



FIRESCOPE COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST GROUP

October 21-23, 2014
San Diego Fire
Approved Minutes

Welcome and Introductions

Secretary's note: Since some attendees were only available during certain periods of time, these notes do not necessarily reflect the chronological order in which the topics were discussed.

Within the notes, the * asterisk indicates an **ACTION ITEM**. For attendance you will see **P (Present) A (Absent) CC (Con. Call) or ET** for Emerging Technologies Specialist Group members also attending this meeting.

Members in Attendance:

FCSG Officers

Chair	Pete Lawrence	City Depts. South	P
Vice Chair	Kody Kerwin	Co. Depts. North	P
Secretary	Tim Maguire	Fire Districts North	P

PRIMARY FCSG MEMBERS

Dave Stone	FIRESCOPE Task Force	P
Chet Ashbaugh	County Dept's South	P
Mike Towns	City Depts. North	P
Mike Beckstrand	Cal OES Telecom	A
Charles Dahlen	Volunteer Fire Depts.	CC
Richard Gonzales	Ventura Co. Fire	P
VACANT	Metro Depts. North	
VACANT	Fire Districts South	
Diondray Wiley	Santa Barbara Co. Fire	P
Bill Norton	CA PSCD	A
Rich Atwood	Los Angeles Co.	A
Matt Nilsen	Metro Depts. South	P
Tony Frey	USDA Forest Service	CC
David Paschke	Orange Co. Fire Authority	P
Don Root	Large Regional Systems	P / CC
Mike Fisher	Los Angeles City Fire	P
VACANT	CA Military Depts	
Gary Stewart	NIFC-NIICD	CC
Brent Moon	Kern County	P
Margaret Gomez	Tribal	A
John Rapp	CAL Fire Telecom	CC

ALTERNATE FCSG MEMBERS

Paul Clay	CA PSCD	P
Russ Lindauer	PSCD	P
Mike Dickerson	Ventura Co. Fire	P
Ben Green	Cal EMA Telcomm	A
John Hudson	Cal EMA Telcomm	P
Dave Larkin	City Depts South	P
Allen Columbro	Cal Fire Telecom	P
Kevin Harper	Kern County	P
Steve Weston	Los Angeles Co. Fire	P
Don Stabler	Cordelia Fire	P
Mike Horst	Los Angeles City Fire	CC

GUESTS

Rick Smith	Santa Maria (Ret.)	CC
Steve Weston	Los Angeles County Fire	P
Jerry Vandermellen	Ventura County Fire	P
Ralph Domanski	CAL OES	P
Hampton Stewart	Cal Fire Telecom	P / CC
Kevin Harper	Kern County	P
Tom Lawless	DHS OEC	P
Jim Lyon	FCC, San Diego	P (Day 1)
Allan Gatbonton	FCC, San Diego	P (Day 1)
John Clary	CAL OES Region 2	P
Brian Woodbeck	CAL OES	P
Marc Hafner	CAL Fire	P-ET
Brandon Smith	Kern County Fire	P-ET
Steve Oaks	Santa Barbara County Fire	P-ET
Eric Prosser	Santa Clara County Fire	P-ET
Aimen Alton	Ventura County Fire	P-ET
Chris Bundesen	Los Angeles City Fire	P-ET
Jesse Hodorowski	City of Davis Fire	P-ET
John Hudson	CAL OES Telecom	P
Caroline Jacobs	CAL STAC	A / P-ET

1) Welcome and Introductions – (Lawrence)

- a. A Moment of Silence was observed in Honor of Glen Savage who passed away on September 30th.

2) Communications Specialist Group (FCSG) Logistics

- a. Approval of April minutes (Maguire)
 - I. Kerwin Motioned to approve, Nilsen second
- b. Roster (Lawrence, Kerwin, Maguire)
- c. Membership Status
 - I. Removal of Margaret Gomez (Tribal)
 - II. Rich Atwood Primary for LA County
 - III. Steve Weston Alternate for LA County
 - IV. Diondray Wiley replaced Scot Alderete as the representative for Santa Barbara County Fire

3) Agency Reports

- a. FIRESCOPE Operations/Task Force/Board of Directors (Stone)
 - I. Area Command Changes to be coming, including the use ~~adding~~ of zones.
 - II. 410-1 Changes are being developed.
 - III. "Tactical Position Medic" position being defined.
 - IV. Guidance Document for Draw Down being developed.
 - V. Strategic Plan definition going for final approval
 - VI. USAR standard equipment list being finalized.
 - VII. "REM" Rapid Extrication Module cache of equipment and role being developed.
 - VIII. Development of the "FOG app" is being developed.
 - IX. ICS 205 will be part of the update.
 - X. Working with Medical & Safety for tactical Law Enforcement incidents.
- b. CAL OES Fire & Rescue Branch (Woodbeck)
 - I. CFAA being negotiated. Will probably be extended again before the new version is ready for adoption.
 - II. Staffing to replace retirement expectations
 - III. TYPE I & TYPE III
 - i. R4 to receive the first of the 25 new Type III's.
 - ii. Type I's are trickling in as annual replacements at the rate of about 7 per year.
 - IV. Kenwood 5710 will continue to be the primary radio for OES apparatus.

- c. CAL OES Telecommunications (Hudson)
 - I. Travel Net: CESRS still being used in camp at incident.
 - i. Request to add language to emphasize not to use CESRS in camp (Root)
 - i. Request to have bulletin to re-enforce what CESRS is used for. (Nilsen)
 - ii. Recommendation to have CESRS programmed simplex (Columbro).
 - II. COML Exercise (All Hazards) in November 13th & 14th will be conducted.
 - i. Discussion on COML All Hazards vs. COML NWCG. A summary document showing concerns with potential confusion in deploying the all hazards personnel will be developed by David Paschke and Kody Kerwin.
- d. CAL FIRE Telecommunications (Columbro)
 - I. Thank You for thoughts and those who showed up at Glenn Savage's memorial.
 - II. Com 27 went into service.
 - III. KNG's will continue to be purchased and replacing units as inventory arrives.
 - IV. KNG "M-150" mobile will start to replace units as inventory arrives & placed in new vehicles.
 - V. UHF Links are being considered by Cal Fire to link remote facilities (base, ICP, etc.) with the incident.
 - VI. ECC's are upgrading consoles & Facility upgrades.
 - VII. Identified issues with the Aircraft radio's.
- e. PSCO (Lindauer)
 - I. Looking into the KNG repairs (portables) without violating warranty. Currently, if they open the radio, they break the vacuum seal and void the warranty.
 - II. Fall Planning meeting, coming up.
 - III. OES MIGU's now in ROSS and available.
- f. NIFC/NIICD (Stewart)
 - I. All of the expected high/low Frequencies changes for repeater pairs are currently placed on hold. Dependent on NTIA decision. Deadline for compliance remains 2019.
 - II. NIFC CMD 4 as of now will not be reinstated until the NTIA decision on frequency realignment is made.
 - III. Course coming up for Communications Coordinator.
- g. R5 FOREST SERVICE (Frey)
 - I. Klamath will have changes this winter
 - II. Air Tacs will change again after the January 1st.
- h. FCC Federal Communications Commission (Lyon)
 - I. Here to support FSCG and understand issues we have.
 - II. Interference with Mexico discussion.
 - III. Discussion about WIFI access / restrictions / control.
 - i. Proposed for "New Business"
 - a. Wifi Best practice group: Gonzales (Liaison to the Emerging Technologies Group), Rapp, Paschke, Larkin, Ashbaugh, Kerwin, & Smith.

4) **FCSG Sub-committee Reports**

- a. CTAG-Communications Technical Advisory Group (Lawrence)
- b. COMMTRAIN-Communications Training Group (Stabler)
 - I. COMVAN display April 9th, Sacramento
 - II. IWCE, Las Vegas March 16th thru 20th.
- c. Operational Area Communications List-ICS 217A (Weston / Lawrence)
 - I. Operational area update lists for the 217 due to the Op Areas by Dec. 1st. Send updates to Steve Weston as well so he can update the master 217A.
 - II. Updates to be delivered by Weston thru Chief Stone to OES for FIRESCOPE website.
- d. ICS 205 form (Towns / Gonzales)
 - I. This Sub Committee (Gonzales).will submit the latest version to Chief Stone.

5) **CALSIEC Fire Working Group**

- a. CALSIEC update: There has been no meeting in some time. There is also a question as to who the Statewide Interoperability Coordinator (SWIC) currently is as Michael Cruse has taken a new job with the State.
- b. Operations – No Update

6) Old Business

- a. Communication Frequency Submission Timelines (Lawrence)
 - I. Chain of submission was defined with target dates.
- b. Operational Area Contacts (Lawrence) Each of the CSG members assigned an Op Area to coordinate with needs to contact them and assist with getting any changes to their VHF com plan into the State by the deadlines, as well as captured by Steve Weston.
- c. LA City Air-to-Ground frequency update (Fisher)
 - I. VFire 25 still being used as an Air / Ground until next year when it is expected XLE Air to Ground will be utilized by LA City in conjunction with the Verdugo agencies.
- c. Com Unit Best Practices Document (Smith, Dickerson, Gonzales)
 - I. 10/22 update (they will have a draft document available in December.)
- e. R5 Tac 6 Issue in Porterville (not discussed as Tony Frey had to leave the conference call)
- f. Agency Letters of Support (Stone)
 - I. All Primary's have letters submitted.
- g. Air to Ground Naming (Gonzales)
 - I. Define by the Pacific Southwest Region.
 - i. Discussion of CMD / TAC vs. other terms. Lawrence - to discuss with Safety & Aviation at the Specialist Group level.

7) New Business

- a. Balancing radio systems (input / output power)
 - I. Discussion with Stewart on balancing BK portables.
 - II. Lawrence doing research with portables working with a higher power (5 Watts)
 - III. Discussion – Importance of portables operating at higher power (5 Watts). Group consensus was that portables should not be programmed at low power, especially for use on tactical channels. Chet Ashbaugh will work with Lawrence on some qualitative tests.
- b. Best practices document for new KNG Radio Programming
 - I. Smith, Columbro, Larkin, will work to develop the KNG Radio Program
 - II. Cal Fire is working on a Power Point for training.
 - III. Discussion - Groups 50, 51, 53 designated for Incident cloning and will be limited to 20 channels each
 - IV. Discussion - "SOLAR" and other plans how to incorporate. Best practices group will come back with a recommendation.
- c. Home agencies using own frequencies on Incidents.
 - I. Discussion - Agencies using own frequencies on Incidents creates a safety / interference issues.
 - II. Stewart – Hot Shots were educated by NIFC on correct use of the (4) Intra Crew" frequencies at a recent Hotshot meeting in Boise.
 - III. Columbro – Re-enforces "Common Communications"
 - IV. Discussion – General education and enforcement. FCSG will Add a statement to the "205" to advise use of any other frequency is prohibited (Gonzales, Towns).
- d. CESRS
 - I. To be used in Direct vs. Repeat mode availability to resources.
 - II. Add discussion to next meeting (Ashbaugh) will take the lead and discuss the use of the repeated channel with the ECC chiefs before making a final recommendation.
 - III. General Discussion on actual use of CESRS and expectations the functional use for resources. The group had consensus that it should be available for use for travel coordination needs while on the incident, but needs to be tone protected so it does not interfere with co-users.
- e. Renaming V-Fire Issue
 - I. Weston – Has identified an issue with agencies that have adopted national interop. channels for use within their own jurisdictions.
 - II. Kerwin – This issue should be handled by CALSIEC to follow up and enforce proper use.
 - III. Columbro – Reminded the group that some agencies hold licenses for Interop. Channels. The suggestion was for those agencies to revert to the national naming convention, even if they were licensed for local use (e.g. call a VFire a VFire and a VTac and VTac).

- f. WIFI
 - I. To be discussed at the Emerging Technology Group.
- g. First Net
 - I. Liason: Larkin, Hudson, Gonzales, Kerwin

8) Round Table

- a. Larkin - City Dept. South - No major changes
- b. Stone - FIRESCOPE Task Force- Thanked everyone for participation and Emerging Tech. group for joining the FSCG meeting.
- c. Gonzales - VNC - Looking to replace mobiles Testing five different vendor models.
- d. Clay - PSCT - All Technician vehicles will be marked with the standard blue OES stripe.
- e. Santa Barbara – New Motorolas to be purchased
- f. Weston - LA County – VHF for wildland for all incidents in the future.
- g. Ashbaugh - County Dept. South - RRU CMD Nets have replaced the Support Nets, APX modifications for PL tones.
- h. Lawless – DHS – discussed a concern identified with the APX lime green case deteriorating after six months to a year in Phoenix.
- i. Moon - Kern – Looking to add A/G and Tacs and VHF repeaters.
- j. Nilsen - San Diego– Working with Motorola to upgrade the APX 4000 design and functionality.
- k. Kerwin – Co. Dept. North – Finster Medical update. EBRCS system is up and running, city of Oakland will join the system.
- l. Lawrence – City Dept. South – Common naming of VHF channels in San Diego. “North Com” is the new ordering point for San Diego County.
- m. Maguire - Fire Dist. North – Continuing to update the 700/800 system will continue to use VHF system for multi agency incidents.
- n. Towns - City Dept. North - No major changes in regards to frequencies.
- o. Fisher - LA City FD - Almost done with re-banding. Looking to upgrade to the APX radio's.
- p. Paschke – Orange County Fire - (2) Command trailers acquired, New CAD system online. New Communications books are available.
- q. Domanski - CAL OES - Sending information out can utilize Chief Zagaris on email
- r. Smith - Santa Maria (Ret.) – A/G question in regards to number of agencies creating their own. Santa Maria is changing to the 700/800 MHz. Comm. Van Typing question – Adopted the NIMS Typing.

9) Schedule Next Meeting

- a. Next meeting will be a conference call:
 - I. December 17th at 0900 HRS, Conf. Call will be set up.
- b. January Meeting: Northern CA (TBA)
 - I. January 14th & 15