



State of Louisiana

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee

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APPROVED 05/23/07

STATEWIDE INTEROPERABILITY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

Wednesday, April 25, 2007

The Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee (SIEC) met on Wednesday, April 25, 2007, at the Claiborne Building Conference Center, 1st Floor, 1-153 Iowa Room, Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Committee Chair Rizwan Ahmed called the meeting to order at 1:40 p.m. The roll was called by Ms. Lorita Ford, and a quorum was established.

Committee Members Present:

Rizwan Ahmed (Chair)

Chief Robert Black
Maj. Joey Broussard
Joe Drago
Heyward Jeffers

Curry Johnson (for Rep. Francis Thompson)

Susan Severance
Maj. Adam Shilling
Col. Eric Sivula
Col. Henry Whitehorn

Representing Agency:

Division of Administration &
Office of Information Technology
LA Fire Chief's Association
Dept. of Wildlife and Fisheries
Dept. of Transportation and Development
LA Senate Select Committee on
Homeland Security
LA House of Rep Special Committee on
Homeland Security
Attorney General's Office/OHSEP
LA National Guard
Dept. of Public Safety/Corrections
LA State Police

State/Parish Agency Representatives Present:

Col. Kenneth Hughes
Sgt. Michael Murphy
Eric Deroche
Clay Henry
Sonya Wiley-Gremillion
Dean Dozier
Thomas Thibeaud

Region 1 Plaquemines OHSEP
Region 2 East Baton Rouge OHSEP
Region 3 Assumption/St. James OHSEP
Region 4 Iberia OHSEP
Region 6 Rapides OHSEP
Region 8 Ouachita OHSEP
Region 9 Washington OHSEP

Guest List
See Appendix A

Chairman Rizwan Ahmed along with the Committee paused to recognize Ms. Lorita Ford, in honor of National Administrative Professional's Day. They extended their gratitude for all her efforts – working with the SIEC, keeping the members informed and organization of meetings.

Approval of Minutes – March 28, 2007

On motion of Col. Ken Hughes, seconded by Sonya Wiley-Gremillion the Committee voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the April 11, 2007 meeting with any necessary corrections.

Today's meeting was conducted in a discussion format. Discussion topics were as follows:

The Technolgoiy sub-committee did not meet, but instead Chief Bobby Black raised concerns that the Request for Comment was too restrictive. He confirmed that the date for response was extended until May 11. After further discussion, Rizwan Ahmed advised that the Request for Comment is a vehicle to elicit information from vendors as to possible IP solutions and that no responder to the RFC would be disqualified, but instead encouraged to offer solutions.

On motion of Chief Black, seconded by Col. Henry Whitehorn, and hearing no opposition, the SIEC directed that an amendment be posted to the RFC advising that the RFC is not a procurement document, but a solicitation for information for the best possible IP solution to interoperability challenges facing the state's first responder community and vendors are not disqualified from consideration solely by a response that falls outside the specifications in the RFC. This motion was amended to state that vendors are not obligated to the language.

Susan Severance asked about follow-up regarding a protocol for proper use of patching gateway devices such as ACU-1000's. After lively discussion, it was agreed that SIEC cannot control the timing of activation of the devices which are not owned or operated by state agencies through a mandated Standard Operating Procedure (SOP); however, SIEC should offer guidance to all users and an alert as to the consequences of activation of patching gateway devices.

Rex McDonald recommended that a communications leader be named for each parish to serve as the central Point of Contact (POC) for communications issues. The POC should be knowledgeable of all communications systems within the parish. Mr. McDonald continued, that having the systems information prior to an emergency allows the ability to provide better advice during the emergency.

The bids for the portable radios had been opened. Two vendors responded, with bids of \$1,735.40 and \$1,948.66. The low cost of the bid will allow SIEC to purchase approximately 600 additional radios. Discussion followed as to the allocation of the additional radios, with concern that State agencies be allowed to participate. Heyward Jeffers indicated that the initial allocation was 85% to the locals and 15% to the state. He recommended that this formula be adopted for allocation of the additional radios.

On motion of Dean Dozier, seconded by Tommy Thibeaud, and hearing no opposition, the SIEC directed to use additional funds from surplus or radio bids to purchase more radios as intended by budget allocation by Legislature.

Dispersal of the radios at the local level was discussed. It was recalled that the radios are to be allocated for command and control purposes within the parish, due to the limited number of new radios that can be purchased with current funding. Consensus among SIEC is that the director of the emergency operations agency in each parish should take possession of the radios and allocate based on a priority list among first responder agencies within the parish. A Cooperative Endeavor Agreement, consistent with these discussions, will be drafted for consideration by SIEC at the next regularly scheduled meeting.

SB 274 was brought to the attention of SIEC by Heyward Jeffers, who recommended that SIEC meet with the bill's author, Senator Boasso. Col. Whitehorn said that he would contact the Governor's Office for the Administration's position on the bill.

On motion of Eric Deroche, seconded by Dean Dozier, SIEC voted unanimously to hold an emergency meeting of the SIEC regarding SIEC's response to SB 274. The meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 2, 2007 at 10:00 a.m. at the East Baton

Rouge Emergency Operations Center, 3773 Harding Boulevard, Baton Rouge, Louisiana. In the absence of Chairman Ahmed, Mr. Heyward Jeffers will act as Vice-Chair and will conduct this meeting.

Ms. Lorita Ford will send notification via the listserv of the emergency SIEC meeting and also have the notification posted to the SIEC website.

There was discussion regarding Acadian Ambulance's request to join the Statewide 700 system. The main issues were: 1) a mutual aid channel dedicated for use during emergencies outside of the regular course of business of the private user and 2) whether there is capacity on the system for private users, albeit recognized first responders, for operational purposes. Col. Whitehorn proposed that further information be gathered regarding the capacity of the 700 system, a requirement that private users provide repeaters to accommodate the increased load, and that private users continue to pay the maintenance fee. Jeya Selvaratna suggested that several channels could be dedicated to the EMS users to reduce the number of towers that are involved when two users in the field are talking to each other.

Vermilion Parish Sheriff's Office and Carencro Fire Department sent a letter and an application to join the statewide system.

On motion of Eric Sivula, seconded by Bobby Black, and by unanimous vote, the SIEC approved the applications.

Eric Sivula moved that future applications to join the system shall be approved upon verification of proper application and bona fide first responder status by the system administrator who shall post the name of the new member of the statewide system to the SIEC website as soon as practicable. The motion was seconded by Sonya Wiley-Gremillion and approved by voice vote of the SIEC.

Dean Dozier informed the Committee of an informational webcast on Radio over IP that will be presented by COMCARE and the American Red Cross on Tuesday, May 8, 2007. He will send the committee members additional information via the listserv.

Chief Black asked the Assessment and Technology sub-committee to meet briefly following adjournment of the full Committee.

Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss the Statewide Interoperable Executive Committee meeting was adjourned by the Chair at 4:05 p.m.

APPENDIX A - GUEST LIST 4/25/07

STATEWIDE INTEROPERABLE COMMUNICATION SYSTEM
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, April 25, 2007 - 1:30 p.m.
Claborne Building Conference Center
1st Floor, 1-153 Iowa Room
Baton Rouge, LA

(Guest List)

Name (Print)	Name (Signature)	Representing Agency	E-Mail/Phone
JAMES ANDERSON	James Anderson	Region 4	jpaep@cox-internet.com
Christina Dupries	Christina Dupries	LA State Police	
TOOD WESTERMAN	TOOD WESTERMAN	DEPT SOUTH COMMUNICATIONS	TOOD@DEPTSOOUTHCOMMUNICATIONS.COM
JOE LIVINGSTON	Joe Livingston	DTM	joe.livingston@la.gov
Dennis J Savoie	Dennis J Savoie	Shreveport Area	dennis.savoie@cox.net
PAUL CHASTANT	Paul Chastant	BYD	PAUL.CHASTANT@BYD.LOUISIANA.COM
CURRY JOHNSON	Curry Johnson	Houma Reps	
PAUL SIMON	Paul Simon	E.L. Johnson	brucie@johnson.com
Mark W. Johnson	Mark W. Johnson	EF Johnson	mjohnson@efjohnson.com
Tom Robert	Tom Robert	O'Leary Parish Communications District	dgilbert@shrubok.org
Kathrine Cargo	Kathrine Cargo	DREANS Parish Communication District	kcargo@911NOLA.ORG
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