victor	West Hartford - Region 3 ESF 2 Chair - via C/C
Robert Drozynski	DESPP/DEMHS
Wayne Gronlund	Region 4 ESF 2 Chair - via C/C
Phil Mikan	USCG
Peter Giammarco	Verizon Wireless
John Gustafson	DESPP/DEMHS
Scott Wright	CTS - via C/C
Matt Valleau	CTS - via C/C
Jerry Zarwanski	DSET
Kris Wohlgemuth	DEMHS
Richard LaSaracina	MPTN
Betty Morris	North Central CT EMS – CMEDS
Greg Prevost	Valley Shore ECC
Leonard Welch	DAS/BEST
Dan Stebbins	AT&T
Joe Gaudett	Bridgeport/Region 1 – via C/C
Frank Kiernan	SWCMED
Jeff Morrissette	CFPC
Al Russo	Danbury EMD – Region 5 ESF 2
Jared Heon	Ansonia Fire-Rescue
Chris Tuttle	CISA/ECD Region 1 Coordinator

Public Comment:

Peter Giammarco from Verizon Wireless reported new infrastructure Southington, Windsor and Newtown.

Frank Kiernan – Announced the soft opening of SW CMED in Shelton. An email invite was sent out to the SIEC members.

Meeting Minutes Approval:

A motion was made by Keith Victor, seconded by Wayne Gronlund to accept the February 2019 minutes. All in favor.

SWIC Update:

None

SIEC Chair Report:

8Call90 portables are being distributed in DEMHS Region 3, next deployment could be Region 2, followed by 4 or 5. Region 1 as availability to the UASI radio system.

The draft of the 8Call/8Tac field guide has some information which needs to be clarified regarding use of the 8Call90 repeater due to possible interference with other states. It was never intended to be a statewide constant use system.

National Information Sharing Center is conducting a FirstNet webinar on April 17, 2019.

The State with Jared Devine and FEMA Region 1 Acting Regional Administrator Paul Ford and the Mashantucket Tribal Nation to discuss their (MPTN) request for use of the IPAWS emergency reporting system. The conclusion is at this time since the wireless carriers cannot provide a method to have more defined area, the Message Center will work on the alerts for the MPTN.

Working Groups:

Technical Work Group – Scott Wright reported CTS worked extensively to roll out the 8Call90 EF Johnson portables for Region 3. Using the OTAP was a huge time saver. CSP Troop L subscriber units have been updated with positive results including improved coverage.

MOUs are in place for Groton, Stonington, Norwich, and Coventry to join the state system. Federal agencies are also being incorporated into the state trunked radio system. A few more towns have shown interest and would include adding their schools and public works departments.

Motorola purchased console manufacturer AdTech, it is unknown what this will bring for changes.

There is a Capital area Fire meeting 3/29/19 to discuss sharing of system keys and other interoperability information.

The Safecom website has information about Fairfax County VA best practice for radio interoperability.

Broadband Wireless Working Group

Leonard Welch– Recently completed a meeting with AT&T/FirstNet covering, governance process, elevating credentials in Connecticut, process for users to sign up, the location of a deployable unit in Dayville area, addition of 68 Band Class 14 sites in Connecticut, and the progress of the additional site called for in the FirstNet State Plan. Key point to remember is that FirstNet service is supported by all of the AT&T spectrum not just in Band Class 14.

There was a question about what the extent of coverage is for each Band Class 14 site, due to interference concerns. An answer was not known at this time.

Chris Tuttle pointed out the complexities of the deployment process for assets which are state contracted. (A draft policy is underway with the intention of having requests flow through the State EOC or State ESF 2 in the event the EOC is not activated)

CMED Working Group – Betty Morris from North Central CT EMS reported the first meeting will be 3/20/19 1-2:30pm agenda includes CMED overview, updated CMED directory, and update inventory of CMED system.

Discussion occurred regarding Stamford using a wireless application to contact hospitals directly. Frank Kiernan mentioned this is contrary to Department of Public Health Regulations which require coordination of contact between the transport service and the hospital.

Training and Exercise Working Group

Wayne Gronlund – The 8CALL/8TAC field guide is being fine-tuned. The working group is developing an introduction section for the regional interoperable communications training program.

Chris Tuttle reported on the Status of Connecticut's Technical Assistance (TA) Request: Three AuxCOM classes are approved

The COMEX which will enable individuals to have their COMT and COML task books completed.

CT COMT Class is deferred – may be revisited at some point

Framingham MA – Information Technician Unit Manager Class being offered

COMT & COML Courses are being delivered in Massachusetts and invitation travel may be available for CT students to attend.

Chris added extensive planning has been done in New York and New Jersey regarding interoperable communications. New York developed a Field Operating Guide (FOG) and there is one interops channel for each county.

The practice of calling for communications assets through EMAC requests was discussed.

Air Operations Communications Working Group – Matt Valleau reported the FAA is requiring certain work to be done on aircraft which is tending to delay any sort of an exercise this summer. More information to follow.

Information regarding CT's Aviation 217 was presented at IWCE.

FCC Region Updates (Region 8 & 19) – Jerry Zarwanski

Region 19 held its quarterly meeting on March 12, 2019

700MHz Connecticut Applications; pending Application from CT DESPP requires some minor changes/edits before the Application can be approved. Awaiting changes on CAPRADAP.

The other application from CT DESPP was recently approved for the use of 700MHz

Nationwide Deployables on a secondary basis in the State of CT. The Nationwide Deployables come from the reserve channel pool of which there are 24 channels and not enough for distribution for all licensees currently on T-Band. Specifically the T-Band users in Fairfield County CT, New York Counties, Nassau and Westchester Counties. When a Window opens for the Reserve channels R8 and R19 will mirror the application filing requirements and dates for submission.

At the Region 19 meeting discussion was held on the requirement of getting a letter from the SWIC/SIEC of the state prior to filing an Application in CAPRADAP. The 700MHz

frequencies have been available for more than 10 years. Originally the members of the Committee and then Chairman believed there would be more than 50, 60 or 70 frequencies available on a county by county basis in New England. After the nationwide sort the county distribution of 700MHz was anywhere from 8 -16 frequencies. The Chairman and committee members determined that the 700MHz frequencies would best be served on a multi-town, multi-agency, regional or state basis and any public safety applicant would need State SWIC/SIEC approval to move forward with an Application filing. The FCC provides the RPC's the Authority to distribute specific bands of frequencies to public safety agencies on as needed basis. 10+ years has gone by and we have yet to distribute all the frequencies. Fairfield County is the largest user of 700Mhz frequencies in R19 and almost the entire 700MHz county allocation has been distributed. R19 tabled the discussion to make 700MHz frequencies available to single towns for multiple agency use until the next meeting in June 800MHz Updated Plan has been reviewed/edited by the R19 technical subcommittee and has been distributed to the R19 membership for review/edits. Some minor administration edits need to be made to the membership, specifically contact information. R8 and R30 have been notified the 800MHz Plan will be ready for final review at the June meeting and a motion will be raised to approve the Plan and seek concurrence. Thereafter the 800MHz plan will be sent to the FCC for approval. 4.9GHz Licenses – If you have a 4.9GHz license and you have built out the system you need to update your license. If you do not do it now, someday in the future there will be a requirement to use a frequency advisor to modify the license. Currently there are 48 4.9GHz Licensed users in CT. In addition, if you move to a new facility you need to update your contact information with the FCC.

Regional Reports

Region 1 – Joe Gaudett – Region 1 conducted a three day communications training class in Monroe using Field COM 1 and also MCV 1. They tested a portion of the Aviation 217 with regional helicopter. Trumbull is evaluating use of the State Trunked radio system via the UASI channel.

There are seven individuals interested in the AUXCOM class.

Norwalk PD is establishing a link between there system and the UASI system in Region 1.

Region 2 – No report

Region 3 – Keith Victor - West Hartford system is moving along. The Capital Region Fire Service radio meeting is March 29, 2019.

Region 4 – Wayne Gronlund-ESF2 is working DEMHS Region 4 Coordinator and the Willimantic Fire Chief on a presentation for CCM regarding the Willimantic waste facility mutual aid fire response. ESF2 is also preparing to present the command staff level training program. The ESF2 meetings are the second Friday of the even numbered months.

Region 5 – Al Russo ESF2 meets monthly, John Gustafson attended the last meeting. He asked about concept of “Local Control” regarding FirstNet accounts. Local Control allows an account holder to uplift accounts from extended primary to primary for 48 hours and also manage the accounts.

Tribal Nations – Rich LaSaracina – no report

State Agency Reports

DPH – No report

DOT – No report

Old Business:

Greg Prevost suggested that AT&T be able to reach out to the PSAPs to help verify first responder affiliations.

New Business:

Windsor sent a letter for SIEC to comment on for their 700 MHz application to Region 19.

Motion made by Bob DiBella, seconded by Rich LaSaracina to table action on the letter. The request has been referred to the Technical Committee for review.

Discussion occurred regarding the use of 8Call90 in coordinating incoming units. A practice used to test the system and also coordinate arrival of units from various parts of the state for the firefighter's convention was to use 8Call90.

John Gustafson asked the Technical Committee to review this practice to see if use of the statewide repeater system is appropriate and/or suggest solutions.

Correspondence:

None

Interoperable Grant Fund Approvals:

None

Next Meeting:

April 16, 2019 1:00PM – DESPP 1111 Country Club Rd – Room 349

Adjourn:

Motion to adjourn 1432 hrs. All in favor.

Recorded by: Robert Drozynski – EMPS, CT DEMHS