



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety and Security

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TERRENCE M. REIDY
Secretary

SIEC Executive Management Committee (EMC)

Executive Office of Public Safety and Security (EOPSS)

50 Maple Street, Milford, MA 01757

Wednesday, November 6, 2024, 1:30pm

MINUTES

Voting SIEC EMC members present: *Richard Fiske (SWIC), Alexander Rock (ASWIC, Policy & Programs Committee), David Spinosa (Northeast), Scott Wilder (UASI), Tim Gover (Southeast), Matt Barstow (MSP, RF Committee), Greg Lynskey (Central), Chris Carleton (Central)*

Others present: *Seth Peters (CMRPC), Mike Saltzman (EOTSS CoMIRS), Cory Swift (MCSA), Anthony Fowler (FEMA REG1), Melissa Nazzaro (CISA ECC Reg 1), Gary Mcarraher (FirstNet), Donald Denning (AT&T), Chad Snow (AT&T), Ben Podsiadlo (OGR), Sarah Malloy (OGR), Carli Harris (CMRPC)*

Richard Fiske chaired the meeting on behalf of Secretary Reidy and called the meeting to order at 1:33pm. Roll call was held.

1. Acceptance of Minutes/Notes

- a) June 26, 2024, Minutes. Motion to approve by Matt Barstow, seconded by Scott Wilder, Motion carried.

b) PJ-ICIPs and PJ-ICPS Amendments:

- *HSGP21-494 CMLEC Command post cache radios for Southeast. Submission was requested to be pulled back by Tim Gover and to be amended and presented at another meeting.*
- *HSGP21-495 High water prime mover radios for central region. – Greg Lynskey spoke on the subject. Central is looking to purchase 3 high water prime mover vehicles. These vehicles cover fire districts 7,8 and a portion of 14. This project proposes to purchase 3 all band radios to be installed in aforementioned vehicles. Rich Fiske made mention the original quote showed a quantity of one radio and since has been updated to reflect the 3. The ICIP will be amended to reflect the updated quote. Motion to approve by Scott Wilder, seconded by Dave Spinosa. Motion carried. Greg Lynskey abstained.*

- c) Discussion on any other current projects that have been reviewed previously and need action or have pending concerns- N/A.

- d) Discussion on any newly submitted projects that require distribution and review prior to action that were not anticipated or included here- N/A

2. Reports

a. Standing Committees

- i. **Data Committee-** N/A
- ii. **RF Committee-** *Nothing to report*
- iii. **Policy / Programs-** *Nothing to report*

b. Councils

- i. **UASI-Metro Boston** –*Scott Wilder addressed the committee. Nothing new to report. Although discussions have been held to move forward with the 800-system buildout. Planning and funding are being held up currently. Rich Fiske commented that considerable discussions have been ongoing with the city of Boston regarding combining systems and pending those discussions will determine the next steps. No other questions or comments from the Committee.*
- ii. **Northeast-** *David Spinosa addressed the committee. Nothing new to report. One update on the ongoing COML/COMT radio programing initiative, due to uncontrolled circumstances and lack of availability and or interest, Northeast will be moving away from this program and redirecting funding towards paying vendors or holding programming classes. No other questions or comments from the Committee.*
- iii. **Southeast-** *Tim Gover addressed the committee. Nothing new to report. No other questions or comments from the Committee.*
- iv. **Central-** *Greg Lynskey addressed the committee. It was discovered by the SWIC a couple days ago during a mutual aid fire MOB activation, a number of responding agencies from central did not have the correct interoperable channels and or frequencies from the MTICP programmed in their department radios. Central will take this as an action item to get the word out to all central agencies. No other questions or comments from the Committee.*
- v. **Western-**N/A

c. State/Federal/Other Agencies

- i. **SWIC:** *Richard Fiske addressed the committee.*
 - *Draft of the Policy & Programs committee Wireless Diversity Best Practices Guidance has been circulated and sent to EOPSS leadership and the Secretary for approval. That approval was granted, and the Wireless Diversity Best Practices Guidance has since been published as a best practice from the office of the SWIC.*
 - *Work ongoing with the Fire MOB for updates to the comms plan. This plan has not been updated in a while. Talks have been ongoing for the last year and Mr. Fiske has requested members of this committee and all stakeholders to go back to your respective regions to have this conversation with all departments regarding Fire MOB and interoperability. It has been a busy several weeks throughout New England and Massachusetts regarding brush fires. The departments responding to these fires have been quick to trigger Fire MOB requests, but late to trigger the communication plan for the Fire MOB assets responding to assist. Part of the requested update to Fire MOB*

involves agencies utilizing a plan to communicate with each other while responding to the scene using interoperable resources and the MTICP, not necessarily local agency channels. Involving the COMU units in the different regions and the office of the SWIC early and often is a great way to mobilize communication assets and establish effective interoperable communications while enroute and on the fire ground.

- ***Programming of the Massachusetts Tactical Interoperable Channel Plan (MTICP) is paramount.** Lately, agencies showing up to Fire MOB requests do not have the MTICP programmed in the department radios, or only have partial channels programmed with incorrect frequency and channel nomenclature. One recent example of incorrect MTICP programming includes an agency that showed up at a recent Fire MOB activation with UTAC channels programmed as direct only. As a result, this agency was unable to leverage the wide area interoperable communications deployed on the fire ground. The MTICP has been a published best practice document since 2016, and all are encouraged to go back to your respective agencies to remind them of this. Anyone needing supporting documentation of this published best practice or has questions regarding the Massachusetts Tactical Interoperable Channel Plan please feel free to contact Alex or Myself.*
- *Attending the bi-annual SAFECOM meeting in Florida at the end of the month. This meeting will be in regard to interoperability communication and best practice planning for the Nation.*
- *Meetings for the Lexington 250th celebration have been taking place with different stakeholder agencies, both state and local. From this group, assets will be needed from outside the region of the 250th celebration due to the state assets being used and the close proximity of the Boston Marathon. If any agency has deployable comms, cache radios and communication equipment available for this event please reach out to Andy Bagdonas, Matt Barstow or Rich Fiske so we can tally up these available resources.*
- *Work is ongoing with the MPTC to develop and implement radio training curriculum regarding radio operation and interoperability at the recruit level. This will be a standardized training for the MPTC implemented statewide. The purpose of this training is to familiarize recruits with how radios operate and interoperable communications across the Commonwealth. The MPTC currently has a RFP out to purchase the remaining equipment.*
- *TERT deployments to Cambridge, this was a large deployment resulting from a LODD. Cambridge is a large agency, and this deployment was a success, receiving nothing but complements. TERT will be deploying again to Malden on Friday to cover for the services of an officer LODD.*
- *Presented on communications and interoperability to the FCAM group back in September.*
- *Attended full scale ASHER drill at Logan Airport earlier in the month to observe. The office will be providing after action comments to MASSPORT and their emergency management group regarding communications and interoperability during the drill.*
- *Attended IACP conference in Boston and spoke to several agencies and vendors about emerging technologies, planning and tools that are coming or already available to connect not only to agencies on the ground, but PSAPs as well with 911.*
- *More discussions were held regarding Air-to-Ground interoperable communications utilizing the tac channels. Some of the feedback received was from users regarding the aircraft talking to the LZ while still 4 or 5 minutes out. This causes the communications*

from the aircraft to be propagated across a wide region due to the elevation and distance. This is causing unnecessary interference to tac channel use across multiple states and incidents. Conversations with the New England Air Leadership are ongoing to keep reminding the pilots not to leverage the tac channels until closer to the LZ and lower in altitude. It has also been brought to our attention, as a result of these talks that agencies are renaming the Air-to-Ground tac channels as Medflight or Lifeflight. This is not a published best practice and may cause confusion. We are actively trying to discourage this practice.

- *Mr. Fiske deferred to Alex Rock to give the MIFOG working group update. MIFOG working groups upcoming on 11/13/24 at MPTC Holyoke with virtual option and on 11/20/24 at MPTC in Milford with virtual option. Kickoff is at 9am and we welcome all stakeholder participation. The MIFOG is updated every 3 years and covers all interoperable resources available to COMU members as well as emergency services across the Commonwealth. No other questions or comments from the Committee.*

ii. **State 911 Report: N/A**

- iii. **FirstNet:** *Chad Snow addressed the committee with 2 updates. The cell booster pro program has been expanded from 3 units per location to 6 units per location. These units are free for primary agencies. In accordance with the new recommendation of dual carrier FirstNet has launched a new \$15 rate plan as a second carrier for users that provides unlimited talk, text, and 2GB of data. Mr. Denning addressed the committee, ongoing work with the response operations group and MEMAs planning cell for the upcoming Rev250. Chad is also involved in this planning. Gary Mcarraher addressed the committee, the board voted in August to invest 8.3 billion dollars with 6.3 billion of that to be allocated for network upgrades to 5G. Additionally 2 billion will be used for additional coverage. Sometime after the first of the year FirstNet will be looking to discuss coverage and coverage needs with the Commonwealth. FirstNet was awarded 4.9GHz frequency space from the FCC recently. An independent frequency manager will be selected to work out how to deploy the spectrum while taking care of the incumbents currently in that frequency space. Last week it was announced that the FirstNet board of directors had made a few changes. Anyone who would like to view these changes can go to Firstnet.gov and search for the FirstNet board of directors. No other comments or questions from the Committee.*

- iv. **Statewide Radio:** *Mike Saltzman addressed the committee. CoMIRS sitework is continuing on. Originally the entire radio project was broken into 4 phases. 1A, 1B, 1C, 1D with 1A being about 50 sites in Western Mass. It was decided over time to combine 1B, 1C, and 1D to perform contemporaneous work. Shelters are being installed, tower work and custom mounts are being built. Matts team is out straight to make sure the work is done to standards and a tremendous amount of work is being completed. Discussions about combining with the city of Boston system are still critical to completion of the project. The State Police technical team is traveling to Austin, Texas in December to see the staging of the equipment and sign final acceptance. At the same time, a tremendous amount of planning is being done to oversee the transition of subscriber equipment to the new system. Completion is still scheduled for mid-2026. No other comments or questions from the Committee.*

v. **System Owners:**

BAPER-N/A

WMLEC-N/A

- vi. **Federal Partners:** *Melissa Nazzaro addressed the committee. Communications ongoing between Rich and I for submitting for the FY 25 TA offerings, there is a slightly smaller pool to be able to request these offerings, at least on the front end for this year. State requests can be made in the fall and again in the spring. Regional TAs requested will receive a higher priority. There has been an increase in interest from the states to hold a regional multi state COML, COMT and other classes. Last week the Congressional Research Services put out an open source non confidential paper on the Salt Typhoon hacks and how it was affecting Federal response. It comes highly recommended to pay attention to open source as more information becomes available. SAFECOM meeting is coming up later this month. NCSWIC meeting beginning of December and the next FIFA 2026 in person meeting happening in Florida. Anthony Fowler addressed the Committee; FEMA attended the last meeting for the 250th celebration and is committing to help with any deployable comms or cache radios. No other comments or questions from the Committee.*

Unfinished Business:

- a. Copper
- b. Non-HSGP grant-funded interoperability projects.
- c. Cybersecurity
- d. Continuing updates to interoperable best practices throughout the Commonwealth

Announcements:

None.

Next meeting in December, TBD.

*Motion to adjourn was made at 2:10pm by Scott Wilder, seconded by Greg Lynskey.
Carried and adjourned at 2:11pm.*