

Alaska Interoperable Communications Committee
(AKICC) Meeting October 20, 2009

Next Meeting: November 18, 2009
Location: Department of Public Safety Headquarters
Commissioner's Conference Room
5700 E. Tudor Road
Anchorage, Alaska

Teleconference: 1-800-315-6338 Passcode:7138

DHS&EM Room 211, Ft. Richardson

Major Leveque Co-Chair
Brad Johnson, AACOP
Mike Paschall, Rural LEPC
Tom Smayda, Mat-Su Borough
Del Smith, ALMR
Doug Schoenwald, DMVA
Kathy Day, DHS&EM

At Large Telephonic

Frank Wesser, DEC
Rusty Lasell, Rural LEPC
KT Pyne, DOF
Jeff Tucker, North Star VFD
John Dickens, ASET

Call to order: 0930

Roll Call and Introductions

Acceptance of Minutes from September 2009

Kathy Day reported that she had not completed the minutes from the last meeting but they would be available for scrutiny in the next few weeks.

Report on the September Conferences

Major Leveque and Del Smith reported on the ALMR conference that occurred in conjunction with the Alaska Fire Chief's Association annual meeting. They thought things went well, especially with the guest speakers, Scott Gillis from San Diego and Lance Valcour from Canada.

Tribal/Federal/Urban Law Enforcement Representation

This has been an ongoing issue and the committee needs to find someone to represent urban law enforcement as well as two people representing tribal Alaska. Committee members thought it would be good to get someone from Southeast for the urban law enforcement slot and several names were mentioned. Kathy also reported that a solicitation letter had been drafted to be sent out to tribal entities and it was determined that it would be good to get resumes from potential tribal candidates.

November COML Training

Kathy requested committee members to make sure the COML training information gets filtered down to their various organizations. The training is November 3, 4 and 5, 2009 in Anchorage and invitational travel is being provided. Committee members said they would try and find additional students since there were still seats in the class.

Used Equipment Allocation

Kathy reported to the committee that DHS&EM was given the inventory of the E.F. Johnson radios that Fairbanks Fire Department wants to have re-allocated. According to Kathy, Bryan Fisher thought that there was an interest from Manley as well as Tanana for the radios and thought that from a procurement aspect it would be better to keep the radios in Fairbanks rather than have them shipped to DHS&EM. He thought that it would be easier to have a commercial company like Radio Fairbanks refurbish the radios prior to giving them to the other jurisdictions.

Kathy also added that back in March of 2009 Sitka Police had indicated that they also wanted to re-allocate radios that included 6 Motorola Spectra VHF mobile radios and 24 Motorola Saber VHF portable radios that were not being used.

The committee revisited this issue and spoke about various aspects of the project such as batteries, refurbishing and encryption issues that would need to be resolved prior to redistribution. It was recommended that re-allocation could be used as an interim step for those smaller jurisdictions that weren't likely to get sophisticated equipment. The risk and needs assessment process was also discussed, as well as the gap analysis that is being performed to determine where the needs are. Some members thought that this should be completed first. It was also stressed that the un-served and underserved communities could make excellent use of the older radios.

The committee was unanimous that all radios needed to be checked out prior to reallocation but some members thought that money shouldn't be spent going to commercial businesses with that process. It was mentioned that the best way to approach the problem would be for all radios to go to DHS&EM unless it was known for a fact that jurisdictions in the region of those who wanted to give back their radios would take them. The discussion kept coming back to determining the needs of the jurisdictions prior to reallocating radios. It was also mentioned that the radios should go to those jurisdictions off the road system. However, it was agreed that if Manley needed the radios, the committee should have them sent to Manley. Major Leveque added that we should give Manley the radios if the radios would provide what they need. There was also mention made that State Parks was also interested in reallocated radios.

Committee members thought that there are probably two options for these requests. One would be to entertain the requests at this point. That would mean trying to get parts and things like batteries for the older radios. Major Leveque thought that the troopers could help get the radios out to the various jurisdictions if need be. The second option would be to determine the level of help the committee could provide to those smaller jurisdictions with the radios, such as spectrum issues. Doug Schoenwald thought that DHS&EM had the resources to do that. The Division could also look at the radios to determine if batteries, etc. are available.

Frank Wesser noted that DEC had conventional hand held radios that they surplused through Enterprise Technology Services (ETS). It was his impression that ETS gets requests from various places around the state and store the radios until they can be used. It was then determined that it would be better if AKICC was the responsible agency for the radio reallocations.

Frank Wesser stated that he would get an Excel sheet of equipment they surplused which he would send to Kathy. It was also added that ETS swipes channels off when they take radios in. The question was posed as to who can tell us what Manley can put in their radios? Someone added that they had a DOT repeater and that we do not want to give Manley radios with DOT channels.

It was also stated that as more radios come in, DHS&EM could warehouse them and then get out to whoever wanted them. Mention was also made of the radios that Sitka wanted to get rid of.

Excess Equipment Allocation

Kathy brought a request from Hollis before the committee regarding an equipment acquisition from the 09 IECGP. Hollis had originally been awarded \$2,500.00 to purchase pagers for its emergency responders. After the award, Bud Burnett realized that pagers wouldn't work in Hollis because they didn't have a base station. They were going to turn the money back in but then discovered that they now had cell phone service so they wanted to use the money to get cell phones. The committee approved the request but wanted it made very clear that the award would be only for the phones and not sustainability in terms of buying minutes, etc.

There was also a request from Nathan Skinner, the fire chief of the Bristol Bay Borough. In his initial PSIC request he asked for \$8,000.00 to be used for a satellite phone. He was given a free satellite phone from the DMVA cache so that left him with an extra \$8,000.00. He wanted to move that money towards their radio console and equipment project since the project came in at approximately \$11,000.00 more than what was allocated. The committee determined that the request went against their established policy of only allowing equipment purchases with dollar amounts that were requested at the time of the original grant application. They thought the money might be able to be reallocated to Bristol Bay at a later time depending on what was left over.

Border Interoperability Demonstration Project Grant

Kathy briefed the committee on the upcoming BIDP grant. DHS&EM received an announcement about it, but the grant guidance has not yet been released and only preliminary information was distributed. Basically it appears that three northern Border States and three southern Border States will be awarded up to \$4 million dollars for border projects. The grant is

competitive and there will be an upcoming teleconference with various stakeholders to determine the interest and need for various projects. All of the Border States were listed with their miles of border and Alaska had the most.

911 Issues

There was some discussion about 911 issues. It was determined that the committee would invite Katherine Peterson from DPS to be a guest speaker at the next meeting. Kathy explained that DHS&EM had requested technical assistance for 2010 to help start the development of a 911 commission for Alaska. Major Leveque stated that a lot of the issues have to do with various laws that were passed and someone with a legal background would actually have to research what's already been legislated on 911 issues in Alaska and also get information on the various regulatory bodies that are included. He also brought up that APCO and NENA has been working on legislation on some of these issues.

Other Items

Kathy reported on the September 2009 Regional Emergency Communications Coordinating Working Group (RECWGG) meeting that was held in Portland in conjunction with a meeting to update the current national communication target capabilities.

Doug brought up the exercise that will be occurring involving ALMR, OWIN and IWIN. Alcom will be setting up a satellite dish but Canadians don't have a satellite receiver. They wanted to use the State's internet in lieu of a satellite but State won't allow the Canadians to use their satellites to connect.

John Dickens brought up the fact that 911 issues need to be address in the Y/K delta and how it needs to be done. Overall 911 is needed in bush Alaska. It was mentioned that the technology was easy but the bureaucracy was the hard part. In the conversation it was also revealed that a repeater for Cantwell will be on 911 soon.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 1115. The members then went to view the new DHS&EM Mobile Urban Command Center.