



# State of Louisiana

Chairman  
Vacant

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

## Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee

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### STATEWIDE INTEROPERABLE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

Wednesday, October 4, 2006

The Statewide Interoperable Executive Committee (SIEC) met on Wednesday, October 4, 2006, at the Claiborne Building Conference Center, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, 1-153 Iowa Room, Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Committee Vice-Chair Mr. Rizwan Ahmed called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m. The roll was called by Ms. Diane Didier, Support Staff for the Committee, and a quorum was established.

#### Committee Members Present:

Rizwan Ahmed (Vice-Chair)  
  
Chief Robert Black  
Arnold Chauviere  
Joe Drago  
Sheriff Ricky Edwards  
Norman Ferachi  
Michelle Fontenot  
  
Richard Gremillion  
  
Heywood Jeffers  
  
Colonel Ron Johnson  
Curry Johnson  
  
Lt. Colonel Robert Morris  
Colonel Jeff Smith/Susan Severance  
Colonel Eric Sivula  
Lt. Colonel Brian Spillman  
Colonel Henry Whitehorn

#### Representing Agency:

Division of Administration &  
Office of Information Technology  
LA Fire Chief's Association  
LA Public Service Commission  
Dept. of Transportation/Development  
LA Sheriff's Association  
Police Chief's Association  
LA House of Representatives Committee  
on Administration of Criminal Justice  
Regional Parish Homeland Security &  
Emergency Preparedness Directors  
Committee  
LA Senate Select Committee on  
Homeland Security  
LA National Guard  
LA House of Representatives Special  
Committee on LA Homeland Security  
LA National Guard  
GOHSEP  
Dept. of Public Safety/Corrections Services  
Dept. of Wildlife & Fisheries  
LA State Police

**Committee Members Absent:**

Senator Robert Marionneaux  
Pat Potier

**Representing Agency:**

LA State Senate Judiciary B Committee  
Dept. of Health & Hospitals

**State/Parish Agency Representatives Present:**

Eric Deroche  
Dean Dozier  
Colonel Kenneth Hughes  
Sonya Wiley-Gremillion  
Sergeant Michael Murphy  
Tommy Thiebaud

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

**Support Staff Present:**

Diane Didier (LA Board of Regents)

**Guest List  
See Appendix**

**III. Approval of the Minutes of September 6, 2006**

Mr. Rizwan Ahmed, Interim and Vice-Chair, asked for a motion to approve the September 6, 2006 minutes.

**On motion of Ms. Sonya Wiley-Gremillion, seconded by Chief Robert Black, the Committee voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the September 6, 2006 meeting.**

**IV. Special Presentations**

No special presentations were given.

**V. Sub-Committee Progress Reports**

Mr. Ahmed asked for the report for the Louisiana State Police Assessment Needs Survey. In the absence of Lt. Colonel Booth, Sgt. Nicole Kilgore gave the status report, handing out

the Assessment Survey submissions. Mr. Dean Dozier asked Sgt. Kilgore if it was possible to get feedback after an agency submitted the report. Ms. Wiley-Gremillion mentioned that Rapides OHSEP submitted the survey, but was not on the Assessment Survey Report. There was further discussion regarding the Assessment Surveys and the issue of getting the agencies to submit the requested data to State Police.

Chief Black suggested that the SIEC approve a statewide system either, the 700 mhz or 800 mhz system, or approve a 50/50 division between both systems.

Ms. Susan Severance suggested that GOSEP could find out how many agencies are in the Parishes and collect the data to complete the Assessment Surveys.

Mr. Dozier suggested getting a message to complete the Assessment Surveys with a deadline date. Mr. Richard Gremillion suggested contracting with a company to request and receive data from the agencies. Colonel Kenneth Hughes suggested that ICTAP or SAFECOM could collect the data for the Assessment Survey.

Mr. Ahmed asked for the Technology Sub-Committee report. Chief Black stressed the importance of the Assessment Survey.

Governor Kathleen Babineaux Blanco attended the SIEC meeting to give her support to the group and to thank them for their leadership, commitment, and time given to this issue. She mentioned that she issued an Executive Order calling for staff support to be provided by the agencies representing the Executive Committee. Because of the magnitude that the Committee is undertaking, there should be a single unified office of supporting and assisting in its work. **She has established an Interoperability Communications System office in the Governor's office. This office will be staffed with an Executive Director and technical staff to support the Committee.** She asked Mr. Ahmed to identify office space for the staff and this staff will support the Executive Committee's priorities to insure that the communications system works for all members of the emergency response community. The primary goal is to be sure that everyone is tied into the system. In the interim, Governor

Blanco is recommending six (6) Louisiana National Guardsmen to assist with the technical side, job descriptions, and skill levels for the staff to be hired. After further discussion with the Governor regarding the Assessment Surveys, it was suggested that the National Guard could also distribute the surveys to keep the process moving. The Governor also commented that she wants to work with the group to make sure this work is supported.

Major General Bennett Landreneau stated that six (6) National Guardsmen would be detailed as support staff to distribute and collect the data for the assessment surveys.

Mr. Ahmed told the Governor that progress has been made by the SIEC. Many of the members travel long distances to attend the meeting. Governor Blanco mentioned that she was aware there are hurdles to cross with this Committee. One of them is lack of funding.

Colonel Henry Whitehorn mentioned that the Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama Gulf Coast initiative could ask for federal funds for the interoperability initiative and request funds for maintenance fees. Governor Blanco mentioned that she would ask the congressional delegation to request the federal funds for the State's interoperability communications system.

Chief Black stated that he was concerned regarding the statewide system or the Parish/Regional system to be able to utilize the VOIP system with the 700mhz system.

Sheriff Ricky Edwards commented to the Governor that we need to look at a short-term solution system. After further discussion regarding short-term and long-term solutions for the statewide interoperability communications system, the Governor left the meeting.

Colonel Ron Johnson mentioned that the National Guard has the IP technology and the IP base solution to use for the short-term solution and that they should continue to work on a long-term solution. He also stated that VOIP could tie in with the statewide system.

Chief Black commented that the statewide system needs to be tied to the local systems. Mr. Dozier asked what the three hurdles from the Governor were. 1) funding for long/short-term solutions for the statewide system, 2) staffing-administrative support, and 3) (question on third item). Colonel Whitehorn stated that we need to develop a plan of action or to tweek the current plan. Colonel Hughes stated that in order to have a plan of action, we need to know from the assessment surveys how many players are involved. Colonel Ron Johnson mentioned again that assistance will come from the National Guardsmen to distribute and collect the information from the local and regional agencies.

After further discussion,

**On motion of Mr. Donald Milligan, seconded by Colonel Eric Sivula, the Committee voted unanimously to approve having the National Guard, assigned by the Governor, assist in distributing the Louisiana State Police Assessment Needs Survey to the local and regional emergency response agencies.**

Mr. Pat Santos suggested that the National Guard approach the OHSEP Regional Directors to distribute the surveys and collect the information needed to complete the surveys.

Mr. Eric Deroche stated that the user fees for the 700mzh system is still an issue with local parishes. After further discussion regarding the maintenance fees, Brigadier General Hunt Downer commented that maintenance costs should be built in as part of the statewide system.

Senator Robert Barham mentioned that there was \$700 million in unappropriated monies in the legislative budget that will be appropriated in December 2006. He suggested that the Committee request the Governor to propose a BA-7 (Budget Adjustment-7) requesting \$15 million for the Committee in recurring funds.

In the absence of a Chair for the Finance and Funding Sub-Committee, Mr. Ahmed asked for volunteers to chair that sub-committee. On recommendations by Ms. Wiley-Gremillion and Sergeant Michael Murphy, Mr. Heywood Jeffers volunteered to be the interim chair.

After discussion,

**On motion of Mr. Tommy Thiebaud, seconded by Ms. Sonya Wiley-Gremillion, the Committee voted unanimously to approve for Ms. Susan Severance to prepare the BA-7 for \$15 million for maintenance fees and enhancements for the Governor's Office to propose to the legislative appropriations committee in December 2006.**

Mr. Ahmed asked for the report of the Policy and Procedures Sub-Committee from Ms. Severance, Chair of the Policy and Procedures Sub-Committee. Ms. Severance reported that the policy and procedures are currently in place and working.

## **VI. Old Business**

Mr. Ahmed asked for a report from the Gulf Coast Summit Planning Committee. Ms. Diane Didier reported the following: Tentative dates - Monday, February 26 through Wednesday February 28, 2007; the title of the summit is the First Annual Gulf Coast Interoperable Communications Technology Summit; Ms. Polly Snell and Ms. Daphne Levenson, from GSRCPsi, are still working with the Holiday Inn Select to finalize the contract and will be organizing the summit; Ms. Snell will be going to Washington, DC to work on a cooperative agreement for the Gulf Coast summit funding; Ms. Didier, Sergeant Murphy, and Ms. Geraldine Bordelon toured the new Hilton Baton Rouge Capitol Center Hotel on Friday and reported that the facilities would work, but the hotel rates are a little high; and Ms. Didier asked Committee members to give her recommendations for vendors and topics for the Gulf Coast Summit.

## **VII. New Business**

No new business was reported.

## **VIII. Public Comments**

No public comments were made.

## **IX. Adjournment**

In the absence of further business, Mr. Rizwan Ahmed adjourned the Statewide Interoperable Executive Committee meeting at 3:50 p.m.

**APPENDIX  
GUEST LIST  
October 4, 2006**

**NAME**

**AFFILIATION**

Cathy Trenkle	LERN
Donald Milligan	Avoylles 911
Richard Silverman	DEQ
Richard H. Tannehill	DOC
Eddie Davis	INX, Inc.
Paul Singh	EF Johnson
Bill Rains	EF Johnson
Nicole Kilgore	LA State Police
Steven Wilson	GOHSEP
Anthony Jones	City of New Orleans
Matt Farlow	GOHSEP
Robert Hale	LSU Police
Peter Rotondi	INX, Inc.
Andrew Muhl	Governor's Office

**SPECIAL GUESTS**

Governor Kathleen Babineaux Blanco	Governor's Office
Senator Robert Barham	LA Senate Select Committee on Homeland Security
Brigadier General Hunt Downer	Governor's Legislative Office
Leonard Kleinpeter	Governor's Office
Major General Bennett Landreneau	LA National Guard
Colonel Jeff Smith	GOHSEP