



FIRESCOPE COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST GROUP

San Diego Meeting Minutes January 19-20, 2011 1300hrs.

Welcome and Introductions

Chair Lawrence opened the meeting at 1300 hrs. and introduced Assistant Fire Chief Jeff Carle from San Diego Fire/ Rescue.

Thank you to Glen Savage for hosting the conference bridge.

Members in Attendance:

FCSG Officers

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| Chair | Pete Lawrence |
| Vice Chair | Kody Kerwin |
| Secretary | Rick Smith |

PRIMARY FCSG MEMBERS

| | | |
|----------------------|---------------------------|----------|
| Chet Ashbaugh | County Dept's South | Absent |
| Chris Baker | City Depts.' North | Absent |
| Mike Beckstrand | Cal EMA Telcom | |
| Charles Dahlen | Volunteer Fire Depts | Con Call |
| Richard Gonzales | Ventura Co. Fire | |
| Kevin Harper | Kern Co. Fire | Absent |
| Tim Henry | Metro Depts. North | Con Call |
| Kevin Harper | Fire Districts South | Absent |
| Steve Hobbs | Santa Barbara Co. Fire | |
| Sam Lafferty | CA PSCD | Absent |
| Frank McCarthy | Los Angeles Co. | Absent |
| Matt Nilsen | Metro Depts South | |
| Deborah Otto-Oberg | USDA Forest Service | Absent |
| David Paschke | Orange Co. Fire Authority | |
| Don Root | Large Regional Systems | Absent |
| Mike Fisher | Los Angeles City Fire | |
| Salvatore Santangelo | CA Military Depts | Absent |
| Glen Savage | CAL Fire Telecom | |
| Gary Stewart | USDA Forest Service | Con Call |
| Ian Wallace | Fire Districts North | |
| OPEN | Tribal | Absent |

ALTERNATE FCSG MEMBERS

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|----------------|-------------------|--------|
| Paul Clay | CA PSCD | Absent |
| Dave Bail | CA PSCD | |
| Dexter Dearth | BLM-Sac | Absent |
| Mike Dickerson | Ventura Co. Fire | Absent |
| Warren Gerry | CA Military Depts | Absent |

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|-----------------|------------------------|----------|
| Ben Green | Cal EMA Telcomm | Absent |
| Chris Hinshaw | Large Regional Systems | |
| John Hudson | Cal EMA Telcomm | |
| Javier Lara | Metro Depts North | Absent |
| Dave Larkin | City Depts South | |
| George Lowry | Cal EMA Telcomm | Absent |
| Eric Martinez | USDA Forest Service | Absent |
| Denny Neville | Volunteer Fire Depts | Absent |
| Geoff Pemberton | County Depts. South | Absent |
| Bill Pennington | Cal EMA Telcom | Absent |
| Hampton Stewart | Cal Fire Telecom | |
| Don Turos | CA Military Depts | Absent |
| Steve Weston | Los Angeles Co. Fire | |
| Mike Towns | Cal Fire Chiefs | Con Call |

GUESTS

| | |
|---------------|---------------------------|
| Alan Columbro | Cal Fire Telcom |
| Ken Parker | PSCD |
| Rich Atwood | Los Angeles City Fire |
| Martin Alcon | Orange Co. Fire Authority |

FIRESCOPE Communications Specialist Group (FCSG) Logistics

FCSG Roster/Group hub –Any changes should be emailed to rsmith779@yahoo.com Reminder that the website address for the FCSG website is <http://FIRESCOPEComm.grouphub.com> and to contact Pete Lawrence plawrence@ci.oceanside.ca.us if you have any difficulties logging in or using the Group hub

There is still no Tribal representative. Members were asked to continue to network with their local tribal agencies in order to find a suitable representative.

Minutes were approved as read from both the October meeting and the December conference call. A current roster was passed out for additions, corrections and deletions. Chair Lawrence asked the Group if they felt the December Con Call was worthwhile. The Group agreed it was and would like them to continue, especially since budgets are getting tighter. A conference call bridge was setup along with Team Viewer web conferencing.

Chair Lawrence brought up the Escondido (San Marcos FPD) Bomb House Incident. Discussion ensued on the excellent cooperation between the different departments and how interoperability communications worked using an 800 MHz trunked system. Dave Schloss gave an overview of the incident.

An election of Officers was read and passed by a unanimous decision. These positions will become effective immediately and be for the 2011-2012 years.

- Pete Lawrence – Chair
- Kody Kerwin – Vice Chair
- Rick Smith – Secretary

San Marcos Fire Department graciously showed the Group their new communications trailer. Thank you to Dave Schloss and his group for bringing it.

Agency Reports

FIRESCOPE Operations/Task Force/Board of Directors: FIRESCOPE Operations Mike LaPlant was not present: At the last meeting, he requested that the Group work on a communication terminology glossary. This terminology glossary would be added but not limited to the following documents: FOG,

RADO, INCM, COMT, Cal IFOG, Appendix B. Dave Paschke advised that he would assist along with members of the Board. Discussion ensued and Chair Lawrence will divide the work load within the Group. This sub committee will consist of FCSG Officers along with Rich Atwood, Steve Hobbs and Dave Paschke (lead) the project must be accomplished by the end of 2011.

CAL EMA Fire and Rescue Branch – no report

CAL EMA Telecommunications – (Beckstrand) 1. February 23rd, 2011 the DHS Office of Emergency Communication in collaboration with Cal EMA is hosting their annual workshop on California's Interoperable Strategic Plan. Chris Essid, Director of OEC will be there to share information. If interested in attending, go to the Cal EMA website or the CICO Google Announcement Page.

<http://sites.google.com/site/cainteropbuzz/>

2. Cal EMA is working closely with PSCD to ensure our mutual-aid systems are narrowband compliant before Dec 2012.

3. 2 COML classes will be held next month. We are finalizing details so we can get the registration link out as soon as possible. One class will be held in the Chico area and the other in the Fresno area. Future classes will be established once the new COML curriculum is released by OEC.

4. Cal EMA submitted Technical Assistance requests through the ICTAP program for 2 functional communication exercises for the state. These are new offerings for 2011 and we hope to hear word soon if the requests are approved. These exercises will allow us to evaluate our communication plans, identify areas for improvement, and demonstrate capabilities. Also it gives us an opportunity to strengthen regional collaboration. If approved, I will be reaching out to folks to identify venues and dates to hold the exercises.

CAL FIRE Telecommunications – (Savage)

Fifteen of the twenty-one Units have been narrowbanded. Phase II, which will start March 1, will have all of the Tactical channels tone protected. In the December con call, tone 206.5 was going to be used as a Tx and Rx tone for Cal Fire tactical channels. This was discussed and a request was made that the tone be changed to tone 16 of the Standard Tone configuration. Tone 16 (192.8) would work much easier for both Cal Fire, their cooperators and mutual aid units. V Chair Kerwin will work with Glen to come up with a Safety Message and worksheet of the changes for the April meeting. The only issue that has come up was in Mendocino Co. where the frequency and tone were the same as another.

NIFC Tac 4 164.1375 will be removed from all mobile and portable radios. Air to Ground 6 (166.6875) and Air to Ground 7 (171.1375) will also be removed. Region 5 Air (170.000) will remain for now.

The VFIRE, VTAC/VCALL channels were discussed. The Group supports to adopt a National Standard of tone protecting these frequencies with 156.7

One of the new communication vehicles was delivered today. The first one will be placed in Redding and the second in San Diego. Those comm. units being replaced will go to San Luis Obispo Unit and the other will go to surplus.

Budget cuts are in the \$2.4 million dollar range. This is 30% of the total communications budget.

PSCD – (Bail) San Diego area programming will be accomplished in April.

NIFC/NIICD – (Stewart) Initial attack maps will be available after February 7th.

USFS R5 – (Deborah Otto-Oberg) no report

FCSG Training Group (COMMTRAIN) – FINAL report from Secretary Smith on the Standard Practices document for approval from the Group. Unanimous vote was casted to proceed to the BOD for further implantation.

CTAG – (Pemberton) no report

Channel Advisory Group (CAG) (Hobbs) Still working on Priority 4 Group. Disused if the Group wants to publish it "as is". We will need to update the MAC-441 document with the lineout not deletion of NIFC Tac 4. Chief Hobbs will get an update letter out to the Group. We need to determine how to meet the DHS requirement that no federal frequencies be listed in a document accessible by the public, yet still be able to disseminate it to the agencies. The MACS 441 document currently can be downloaded from the FIREScope website.

CALSIEC – (Beckstrand) Will be holding in meeting in Southern California this summer. One of the agenda items will be the nomination of a new Cal SIEC chair. More details on the election will be available on the website and via email announcement. They are updating the CalSIEC website. They hope to have it complete by next week. They will be using the website more frequently to ensure updated information gets out.
www.calema.ca.gov/calsiec.nsf/home

Steve Weston commented on the LARICS and how the police side wanted to develop a pocket guide and a separate IFOG book. The Group asked that this be stopped. Steve also commented on interop channels on future buildup of systems. The proposal from Texas was designed to pair the existing VHF general use tactical channels (VTAC11 to VTAC14) in a manner providing maximum separation between receive and transmit frequencies for ease of implementation. The proposal strictly addressed transportable repeaters with low transmit power (typically 20 watts output or less) designed for on-scene use in support of an incident (either emergent or planned). Three pairs were identified with Rx/Tx separations greater than 4.25 MHz that could, using high quality receivers and transmitters, be implemented without requiring a duplexer if antennas were properly located. In fact, this implementation could be accomplished using an interconnect net on an audio bridging device ("gateways" such as the ACU-1000 or ICRI) that are considered standard equipment in most Mobile Communications Vehicles (MCVs), again with proper adjustments and antenna placement.

Old Business – V Chair Kerwin stated that there are going to be two NIMS COML classes scheduled for Chico and Fresno in 2011.

New Business –

- Sec. Smith reminded everyone about the FCC Narrowband Workshop that is coming up on January 26th.
- Sec. Smith advised the Group about the National Logistics Workshop in Boise February 28th.- March 3rd. There will only be 150 nominations available and they are due January 31st. Applications are available on the NLW website and the Group Hub.

Round Table –

- Paschke – Orange Co. FA (OCFA) has several caches of radios now available during large scale incidents. Both 800 MHz and 150 MHz. OCFA has received three new Bendix King portable repeaters and their communications trailer is going through some major renovation.
- Kerwin – East Bay Regional System is going strong with no issues. Trying to get together an area Interop. Committee. Working on common radios for all area agencies along with training.
- Nilsen – Continuing to build a VHF hub for the San Diego area.
- Hudson – Received two interop. Gateways. There is a great deal of equipment available for incident communications. They include portable repeaters and portable radios both VHF and UHF.
- Hinshaw – San Diego area will be narrowband in May. VCALL/VTAC and 700 MHz will be placed on mountain top repeaters.
- Fisher – Trying new Bluetooth technology for portable radios with no success. Testing new multi-band radios.
- Bail – Continuing narrowband project. CHP doing major radio re-configuration.
- Larkin – San Bernardino putting together a common frequency chart for the county.

- Savage – The radio caches that are in Fresno and Riverside will now have ten instead of five portables in them.
- Hobbs – Narrowband continues. Working with neighboring departments to come up with a common frequency plan.
- Weston – received five new frequency pairs. LA Co. will be narrowband by the end of the year. Major MDC change out this year. 850 units at a \$10,000,000 price tag and to be completed by December 2013. Looking at two monitors per engine (smaller one for the engineer side for mapping).

Agenda Items for April

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Motion for meeting to adjourn, so moved and seconded.

Meeting adjourned at 1120hrs.

Next meeting is in San Luis Obispo on April 19th and 20th.

Respectively Submitted,
Rick Smith
Secretary