

FIRESCOPE OPERATIONS TEAM

Meeting Minutes

February 1-2, 2007

Meeting Commencement: Thursday February 1, 2007 0915 hrs.

INTRODUCTIONS:

AGENDA REVIEW:

ELECTIONS FOR CHAIR, VICE-CHAIR, SECRETARY

- M/s/p Nominations for:
 - Brian Kelley – Chairman
 - Dave Pierce – Vice-Chairman
 - Mark Schmitt- Secretary

BOD MEETING REVIEW- San Diego

Chief Bamatre's last meeting with interim Chief Berry taking his place.

Discussion on bringing OES under OHS. OES has statutory responsibility for disaster response with OHS having access to funding. AB_?__.

Agreement signed to use CESAR frequencies for new statewide travel net.

OHS Grant dollars not spent will be used to purchase 1100 Bendix King portable radios for placement on OES engines. Also, 3 repeaters, swift water and USAR equipment. \$1.5 million package. Kurt Latipow is detailed to this project.

USFS is looking at pushing more of the cost of fire suppression, that benefits local gov't. because they are in the WUI, back onto local gov't agencies. Federal fire agencies looking to define what structure protection in the WUI is.

1.5 million shortfall on OES engine purchases.

Looking to restore funding of FMAG shortfall to keep program intact.

NIMS draft is due out soon

Mayday vs. Emergency Traffic issue discussed at length. Whole idea is to use language that controls the radio frequency. It's clear in FOG, but would like to soften language to recognize that you may hear it at an emergency incident. FIRESCOPE should influence the National FOG development to encourage the use of "Emergency Traffic." Task Force looked at how the existing language could be softened and how to address the

definitions in the Glossary. This proposal will be introduced to the Ops Team for review and comment.

DC-10 is a CWN resource @ 80K/hour when flying. Vendor wants \$5 million to have the aircraft available for state fire missions.

Chief Grajalve with OIG is working on legislation to protect firefighters from liability as a result of charges being brought on the Esperanza Incident. Final investigative report should be out from the Forest Service within a month. CalOSHA will investigate a line of duty death and send the report to the local gov't. district attorney. Brian Kelley asked if there is anything that can be done by FIREScope to assist with the legislative effort.

National nomenclature continues to be an issue with FIREScope Comm. Group and CALSEIC working together to maintain a presence as this evolves.

The CFAA expiration date has been extended without a sunset while legal issues are addressed by the attorneys.

Mark Schmitt had to leave the meeting to deal with an issue that occurred at he restaurant last night involving some members of the FIREScope group and some of the restaurant employees.

REVIEW OF OCT. 2006 OPS MEETING MINUTES: I missed this segment as explained above

NWCG/IOSWT Update: Ralph Alworth

Ralph addressed the group to ask that we begin thinking about a replacement for him as the FIREScope representative to NWCG and his participation on the IOSWT. He recommended that his replacement be selected prior to the April meeting of NWCG and should have some shadow time. Ralph does not know who his replacement in Cal Fire will be at this point. Darrell suggested that we put the recommendations out for interest to include names and brief resume and forward those to the TF for review. Names to be submitted by the Feb 21, 22 Task Force meeting. Ralph will send a copy of the NWCG charter to Brian that describes the position he has filled.

Formatting of the PTB's put out by NWCG based on competencies and behaviors. Goal is to have all PTB's reformatted by next year.

Ralph has recommended through the fire ground command consortium and NWCG to allow Deputy positions for General Staff similar to what is currently allowed for Command Staff positions. Ralph has developed a White Paper on the recommendation. Ralph feels this is more important to discuss based on the spread of NIMS across the nation. Some positions require numbers that exceed the span of control for a single chief position such as Information Officers and Safety Officers on large complex or serious injury/fatality incidents. Mike Dougherty suggested that we look at the overall

FIRESCOPE organization structure to evaluate if changes are appropriate know that the organization has not been revised since 1996. Following more discussion, some felt that we have the tools within the existing structure already, and we might not want to reinvent the organizational structure to accommodate the unique nature of events like the management of the Esperanza funeral function. TF to look at this issue prior to October meeting of IOSWT.

Ralph handed out Proposed Engine and Water Tender Typing Changes proposed by the NWCG Fire Equipment Working Team. Document shows differences between standards of FIRESCOPE and NWCG. Another issue brought to the IOSWT is the typing of Super Tankers proposed at 10K gallons or more. Decision was to follow the recommendation of the TF to include Super Tanker in the new FOG rewrite.

BREAK FOR LUNCH @ 1150

REGIONAL 3C'S PROJECT PRESENTATION: San Diego Police, Fire-Rescue Regional Command, Control, Communications

Collaboration: Video Conferencing, shared maps, direct lines of communication between agencies

Situational Awareness: Eyes in the Sky. Digital video downlink with helicopter. Designed to incorporate video feeds from any source. Available throughout the network

Distribution of Critical Information: Won't rely on commercial comm. Services. Need ways to get information to public safety, even outside the network via secured internet access. Web streamer, digital TV receivers, PDA's. Can use any microwave mountain top site to relay the signal.

Results in one Integrated Network with Law Enforcement, Fire-Rescue and EMS, OES, OHS, 10-14 public agencies /year as funding allows.

3C's is regionally owned, not owned or controlled by any one agency. All grant funded.

All video and audio is encrypted for security...public safety grade. All feeds can be saved on the helicopter and on the ground servers, but is subpenable. Helicopter downlink was probably the weakest link until FBI gave SD some Federal frequencies.

SD Fire is currently building up Command Suburbans with the downlink capability and ability to burn video to thumb drives or DVD.

LFD has two helicopters downlink equipped, and LAC is working on outfitting a older 412 helicopter as a Command and Control platform with downlink capability. They will get this presentation on March 7th.

They want to use satellites, but no provider will commit to the ongoing costs quote.

Is independent from agencies existing network system. Redundancy is built in. 3C's offers training of existing agency personnel for maintenance and support.

The San Diego Unit of CDF offered 3C's zero lease mountain top space for inclusion in the San Diego network.

Open House on March 7th in San Diego will showcase the completion of the phases, open to other agencies by strict RSVP only. Four locations in the Kearney Mesa area of San Diego with shuttle service from Qualcom Center. RSVP to slehan@pd.sandiego.gov

Sara Diaz 619.916.8157 sdiaz@pd.sandiego.gov

2006 NWCG ACCOMPLISHMENTS: Jeff Wilford
NWCG Training Website is updated (training.nwcg.gov)

Instructors teaching NWCG courses need to check the website for errata and supplements to curriculum

Jeff is one of the co-chairs to look at the 400, 500 (annually), 600 (biannually) series curriculum to see how it relates to competencies. Jeff will be attending the CICCIS mtg in March @ McClellan to coordinate with that group. Attempt is to reduce amount of redundant training across the levels of curriculum. Competency based curriculum hopefully will address this redundancy.

The standard two-year rewrite cycle is now at and eight year cycle because of the number of courses. Jeff will be participating in the FIRESCOPE Training Working Team.

The rewrite PTB's will drive new course curriculum. The Field Managers Course Guide is the Instructor's Bible that needs to be followed for administration of NWCG Courses. Instructor's must be current in the position to be able to teach. The currency requirements have been extended from 5 to 7 years.

www.fireleadership.gov @ 180,000 hits per month shows how popular this website is.

2006 was a banner year for cooperation between NWCG and USFA. Continuing to market FIRESCOPE concepts with National Integration Center (NIC) is alive and well with some participants desiring to focus on the competencies of the ground firefighter.

CFAA UPDATE: Darrell Ralston

Work continues on a new template agreement. Legal folks working on details of liability concerns of local government.

OES/CICCS UPDATE: Tom Drayer

CDF/Cal Fire is developing there own Red Card System that is very similar to the Federal Red Card System. CICCS Task Force has been revitalized and is currently looking at the different systems that currently exist and those being proposed. A CICCS link now exists on the FIRESCOPE website.

Looking at California 310-1 and standardizing it region-wide in an all hazard environment, to including outlining standard certification, qualifications and recurrency training standards.

Roper, Freeman and Zagaris were instrumental in revitalizing the CICCS Task Force with Scott Vail and Bill Holmes taking a lead role. The FIRESCOPE Training Specialist Group is trying to maintain influence and a liaison with the CICCS Task Force. Major discussion involved the difficulties in taking CICCS to the all hazard level, and the ongoing problem of qualifying trainees and keeping fully qualified personnel current.

ACTION: INSERT ROSTER OF CICCS TASK FORCE MEMBERS INTO THE MINUTES...(Obtain from Tom Drayer or off the CICCS link on the FIRESCOPE website.

ACTION: BRIAN KELLEY WOULD LIKE TO PLACE A DISCUSSION ON ROSS UPDATE ON THE AGENDA FOR TOMORROWS MEETING

ACTION: SEND VINCE COHEE ALL PRIOR OPERATIONS TEAM MINUTES VIA E-MAIL FOR ARCHIVE.

Concluded Day 1 (2/1/07) at 1655

Commence Day 2 (2/2/07) at 08:45

Acknowledgement of Bill Dean's (ORC) years of service on the FIRESCOPE Operations Team. Bill will be officially retiring on March 15, 2007. A gift is being worked on by Tom Drayer, Art Torres and Ralph Domanski and will be presented at a later date.

FIRELINE MEDIC CONCEPT: Darrell Ralston

Darrell explained that the BOD is interested in the Operations Team looking into this concept, however, we have not received any clear direction from the Board. TF is trying to form an EMS Working Group, however, the formation is probably three months down the road. Mike Dougherty suggested the we check with NIC to determine what action has been taken on a national level.

The requests from the past fire season has been due to the inversion conditions on the large fires where patients from the line could not be flown off the fire line. The orders were for a higher level of medical care to stay with an ill or injured firefighter when they could not be moved off the fireline. Darrell handed out a White Paper describing the issue and background.

ACTION: GROUP DECIDED TO ADDRESS THIS ISSUE AS WELL AS THE FIRELINE EMT CONCEPT THROUGH DISCUSSION WITH THE NWCG HEALTH AND SAFETY WORKING TEAM. GREG WEST WILL TALK WITH TIM FIKE WITH THE TF FROM NEVADA CITY WITH EXPERIENCE IN ORDERING AND USE OF FIRELINE MEDICS. WITH THIS INFORMATION THE OPS TEAM WILL DRAFT A REPORT FOR THE NEXT MEETING OF THE BOD.

Group discussed the value and continuation of presentations to the Operations Team. Consensus was to continue allowing presentations as long they are applicable to the mission of FIREScope and not turn into a venue for vendors to sell their wares.

OUTSTANDING ISSUES FROM BRC: Brian Kelly
Specialist Groups continue to work on specific BRC issues. Ops Team will continue to maintain the momentum by keeping it on the radar.

OPERATIONS TEAM REPRESENTATIVES: Tom Drayer
Chief Zagaris wants to ensure that there is true regional representation on the Ops Team. This could be accomplished by an annual self-evaluation by the Team to ensure proper representation. USCG looks like the only area not being represented. 410-4 specifies that USCG, IMS, and NFA will have representation on the Ops Team. There does not appear to be any vacancies currently. There is an issue of some representatives not attending regular meetings.

ACTION: BRIAN KELLY WILL WORK WITH TOM DRAYER AND PREPARE A VACANCY REPORT AND SUBMIT TO KIM ZAGARIS

Discussion on who is the final clearing house for the revisions, care and maintenance of 410-4. Can the approval process stop at the Ops Team, or should it go to the Board for final approvals. 410-4 authorized the Ops Team to review and **approve** Task Force developed products.

Linda Erickson from hot threads for FIREScope t-shirts has moved. Her new number is 925.324.568 or www.hotthreads.com. Two week turn around on orders.

NEXT MEETING IS APRIL 12 IN SACRAMENTO/MATHER FOLLOWING THE BOD ON THE 11TH.

BUCKS LAKE IS SCHEDULED FOR JULY 12-13, 2007.

ROSS UPDATE:
Many changes included in report by California ROSS Implementation Team (CRIT) to National Ross Team. (e.g. Ross cannot keep up with aircraft ordering).

Training opportunities continue with 16 courses being offered in 2007.

Converting to Citrix database system will allow faster operations.

USAR ROSS codes will start to be loaded into database.

Proficiency and training is the focus for 2007.

Tom Drayer passed on the Resource Ordering feedback draft document from Chief Roper for Team to look at

ROUNDTABLE:

KRN-Hiring lots of new employees due to retirements. Taking delivery on 5 new Rosenbauer Type IV engines and 5 Pierce Type I. Station 18 is now year round with 3 Capt., 3 Eng and 15 FF's. Building 7500 sq. ft. EOC and Stations 58 and 65, Rosedale and Pine Mtn. respectively. New Hanger for helicopter.

SBC-

CAL FIRE-Director Grijalva has served as Cal Fire Director since March 2006 as the Governor's appointee, awaiting confirmation hearing. Lots of dead fuels from recent freeze, lots of structure damage of facilities as well. Might force an early staffing schedule as early as March. DC-10 is becoming an issue. Tulare is transitioning to the County with former CDF employees filling the positions. E-fund under serious scrutiny. Improvements of Hemet Ryan is being considered.

MARIPOSA-New Fire Chief going through learning curve. Structural damage to fire facilities. Still threat of landslides near Yosemite impacting Hwy 140 with slippage of about 1" per week. Lot's of permit burns getting out of control.

OES-Making progress in filling vacancies (Region 4 and 6 filled). Asst. and Deputy Special Ops still vacant. Engine orders are coming in with Type III's being assigned based on qualifications and ThermoGel equipped. Lots of interest in MACS at the national level. Expect to relocate South Ops in 2010 to March AFB. CNG phased E models of C 130 MAFFS and going to J model making MAFFS units unusable until retrofits can be completed.

DAVIS FD-March will complete the engine replacement program.

QUINCY FD-Andy relocated to Court House as well as EOC. Thanked group for gift of trip to Grand Canyon.

SAN FRANCISCO-Golden Guardian Exercise went well. Single function medics with goal of getting all engines ALS capable.

LAC-New hiring process instituted, must have CPAT to apply, continuous open. Building new stations (6) in Santa Clarita Valley also in Palmdale. RFP out for new HQ.

Brand new turnouts (2600 Morning Pride) @ \$1600 each. Annual physical exams have been approved. Grant vehicles are under construction. Type IV S/T being used with patrol vehicles. Used on Day Fire successfully.

LFD-Chief Berry is interim fire chief. National recruitment expected. Going through another Human Resources audit, not too worried. AW 139 (Agusta Weslin) @ 11.5 million being purchased plus additional Bell 206. EMS-using 12 lead EKG has proved to be beneficial to patients going to hospital without Cath Labs. Nine or Ten fire stations under construction. Air Ops facility will open in a few months.

NFA-Moving back under FEMA as reorg combining DHS and FEMA. 3D simulator we saw demo of is being rolled out as a train the trainer program. Looking to implement this at McClellan. Crosswalk Program for rural and volunteer departments scheduled to be completed this year. Recommendation to reformat S290 and include in Crosswalk curriculum.

LAYTONVILLE-Crews went out more than any time in history. Chiefs threatening to propose initiative to force BOS for redistribution of Prop. 172 funds.

SAN MATEO/Region 2-Building relationship with San Francisco, sharing UWASI funds. Golden Guardian went better 2nd day with USAR exercise next day a huge success. Opened eyes of County Administrators making them more aware of potential magnitude of natural disaster. Cal Fire is negotiating to contract with Half Moon Bay FD with existing firefighters protesting.

VNC-Lots of recent fires but just got 2" of rain. Partnered with SBC for regional USAR TF. 2 new ladder trucks and USAR unit. Darrell can commit through July...then?

BLM-Living with last year's budget numbers. 4-5 Pierce being delivered within the next few months. Looking at Placer Type III's. New Chief, Craig Barns. Deputy and Regional Chief positions open. Deputy took chief's position on the LPF. Expect 3 S.E.A.T.S., 2 in south and 1 in north, for next year...Keen helicopter not coming back.

USFS-Evaluating numbers of IMT's. Numbers of days out are on increase. Looking at various fixes, like sharing members, using AD's, eliminate some Teams. Thanked group for incident report throughout last fire season. Dennis Holbert has put together collaborative Aviation Safety Education Program. Rainfall and snowpack is concern, so is freeze damage. Hiring is big issue, 700-1000 in hiring process impacted by Hispanic Settlement decision and shortages with HR staff. Expect that some engines will not be fully staffed. Air Tanker Base study, changing some bases to reload bases. Santa Barbara reload base has been moved to the Santa Maria Airport and represents significant cost savings.

MEETING CONCLUDED AT 1200 HRS. ON 2/2/07

