



“Northern California Planning Area”

California Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee (CALSIEC)

In partnership with Public Safety Radio Strategic Planning Committee (PSRSPC)

August 23, 2006 Meeting Notes

Shasta County OES Training Facility,
2425 Breslauer, Redding, CA
Registration at 12:30 p.m., Meeting from 1:00 p.m.- 4:00 p.m.
Conference Phone Line: (866) 742-9494 | pass code: 3127358

Meeting Purpose: To lay the groundwork for the Northern California CALSIEC Planning Area to work in collaboration with the statewide CALSIEC (<http://www.calsiec.org/>) and the Public Safety Radio Strategic Planning Committee (PSRSPC)(<http://psrspc.ca.gov/>).

Next Meeting Date: September 29, 2006, tentatively 10:00 am - 3:00 pm. Location to be determined.

Summary of Attendance: Representatives from 10 counties attended, including 2 tribes. Full list of attendees included at back of notes. The Northern California CALSIEC planning area consists of 17 counties total.

Action Items:

1. Meeting logistics: Get larger room, meet earlier and stay later so more time for meeting.
2. Next meeting agenda items: include more basic education on interoperability (e.g. gateways, include presentations from each OA and each county)
3. Planning Area focus: use Operational Areas (OA) to figure out Tactical Interoperability Communication Plans (TICPs)
4. Develop (OES) a unified Operational Area designation
5. Public Notice: Give more advanced public notice: (30 day notice if FCC)
6. Outreach: Get representative from each discipline (e.g. fire; law, disaster preparedness) for next meeting.
7. Check out CALSIEC website: www.calsiec.org
8. Gateway questionnaire: Attendees to take back questionnaire to own groups/organization and bring information to next meeting.
9. TICP outline will be put on the website.

Handouts Provided:

Agenda, Future of California’s Interoperability Efforts (PowerPoint); Map of Planning Area; Statewide Assessment, CALSIEC Governance Draft Summary, Outline of Draft California Interoperability Plan, Gateway Questionnaire, SAFECOM Interoperability Continuum, the front page of both the CALSIEC and PSRSPC website.

Welcome, Agenda Review and Greetings

Julia Lee, facilitator from the Center for Collaborative Policy, California State University Sacramento, opened the meeting. Lt. Sheaman, Shasta County OES and host for the day welcomed participants. Charlie Simpson, Chief, OES Law Enforcement welcomed participants and gave some context as to how the first for Northern California meeting came to be formed. Julia Lee then asked everyone to introduce themselves, reviewed the agenda and went over some basic ground rules.

Rationale for SIECs CalSEIC, and CA's four planning areas

Bill De Camp, Sr. Telecom Engineer with the California Department of General Service's Telecom Division and Holly Ziegler, California Office of Emergency Services (OES), began by explaining how SIEC's and CalSIEC came to exist and how they relate to the Public Safety Radio Strategic Planning Committee (PSRSPC). They began by referring to the two websites, encouraging everyone to take some time to peruse: www.calsiec.org, <http://psrspc.ca.gov/>

Interoperability and the role of the Northern Planning Area

Robert Samaan, Deputy Director, Office of Homeland Security, led a PowerPoint presentation entitled "Future of California's Interoperability Efforts". He focused on the two major statewide communications committees, the sponsors of today's meeting: California Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee (CALSIEC) and the Public Safety Radio Strategic Planning Committee (PSRSPC). His presentation stressed:

- Importance of CALSIEC Planning Areas
- 2007 Strategic Plan that the PSRSPC is preparing for the Legislature
- Tactical and Interoperability Plans (TICPs)
- Gateway Deployment
- Systems Assessment (by OES)
- Statewide Interoperability Plan (CALSIEC and PSRSPC Collaboration)
- Summary: Creation of TICP's to roll into statewide plan, use of gateway technology to build baseline of interoperability in state; building a statewide interoperability plan for 2007, and use of a systems of systems approach.

Gateways

Robert and Julia talked more about gateways and distributed a yellow survey that requests gateway information from all attendees about what gateways are 'needed' or 'not needed' in their area, as well as special concerns. Introduction of this handout generated many questions and a lively discussion. Questions and comments include:

- Need clear definition of a gateway:
 - Response: To begin to think about what a Gateway is and what to do with it, ask yourself: Can you talk to who you need to talk to? A gateway gets you talking with those you want to talk to.
- What are some things one needs to consider when thinking about utilizing a gateway?
 - Think in terms of a big incident
 - Need a tight MOU (or MOUs)
 - Plan for each level

- Need clear text
 - From NIMS apply standardized terminology
 - Think about connecting to Nevada and Oregon as appropriate
 - How does one figure out who you need to talk to?
 - This could be a future discussion topic.
 - Need to create scenarios or different GPS coordinates (to think through using the gateway)
 - With gateways established by local jurisdictions - look at history of incidents in your area and neighboring areas.
 - There's a fine line between bleeding edge and leading edge
 - Need good discussion on all these issues.
- Which counties have gateways?
 - The survey OES is currently conducting will compile that information.
- Regarding the State's Gateway Project
 - There are a finite number of gateways (that the State can buy); they are looking at need through the mutual aid regions.
 - Be careful if you are hosting a gateway because you could be responsible for transporting the gateway. If the gateway is being used by someone else, what does that do for your own plan?
- Need repeater part of gateway?
 - No.
 - A suggestion was made to add a question onto the (yellow) gateway survey on this topic.
- What is an ACU 1000?
 - Audio short/ circuit in the sky
 - It would be helpful for participants who aren't familiar with the ACU 1000 to view one/ have a demonstration at a future meeting.

Participants were asked to fill out the yellow survey (if possible) or to take it back to the appropriate people to gather the information. Four surveys were turned in.

Everyone was given sticky dots and an opportunity to place the dots on a wall map of Northern California. The idea was to have people place green dots where they have a gateway; red dots where they would like a gateway; and blue dots where they just need operability (before interoperability can be tackled). There were 5 green, 11 red, and 14 blue dots placed on the map. Participants will have another opportunity to place dots on the map.

Local Presentations

A number of attendees gave brief presentations summarized below:

Shasta County (Joy Willis, Operations Manager, SHASCOM 911)

- They have a JPS / black box.
- They access everything on a desktop computer.
- CDF, RFD, Sheriff, Police, and the neighboring Anderson Police are all on one channel.
- A second JPS box is coming. They are excited to have it be laptop programmable.
- They will have 3 ways to communicate.
- IC says “can we implement box.”
- They have reverse 911 (they need training on).
- They have an emergency alert system (crawler on bottom of TV).
- Joy is happy to share materials if anyone is interested.

Questions and Answers for Joy and Shasta County:

- How long to re-program radios?
 - Don’t know; OTAR
- Where does signal go?
 - Both repeaters; the tower at SHASCOM
 - Doesn’t extend your range
- Do you have MOUs?
 - No. Nothing in writing. Hold operations meetings where everything is worked out.
- Do you use plain text?
 - No. 10 code.

Siskiyou County (Kate LuginBuhl, Director of Operations and Safety, Mt. Shasta)

- 993K grant; all entities are in on the grant. Year to year they figure out what to buy.
- So. County needs a gateway.
- Most are dispatched from the same point.
- 1-5 corridor is ok; off is where problems occur. There are no repeaters.
- Sac/city folks need to understand how rural it really is.
- Everyone from her county comes to talk about interoperability.
- Their efforts are working!

Lassen

- Ditto from what Kate said about but more behind.
- They have no grants.
- No meetings.
- Dispatch works well.
- Cable/phone, etc is same as Siskiyou.
- Connecting w Nevada makes sense for them.

Del Norte

- When move mobile to a higher area.

Sierra

- No mobile signals.
- No pay phones (or few and far between because the phone companies are removing them).

- Radio down =s Nada!
- Need Operability!
- 3500 residents.

Butte

- They have a Gateway but they don't know where it is.
- They have 31 systems to be combined.
- Will be a method for First Responders to communicate on their own channels.
- They are working toward operability.
- Will be able to run voice over IP.
- Would be good to have standardized technology.

Humboldt

- They have a mobile gateway.
- ACU 1000; high band radios.
- Pick and choose what you can patch. Radios interfere with each other.
- Search and Rescue ties have been helpful.
- Have to be off main channels.
- Would like to connect with Hoopa Valley.
- Need to connect to people down river (e.g. Yurok Tribe).
- People don't get local news because they only get satellite TV.
- There are huge areas with no public safety radio at all. For example, radio capability in the upper part of the county (up river) is almost non-existent.

Evolving CALSIEC governance Elements

Bill De Camp, Sr. Telecom Engineer with the California Department of General Service's Telecom Division gave an overview of the Draft CALSIEC Governance document. As stated in the introduction to the DRAFT: "The California Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee (CALSIEC) has been tasked with the managing the state and federally designated interoperability spectrum on behalf of all of our public safety first responders." The full CALSIEC will be meeting on October 6, 2006, in Sacramento, and will consider adoption of this Draft Governance Document, which includes an important role for the four CALSIEC planning areas. A summary of the Draft Governance Charter was handed out.

Statewide System Assessments

Holly Ziegler, Office of Emergency Services gave an overview of a current assessment being conducted and sponsored by CA OES, addressing systems at all levels of government on interoperability. She encouraged everyone to complete the online survey portion as soon as possible. CALSIEC and PSRSPC are collaborating on the assessment. It begins with a survey to be completed by the communications staff of agencies that operate radio systems. The results of this assessment will be used for several purposes:

- Planning the State's investment in implementing fixed and mobile "Gateway" systems to achieve immediate interoperability.
- Designing future systems for State agencies

- Assisting local and regional agencies in developing future systems
- Providing information for the State Enhancement Plan in support of annual Homeland Security Grant Applications
- Assisting local and regional agencies in developing Tactical Interoperable Communications Plans (TICPs)
- Developing the State Interoperable Communications Plan

The resulting baseline assessment will be critical for future funding. It will be used to when reporting gaps and progress to Department of Homeland Security, Congress, and the Legislature.

Meeting Wrap up and Evaluation

- Need to get more people, and the right people, to these meetings.
 - Need to connect with “Gang of 5.”
- Need clarity on what is (exactly) needed, by OES/OHS, for meeting with participants and taking information back to their jurisdictions.
- TICP outline will be put on the CALSIEC website.

Pluses:

- Good group got together
- Mary Cook bottle her (translation- invaluable)

Changes Needed:

- Less acronyms
- More basic information

In Attendance

Robert Pasero, Chief of Police, Orland PD
Dennis Ganton, Undersherriff, Tehama Sheriff's Department
Tina Wood, HRSA Coordinator, Humboldt County DHHS, DHB
Kate Luginbuhl, Director Operations & Safety, Mt. Shasta Fire Protection District
Bill De Camp, Sr. Telecom Engineer, DGS Telecom Division
Joe Galeoto, Chief of Police, Yurok Tribal PD
Jay Renzuli, Music Director, KIDE Hoopa Tribal Radio
Thomas Tappe, Lieutenant, Yuba City PD
David Christian, Volunteer, Humboldt SD
Kathy Galey, PSM Systems, SHASCOM 911
Steve Peach, General Manager, SHASCOM 911
Joy Willis, Ops Mgr, SHASCOM 911
Peggy O'Neill, Planning Director, Yurok Tribe
Chris Gallagher, Chief, Susanville PD
Lee Brown, Office of Emergency Services (OES) Coordinator, Sierra County
Joel Brown, Comm Tech, Butte County
Terri Crete, Telecom Analyst, Butte County Fire
George Benton, Deputy Director, Information Systems, Butte County
Charles Dahlen, Battalion Chief, Shasta Lake FPD
Don Manzer, TSMI, California Department of Justice (DOJ)
Paula Carr, Deputy Chief, OES Law Enforcement
Walt Embrae, Assistant Chief, California Department of Forestry (CDF)
Charlie Simpson, Office of Emergency Services (OES -Law Enforcement
Robert Samaan, Deputy Director, California Office of Homeland Security, OHS
M.B. Starbery, ASO, Glenn, Office of Emergency Services (OES)/ S.O.
Paul Romero, Computer Tech, Yurok Tribe
Gail Tarbell, Grant Writer Planning, Yurok Tribe
Jake McHatton Communications Officer, California Dept of Forestriy (CDF) Fire Protection
Telecom
Weedy Hannibal, Telecom Mgr., Butte County
Mary Cook, Comm/ Dispatch Coordinator, California Emergency Medical Services Authority
(EMSA)
Holly Zeigler, California Office of Emergency Services (OES)
Vinnie Buehler, California Office of Homeland Security, OHS
Sarah Rubin, California State University Sacramento, Center for Collaborative Policy (CCP)
Julia Lee, California State University Sacramento, Center for Collaborative Policy (CCP)