



FIRESCOPE

OPERATIONS TEAM MEETING

ORANGE COUNTY FIRE AUTHORITY HQ

September 17-18, 2008



Date: September 17-18, 2008

Time: 0900 Hrs.

Attendees:

	Mario Rueda	Darrel Ralston X	Paul Bannister X	George Maier
Dave Pierce X	Dave Franklin		Michael Dougherty	Bob Neamy X
Mark Schmitt X	Ralph Domanski		Nick Dunn X	
John Tripp	Andy Anderson	Jim Middleton X	Jim Little	
Tom Drayer X	Joe Millar	Jack Hickey X	David Giordano	

Additional Attendees Present:

Cesar Partida X	Mike LaPlant X	Pat O'Bannon X	Jack Froggatt X	Brad Darbro X
Dan Drake X	Greg West	Gerry Kuras X	Art Torrez X	Dave Rocha X

Adoption of Previous Minutes: Minutes of June 2008 Meeting at Bucks Lake approved by team

Motion Dunn
Second Ralston

Agenda Items:

Agenda Review and Additions—Pierce/Drake
Added Agenda Items: CICCIS and 310-1, Reflective Vests, NFPA Brunicini Proposal

Discussion Notes:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 0922 hrs. Come to Order. Welcome, Introductions and Logistics—Pierce/Drake • FIRESCOPE Board of Directors Update—Pierce/Drayer/Drake <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Merger in AB 38 has gone to governor for signature. Combines OES and OHS creating a cabinet level secretary ○ Cal Fire/State Fire update. Asking USFS to train CNG troops as hand crews. Torrez reports this mission was completed with the training of 2,400 troops. In-briefings and issuance of PPE would occur at McClellan ○ Moment of silence for recent passing of Dallas Jones ○ EMSA working on state-wide Medical Mutual Aid Plan ○ EMSA developed (M.O.M) Medical Operations Management plan, which was given to the FIRESCOPE EMS Specialist Group with such a quick turn-around that essentially there was no input from the fire service. ○ EMS Specialist Group has been tasked by the BOD to develop the Ambulance STL Certs and Qualls criteria. ○ Private Insurance Fire Companies has been discussed by the BOD, which resulted in a Draft Private Fire Protection Guidelines document handed out to the group. ○ IAFC Committee Report given by Chief Roper. Chief Roper offered himself as a conduit to bring concerns regarding wildland issues to the IAFC Wildland Policy Committee, such as
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“should I stay or should I go” policy.

- CFAA Update: Scott Vail’s vacancy still exists, but Lori Lopez has been picking up the slack in his absence. Base rate is in agreement, but is still under review by legal. BIA is still reviewing the document.
- CICCS: 2006 version of the NWCG 310-1 adopted for use in California. Chief Nick Davalley (LAC) appointed to replace Scott Vail to the Chair position. CWCG Task Force currently working on ’08 version of 310-1.
- NWCG/TWT representative to the Task Force: Geoff Wolford replaced Ralph Alworth, who now needs a replacement. Cal Fire’s, Ken McClain suggested he may have a nomination, who was Kevin Olsen. Kevin had been nominated, but there are no minutes reflecting this. Chief, Rod Megglie (VNC) was nominated by the Task Force. The Ops Team pushed this recommendation up to the BOD
- Chief Prather headed a discussion on the BRC report
- CWCG Report: Cal Mac after action report is out, possible prematurely. National Guard were advisors/facilitators influencing the report’s emphasis on command and control.
- ROSS: Chief Roper asked Board members if FIREScope should draft a letter describing how ROSS is disappointing, and not working in California. Board agreed to have Chief Roper draft the letter and submit to NMAC.
- ICS 910 document went to the BOD and was approved
- Jim Marquist is no longer the BOD NWCG rep for volunteer depts.
- FIREScope Board of Directors Review (MACS)—All
 - Chief Prather and staff delivered report to BOD MACS After Action Review for the 2007 Fire Siege in a “sky is the limit” perspective.
 - Review After-Action Reports and their impacts on 410-1
- Modification of the 410-1 Document (pre-review)
 - Focus must be on the process
 - Ops Team tasked with determining needs associated with 410-1
 - Discuss After-Action Information and impact on 410-1
- Statewide Resource Draw Down
 - Discussed the viability of a region-wide draw down level. Is there a mechanism for determining levels that is common to all agencies on a region-wide basis?
 - Is the BOD looking for a standardized form that could be submitted to the MACS beyond the MACS 405 Form, or the OES survey of Operational Areas during periods of high activity?
 - Pat O’Bannon suggested that agencies could use the terminology of drawdown levels (1,2,3,4) currently used by the state fire agencies. This would allow Regional Coordinators to see what’s happening in their regions “at a glance.”
- OES Director’s Report
 - Still working on allocation of engines.
 - 7 Points of Light was stressed during the 2007 siege.
 - Replacement for Scott Vail has been appointed (Ron Megglie from VNC).
- Operations Team Report.
 - Dave Pierce summarized the Buck Lake meeting.
 - Summarized the Aviation Specialist Group status.
 - Delivered the MACS After Action Report
 - Region II rep. to Ops Team is still vacant.
 - Large cities (north) still lack in representation on the Ops Team
 - Discussed status of Fireline Paramedic Program
 - This item was discussed at length by the Ops/TF Teams in preparation of Capt. Craig Vanderzwaag’s presentation the next day.

- Group began working on modifications to the 410-1 document based upon direction from the Board and the results of the 2007 Fire Siege MACS Brainstorming session on February 27, 2008.

Policy Issues:

- Began discussion with the question: “Should the MACS have the ability to reassign uncommitted resources from one incident to another higher priority?” What does “uncommitted” resource mean (enroute, in staging, declared excess or...)?
 - The Ops Team determined that the MAC Group has the responsibility to allocate available resources based upon incident priorities.
 - The Ops Team also determined that the MAC Group has the responsibility to reallocate assigned resources to incidents with higher priority, by negotiating with the entity controlling those resources.
- Do the agency administrators support the notion that the MACS participants need to be able to come to the table with the authorization to make real time decisions for their agency?
 - Group says Yes
- Under what “authority” is the MACS representative working?
 - Group says their respective agency administrators
- Is there a need to have a formal Delegation of Authority for the MACS representative?
 - Group says authority to make real time decisions for their agency is implied and no Delegation of Authority is necessary.
- Do the partner agencies agree that, whenever possible, having the same MACS representative is important for consistency and should be a goal?
 - Group says Yes, with the understanding that during times of high activity in reps jurisdictions, alternates and other chief officers with the same authority will substitute.
- Do the agencies support developing, and annually updating Regional and Operational Area draw down matrices for MACS, to be used as a starting point for resource allocation decisions?
 - **Action Item for (TF): Group suggests that common definitions should be used to define common levels of draw down, such as Levels 1,2,3,4 used by the state agencies. This will be different between agencies, but will have the same meaning. The Task Force could work out these definitions**

Facility Issues and Resolutions:

- The facility should be large enough to support a “horseshoe” style layout with facilitator seating in the center of the group.
 - Dependent on the March AFB relocation move in 2010
- Additional seating behind the horseshoe for attendees/deputies.
 - Dependent on the relocation move
- Dedicated workstations for participants with built in computer connections and specific IP addresses to make chronological record keeping of actions and decisions easier.
 - Yes, in process
- An I.T. controller position to support the work group’s computer interactions.
 - Occurred in 2008 activation
- Would like the room to be both high and low tech
 - Monitors installed in 2008
 - Added wall space dependent upon the relocation move
 - Smart Boards in process
- Break out rooms adjacent to the MACS room...
 - Dependent upon the relocation move

- Theater seating behind glass partition with controllable audio input from the MACS room...
 - Dependent upon the relocation move
- Kitchen equipped break room for MACS participants...
 - Dependent upon the relocation move
- Sleeping facility for MACS members ...
 - Will utilize local accommodations
- Accessible dedicated parking and access to MACS facility...
 - Dependent upon relocation move
- Net meeting (video conference) to include IMT's
 - Available during 2008 activation, but not with IMT's
- Sufficient network capacity for data/info.
 - Yes, wireless to OES server with "Go to Meeting" 26 line video conf. Call bridge
- Permanent computers in the facility dedicated to the MACS function...
 - Yes, 5 laptops committed to the MACS center.
 - **Action Item: Jim Hollingsworth wants e-mail contact for each member agency to participate in "Go to Meeting" video conference demonstration.**
- MACS to have dedicated server and T1 line
 - Yes, with wireless connection
- SAT phone capability as a back up system
 - Yes, in process

Operational Issues:

- Cal Fire internal agency policy currently limits e-mail bandwidth...
 - Yes, system is now independent of Cal Fire system
- Access to a printer in the MACS conference room.
 - Yes, multi-function printer in MACS Center
- Copy machine that scans, faxes, copies all in one
 - Yes, multi-function printer in the MACS Center
- Systems interoperability with the military
 - State Fire Marshall's Office is working on this potential as a work project
- Real time video/data capable down link from fires
 - The "Go to Meeting" program is in place and satisfies this need
- Teleconference capability to include deployed IMT's
 - Yes, not yet for IMT's
- Skeletal Planning Section – CWN
 - Group agreed that the Skeletal Planning Section has been sufficient with the I.T. support, GIS techs, OCC/Intel/Military liaisons currently sufficient to satisfy this requirement
- Liaisons from critical partners and functions
 - OCC, Intel, Military all accomplished during the 2008 MACS activation
- Permanent Facility Manager
 - Yes, Red Taylor has handled this function well
- Permanent Intel Section
 - Yes, Jim Hollingsworth handled this function well during the 2008 activation
- Alternative to permanent Intel Section would be partner agencies to support Intel and staffing functions by contributions of pre-identified and trained Intel and support staff.
 - This generated discussion about the need to address the suggestion that Greybook funding is a possible mechanism for reimbursement to agencies that provide, not only Intel, but any personnel serving a MACS activation for time invested on behalf of the entire state.
 - **Action Item: Recommend to the BOD that language be inserted into 410-1 indicating that**

participants in MACS activations are there voluntarily, representing the interests of their member agency.

- It was also suggested that an assignment to the MACS Group is no different than an assignment to an IMT or AREP position on an incident, and therefore should be reimbursable to the agency.
- At the very least, MAC members representing their agency's interest during an activation should have their expenses reimbursed by their agency.
- Evaluate use of experienced retirees as MACS support staff
 - The value of tapping into this pool of experience is undeniable.
 - This should be considered on an "as needed" basis and is considered an agency-specific decision.
- Assign a MACS Intel staffer to each major incident for the purpose of providing the MACS with the specific information in the format needed by the MACS Group.
 - This was effectively accomplished during the 2008 activation
- Participants need to receive an early notification that MACS is moving toward a Mode 3/Mode 4 and activation is anticipated
 - It was agreed that this notification could be easily handled via e-mail or conference call.
- During the process, need to clearly post the MACS objectives, daily agenda and meeting times.
 - This was regular business during the 2008 activation.
- Need to manage information differently.
 - Primary information needs to flow to and from the MACS in a timely and efficient manner and incorporate automated data management technology.
 - During the 2008 MACS activation, Information exchanges were accomplished through Intel reports, Wx briefs, daily conference calls with I.C.'s and Cal MAC, and videoconferences with North MAC, as well as phone contacts with home agencies and current and timely ICS 209's and MACS 405 data. Greater efficiencies could be realized through automation such as "smart boards" replacing the MACS wall chart forms and electronic submissions of MACS 405 data.

Discussion on Proposal to Develop a South MACS Operating Plan:

- Suggest model developed by North MACS as base document to provide consistency for South Ops Operating Plan.
- Could be included in 410-1 as Appendix A and B.
- **Action Item: Dave Pierce will make recommendation to BOD at their October 8, 2003.**
- NWCG/IOWSWT—Hollingsworth
 - No Report, Jim Hollingsworth not present.

Meeting Adjourned 1630 hrs.

DAY TWO, Thursday, 9/18/08

Meeting opened 0830

- Task Force Report—West
- Fireline Paramedic Presentation—Captain Craig Vanderzwaag/Greg West
 - Greg introduced the purpose of the Fireline Paramedic Program being pursued by the FIRESCOPE EMS Specialist Group
 - Captain Vanderzwaag presented the status of the Fireline Paramedic Program to the Group
 - The EMS Specialist Group has multi-agency representation

- The draft position description document was sent to EMSAAC, EMDAC and Local EMSA's and received their approval.
- Dr, Steven Tharratt, the State Medical Director, has given his approval
- Cal Chiefs have given their approval with some concerns being addressed.
 - Inventory size
 - Accountability
 - Controlled Substance Policy
 - Training Requirements
- Three types of deployments
 - Base Camp, Staging Area, Fireline
- To address the areas of too much equipment, it's proposed teams of two, one EMT-P and one EMT-B
 - Increases safety, accountability, communication and workload sharing
- Pieces of S-270 (Intro. to Air Operations) are contained in the Required Training section of the Position Description
- Restock of supplies would come from:
 - Incident Ambulance
 - Medical Unit
 - Restock cache brought with FEMP (Fireline Paramedic),
 - Possibly another Fireline Medic.
- Restocking costs was discussed:
 - Charged directly to the Incident (Ambulance or Medical Unit)
 - Charged directly to the Incident (F-42/ICS 213 process)
 - Charged directly to the Incident (Issued ROSS "S" number for future Incident billing)
- ALS Controlled Substances require relationships between Fire Chief, Department's Medical Director and DEA representative. Possession of controlled substances is a chain of custody issue. This results in the restriction that a FEMP must procure controlled substances from that paramedic's home unit, regardless of the jurisdiction in which he/she is currently working.
 - Bring enough
 - Direct Transfer by department
 - DEA Approved Shipping (DEA Form 222)
 - Continue without narcotics
- Goals are:
 - Standardization
 - Buy in across agencies at the fed, state and local levels
 - Meet regulatory requirements
 - Establish position description
 - Integrate into the ordering process (ROSS)
 - Evaluate and review
- Captain Vanderzwaag fielded questions from the group in preparation for the presentation before the BOD.
 - Some in the Group feel the aviation training requirements listed in the Position Description is not critical to the position.
 - Some in the Group feel that there should be a strong position that the intent of the Fireline Paramedic is for deployment on the fireline, and not sitting in base camp or in a staging location.
 - This could be easily resolved by removing the slide from the presentation

listing the three areas of deployment.

- Some in the Group feel that this proposal should move forward without attempting to get absolute buy-in from NWCG.
 - Matching the current qualifications for Fireline EMT should suffice as fireline qualifications for the Fireline Paramedic position.
 - The presentation must include the generic agreement by the LEMSA's that allows paramedics to practice across county lines.
 - There must be a training component for the Medical Unit Leaders position qualification, as well as the California fire service in general.
 - The language in the Position Description states that the Fireline Paramedic "shall be paired with an FEMT.
 - It was suggested that the presentation emphasize that the proposal for FEMP's is simply an extension of the FEMT position.
 - It was mentioned that this capability is already being deployed by departments who currently send ALS capable engine strike teams out of jurisdiction, primarily for the purpose of treating their own personnel.
 - **Action Item: Following consultation with the Task Force members present, it was decided that the target date to present the Fireline Paramedic Program proposal to the FIRESCOPE Board of Directors would be their January meeting. The proposal will be sent out to the BOD members for their review in advance of the January meeting.**
- NFPA 1500/1561 Standards Council/Phoenix-Brunicini Proposal—Neamy
 - Bob Neamy is proposing that FIRESCOPE agency members send a letter to NFPA opposing Brunicini's request to adopt his proposal that will essentially create a secondary "Local Incident Management System" for the fire service.
 - Evidently, the letter from Glen Benerick, President of the NFPA 1500 Committee, stating his opposition to Brunicini's proposal did not put the issue to bed. This was merely one person's response from the NFPA 1500 Standards Committee. The NFPA Standards Council will be deciding their position on October 15th. The letters need to be received by that date.
 - **Action Item: Bob Neamy will send Mark Schmitt (Secretary) a copy of a generic letter he has composed. Mark will send the letter out to the Ops Team via e-mail ASAP.**

Task Force Report—West

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Cal Chiefs Report—Hickey

- Sponsoring a Leadership Class in Butte County
- Old Business--All
- New Business—All
- Reflective Vests—West
 - DOT now has regulation (signed into law and effective in January 2009) that any personnel working on a federal highway are required to wear safety vests complying with illumination and contrasting background requirements. This regulation will be enforced by Fed OSHA.
 - Cal Fire has send a letter to DOT requesting that the California fire service be exempt from this DOT requirement due to flammability and incompatibility within the comment period.

- Rick Griggs from Cal Fire will be conducting a presentation on the issue
- Is this a FIRESCOPE issue? The BOD has agreed to take on this issue with further research.
- The FIRESCOPE Safety Specialist Group will be working on this issue to show our NFPA approved turnout gear satisfies the DOT requirements. In reality NFPA compliant turnouts satisfy the DOT requirements for illumination, but not for contrasting colors.
- **Action Item: The Task Force will report back to the Ops Team the findings of the Safety Specialist Group, who will present the information to the BOD at their January meeting.**

- **ROUND TABLE:**

- OES: LA County EMSA is having open house for new building housing. ROSS Training coming up starting in Feb and available on California Fire Training website. Citrix server on line for faster ROSS connections being rolled out to departments.
- Cal Fire: Affected by Budget delay, expected to be vetoed by governor. Cal Fire expects to stay whole. Thank you for help during NorCal siege.
- Mariposa: Voters approved Service Area opening up purchase of new fire apparatus
- Davis: Nothing to report
- USFA/NFA/NWCG: Nothing to report
- Laytonville:
- VNC: FF Memorial opening at Gov't Center with dedication at end of month.
- SBC: Still working on separating from Sheriff's Dispatch Center to create its own ECC. All fire managers and non-safety support staff will be furloughed over Christmas Holiday due to county's gloomy economic forecast.
- LFD: Nothing to report
- ORC:
- KRN: New EOC opening. November will bring two new helicopters and Air Attack platform. Building two new fire stations. Budget is in good shape.
- Alameda County:
- Santa Clara County: Consolidating with Saratoga Fire Dist. Morgan Hill wants to annex into Santa Clara County.
- BLM: CWCG developing an Operations Team (Forest Agency members) who will coordinate Federal Incident Management Teams. Ops Team will attempt to define relationship of CWCG with FIRESCOPE. Operating off 2006 budget allocation.
- NIMS Consortium: Brought up copyrighted Structure Protection Guidelines being taught by Don Stacey and asked if it made sense to post to the FIRESCOPE website. Bob will send the

document to Tom Drayer to post.

- Meeting adjourned at 1500 hrs.