INTEROPERABLE COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE
APRIL 5, 2011
9:00 A.M.

ATTENDEES:
Chief J. David Smith, RIEMA
Jeff Stevens, RI Dept. of Health
Jim Swanberg, RI Turnpike & Bridge Authority
Sid Wordell, Chief, Little Compton
Major Joseph Raulinaitis, U.S. Food & Drug Administration
Karen Pinch, RI State Police
Ralph Nahagian, North Providence Command
Joe McGarry, Providence Command
Joe Arsenault, Richmond EMA
Paul Budzenski, RIEMA
Gina Caruolo, Department of Corrections
Tom Crotty, RI State Police
T. Cullinan, East Providence Fire
Brian Glancy, RI State Police, Retired
LTC. Mike Tetreault, Rhode Island National Guard
John Randolph, EDC
Shane White, Rhode Island Geographic Information System
Joe Raulinaitis, Major, USAR, with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration

Meeting called to order by Chief J. David Smith at 9:04 a.m. There was a quorum.

Discussion of sign-in sheet: Membership should be listed by agency. Presently, member's names are listed alphabetically.

LTC Mike Tetreault of the Rhode Island National Guard was invited to today's meeting to give a presentation on Wi-Max technology developed by the military.

On Friday, Chief Smith attended a *Rhode Island Broadband Symposium*, held at the Rhode Island Convention Center. The symposium was well attended by people with various interests and special responsibilities in broadband.

Next Monday (April 11th), there is going to be a Cyber Security symposium at the University of Rhode Island. Rhode Island is an integral part of regional cyber disruption plans.

There was an internal review of last meeting's minutes, for which there was no quorum. There were no corrections offered for those minutes at today's meeting.

LTC Mike Tetreault of the National Guard, gave a presentation on Wi-Max a broadband system developed by the military. LTC Tetreault is the Deputy Chief of Staff for Information Management, Rhode Island National Guard. LTC. Tetreault outlined his vast experience with 800 megahertz and military radio systems (green and blue equipment) used by the Air National Guard in North Smithfield, and the 102nd Information Warfare Squadron in Quonset, RI. On the Army side, he has vast experience on a computer defense network, and he also collaborates with the RI State Police, the FBI (Boston field office), and with Director Smith and General Bray, providing communication capabilities both on the commercial side and in instant response type modes.

LTC Tetreault gave some background on Wi-Max, which was described as a point-to-point wireless data system, developed in conjunction with EMA, using a federal grant. The system uses Federal Information Processing Standards (FIPS) compliant encryption on their terrestrial links. The Wi-Max utilizes the military spectrum band to avoid interference with police, fire and EMA. Motorola, who provided the radios, has adjusted their radios for military frequency ranges. National Guard is also collaborating with counterparts in Massachusetts and New Hampshire for a Wi-Max link that runs from Quonset to the Canadian border in New Hampshire, and are trying to work up into Maine and New York, and trying to bring Connecticut on board. National Guard is looking into building a regional backbone link that can then be partnered with EMA in RI. The National Guard supports EMA as a contingency force as needed, and that is where collaboration between the two agency links. The idea is to take a large data pipe and carve it up into different pieces to run 800 megahertz traffic through, along with some of the state network and other private networks.

The original grant linked the National Guard Readiness center with the "coop" in North Smithfield. If communications were lost at this site, the North Smithfield site would be used for connectivity. North Smithfield is

one of two units in the country that has satellite uplink capability. They can link to commercial, unclassified, DOD, Supernet (secure internet) and they can go on the high side to top secret. They can also connect to commercial phones and the defense switch network, which is the military phone system. They can also utilize troposphere and microwave.

The state of New Hampshire has partnered with the Department of Transportation in support of their Emergency management to put their Wi-Max radios on top of their antennas to link key nodes throughout the state.

The agreement between the Department of Transportation and the state of New Hampshire was: New Hampshire would buy the radios and put them on the DOT towers, they would use the towers rent-free, use their generator in the event of power failure, and the DOT would carve off a certain percentage of bandwidth the state could use for trunking their radio network, eliminating the need to pay Verizon to run data lines to all those towers. Their major sites are now connected, swapping out the radios to the Motorola military frequency.

The Rhode Island National Guard, in partnership with EMA, applied for a grant that allowed them to purchase radios (to be shipped in a few weeks). The Guard will carve off a portion of the bandwidth to provide to EMA and provide free IT services. The Guard wants the Wi-Max link to be self-sufficient, where they can actually provide connectivity here, even if connectivity is lost with Verizon, Cox and all other data services. The Guard is also partnering with Combat Communications. Engineering and installation teams of the Air National Guard from all over the northeast will install the panels. The link with go from this site to the Coventry Air National Guard base to North Smithfield.

<u>Slide Presentation:</u>
Presentation explains Wi-Max: Wi-Max is described as both a “Point-to-Point Backbone” and “Sector Wi-Max.” At the request of Chief Smith, Colonel Tetreault will send slides from his presentation to each member of the Committee.

Mr. White, Food and Drug Administration:

At the state level, RIGIS is in the process of creating an enterprise GIS. Many different agencies are using GIS; a plan is now being developed with a vendor to tie all the agencies together. And a big proponent of what we're looking at is Mobile Technologies, so the Wi-Max system would be a huge asset if RIGIS could somehow take advantage of this technology at least for emergencies, or possibly even for day-to-day operations.

Joe Raulinaitis, Major, USAR, with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration: Mr. Raulinaitis is part of an outreach program and wants to develop a contact system with EMA, which is part of the reason he was present at today's meeting.

SOG Committee:
Chief will follow up with Harry Halgreen on SOG and COMM-L training. Mr. Halgreen was unable to attend today's meeting.

Motorola Product Training Update:
Ron Provost is helping to facilitate some discussion with Sherry Martin of Motorola. Sherry will be coming here to meet with us. We will continue to try to identify the best way forward with product training. It was suggested that EMA shut down funding for anything else until the training is complete. Training is a priority.

Project Updates:

- Design team in North Kingstown had the project electrician down there and National Grid was contacted for a work order to start that process.
- Middletown is moving along well.
- East Providence had a site walk. There is a contractor/vendor looking to go on that tank, and there was some discussion that perhaps there could be some shared costs. T-Mobile is going on the site. They are not looking to start their project until July. There are timing issues. Some agreements were made with regard to siting of their equipment and ours and use of the power source that we (EMA) only have to bring in the power drops once for both units. In terms of the antenna mountings, there is little common area there. There was a general discussion on the issues, but EMA will most likely end up having to do pretty much everything themselves.

- Two building may be available to EMA, free of charge. Antenna designs need to be finalized before sending the to the tank engineers, who will then provide drawings, and then approval by the city Water Department is needed for mounting antennas on the tank. It will take 4-6 weeks to receive the new antennas once they are ordered. Approval may not be reached until June.

Broadband Conference:
John Randolph:
A grant was secured for an "emergency notification system." Now that the grant has been approved, two things are needed: (1) to have a member of the ICC to sit on the advisory board for the BBRI, and (2) to have an ICC member to work with BBRI on the ENS project that was vetted and approved by this committee.

Gina Caruolo (or her designee) has volunteered to serve as the ICC appointment to the board of the broadband initiative.

Randolph: Suggested that Wi-Max might wish to tie into the existing base stations, two in Providence and one in Newport, which are currently in "sleep mode." They are owned by the state and not being used. It could provide additional links as a backup.

Caruolo suggested that a consultant be hired to conduct a survey to see what sort of public alert systems are being used in the state, to get a sense of how many different systems are used and what their interoperability is, and mapping those systems. A paper survey distribution was suggested through the office of the regional planner.

Old Business:
Region 19 meeting recently. CAPRAD (Capability Resource Allocation Display) software program, which makes sure Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Connecticut are aware of frequency availability to maximize efficiency. Norm Boucher had serious reservations about entering into that agreement. Perception issues exist for Rhode Island *not* entering into that agreement when the other two states have. Norm's concern is that it appeared that CT was protecting its own interests. The document has not been signed. Norm will be invited to our next meeting to walk through his concerns. The committee will then decide on whether to participate in CAPRAD or not.

Jeff Stevens: Motion made on November 18th and passed by this committee in regards to training. We had approved a motion that, given 3 months, that EMA would have "train the trainer" completed for the end user radio training. It is now four and a half months later and it's time to discuss suspending anything out there in terms of investments.

Stevens made a motion to suspend any action on the RISCON system until the end user training is done. Motion to consider seconded by Chief Wordell.

Discussion of both formal and information training. Chief McGarry suggested that if ICC has no time to conduct training, perhaps someone could be hired full time to conduct the training for the police and fire. Funding ($100K) in place, but the product has not been delivered. The committee should decide whether to suspend operations in favor of the training piece, or not.

Chief Wordell and Gina Caruolo suggested holding one or two meetings to come up with a way forward to address this issue of getting the training product done. Hiring a facilitator was suggested. Chief Wordell is not in support of suspending all non-critical operations of building RISCON system until training is complete.

After discussion, the motion failed with a vote of 12 to 1.

At least one meeting will be held to discuss training issues prior to the next ICC meeting. This meeting has been scheduled for Tuesday, April 19th @ 2 p.m., here at the EMA facility.

Motion to adjourn, unanimous.

Meeting adjourned at 10:37 a.m.