Governors Office of Emergency Services
Henry Renteria, Director

"Northern California Planning Area"
California Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee (CALSIEC)
In partnership with Public Safety Radio Strategic Planning Committee (PSRSPC)

September 29, 2006 Meeting Notes

10:00 am- 2:30 pm
Redding Community Room - Next to City Hall
777 Cypress Ave. Redding, CA 96001

Meeting Purpose: To continue to lay the groundwork for the establishment of the CALSIEC Northern 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/).* Counties in the Northern Planning Area of CALSIEC are: Butte, Colusa, Del Norte, Glenn, Humboldt, Lake, Lassen, Mendocino, Modoc, Nevada, Plumas, Shasta, Sierra, Siskiyou, Sutter, Tehama, Trinity, and Yuba.

Next Meeting Date: Tentatively November 9, 2006, 10:00 am - 12:00 pm.
1740 Walnut Street (Old Juvenile Hall), Red Bluff, CA. 96080. (THIS WAS CHANGED TO NOVEMBER 30)

Summary of Attendance: Representatives from 10 counties and 1 tribe attended. Full list of attendees included at back of notes. The Northern California CALSIEC planning area consists of 17 counties.

Action Items:

1. Meeting logistics: Work with Dennis Garton, Undersherriff, Tehama County to secure meeting facilities.
2. For next meeting agenda, have as an item the selection of a Chair for the Northern California Planning Area.
3. Check out CALSIEC website: www.calsiec.org
4. Today's PowerPoint presentations will be added to the CALSIEC website.

Handouts Provided:
Agenda, CALSIEC Northern Planning Area August 23, 2006 Meeting Notes; California Interoperability: Introductory Information packet; Statewide Assessment, Survey information, SAFECOM Interoperability Continuum, CALSIEC Planning Areas Governance Charter Workbook

Key Themes:

- Local reluctance to trust State and Federal government
- Several people in room were meeting each other for the first time
- Be careful with the technical jargon, since most of the people aren't T-Comm specialists (many people listening but not understanding or misunderstanding)

- Resentment of unfunded or temporarily funded technology/equipment mandates and lack of ongoing grant funding for O&M and replacement expenses
- Northern communities are widespread and rural, with insufficient revenue base for technology maintenance (i.e. having to choose between a computer and a radio)
- Many of the new homeland security grants pay for things that rural responders don't need (like Hazmat suits for Anthrax), and no longer pay for other basic things desperately needed (like hand held radio replacement)
- Need to have more emphasis on basic operability
- Shasta County may be the natural hub for resource deployment (with regards to gateways, tactical interoperability planning, etc.)
- By December 2006, CALSIEC wants to have the different regional planning areas (i.e. Northern California Planning Area) to determine which counties need to be grouped together for TICPs
- The Statewide Communications Interoperability Plan (SCIP) is due at the end of 2007, so local TICPs need to be completed early enough in 2007 so they can roll up into the SCIP. OHS is working to hire a federal consultant by January 2007 to provide technical assistance for TICPs

CALSIEC Mission, Vision, Governance

Bill De Camp, Senior Telecom Engineer with the California Department of General Service's Telecom Division (DGS-TD), gave a PowerPoint presentation entitled, "California's Strategy to Achieve Integration, Modernization, and Interoperability." It gave background on the collaborative efforts of CALSIEC in conjunction with the state agency PSRSPC (Public Safety Radio Strategic Planning Committee) to develop a comprehensive Statewide Communications Interoperability Plan (SCIP). The SCIP will consolidate California's many discipline-specific communications plans and establish protocols and governance structures for interoperability at all levels. Topics included in the presentation were:

- When, how and why CALSIEC and PSRSPC were created
- What CALSIEC and PSRSPC are doing
- California in perspective
- Recent legislation
- Federal partners: ICTAP and SAFECOM
- The public safety radio spectrum

Packet – California Interoperability: Introductory Information

Robert Samaan, Deputy Director, Governor's Office of Homeland Security (OHS), quickly explained the compilation document called "California Interoperability: Introductory Information". This handout packet had been provided to participants as advance reading prior to the meeting and is available on the CALSIEC website. This primer provides a helpful overview of what CALSIEC is trying to accomplish and helps clarify key terms such as

- Interoperability
- SAFECOM
- ICTAP (Interoperable Communications Technical Assistance Program)
- Tactical Interoperable Communications Plans (TICPs)
- Gateways
- CALSIEC (California Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee)

- PSRSPC (Public Safety Radio Strategic Planning Committee)

The document should say "DRAFT" since it is still a work in progress. Text had been copied-and-pasted verbatim from U.S. Department of Homeland Security guidance without being edited for context. For example, on Page 17 where it describes the Tactical Interoperable Communications Plans (TICPs), bullet #1 says "*Urban Area Information*" but it should instead say "*Operational Area Information*".

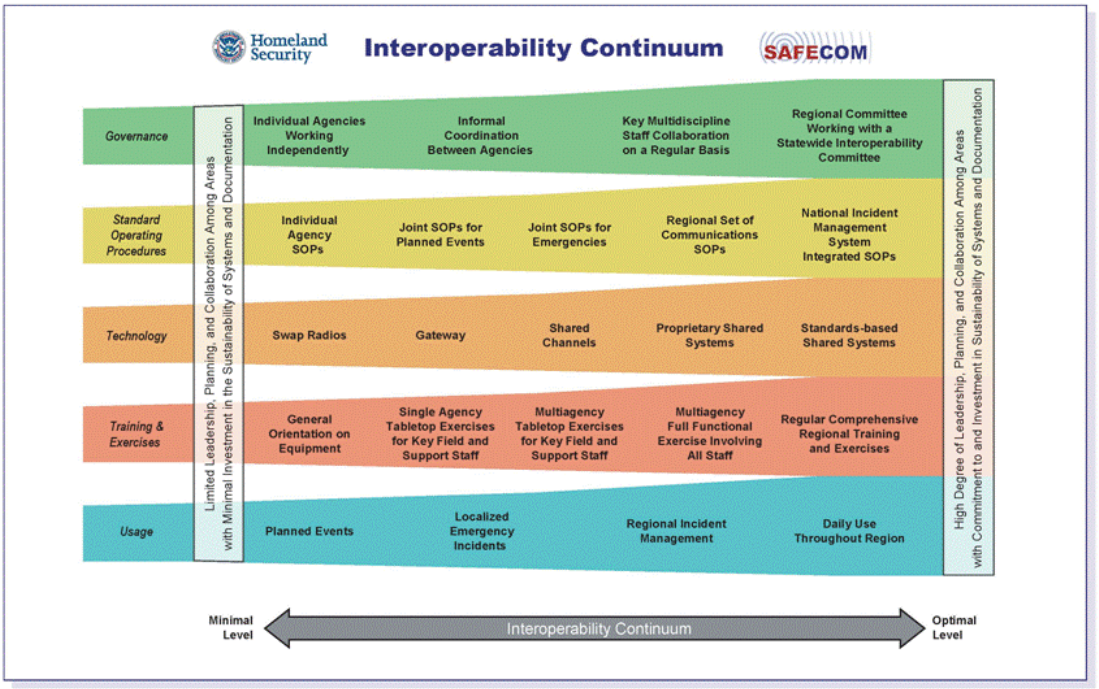
ABC's of Operability and Interoperability

Bill De Camp, DGS-TD, led a PowerPoint presentation entitled "Public Safety Radio Communications Terms & Concepts". This presentation explained several technical concepts, including:

- Frequency vs. Radio Channel
- Frequency Bands and Propagation
- Simplex vs. Duplex
- Repeater
- Voting Receiver
- Simulcast
- Narrow-banding
- Conventional vs. Trunked
- Analog vs. Digital (Project 25)
- Gateways
- Shared Channels
- Proprietary Shared Systems

Wireless communications interoperability was defined as "*the ability of public safety officials to share information via voice and data signals on demand, in real time, when needed, and as authorized.*" Interoperability is NOT the ability to talk with everyone all the time, but only when needed.

Interoperability is a complex issue. <u>Technology (e.g. gateways) is only one part of the solution</u>. Interoperability involves aspects of Governance, Standard Operating Procedures, Technology, Training/Exercises and Regular Use, as shown in the SAFECOM Interoperability Continuum below:



Furthermore, interoperability is just one of the vulnerable aspects of a communications system that requires response, recovery and mitigation planning. A viable communications system must be

- Functional
- Operable
- Sustainable
- Flexible
- Interoperable

Whenever any of these aspects fail, there is an immediate need for trained, qualified personnel, with appropriate equipment and technology, to manage and resolve the problem

Questions and Answers:

- Is idea of CALSIEC to have everyone on 700 MHz?
  - No. The 700 MHz spectrum was brought up in the presentation because that is what started SIEC movement. With the exception of Redding and Chico, it would probably not make sense for most of the Northern Planning Area, since 700/800 MHz have poor propagation in undeveloped and hilly terrain.

- Is migration to narrowband mandated?
  - Yes. The FCC mandate says you have until January 1, 2013 to migrate from your wide band (25 kHz) radio systems to narrowband (12.5 kHz or less).
  - Most equipment bought in the last 5 years should be compatible with narrowband.
  - All agencies should have their tech people be familiar with their equipment. Anyone with questions is encouraged to e-mail Bill De Camp at Bill.DeCamp@dgs.ca.gov

Incident Commander's Command, Control, Communication Unit (IC^{4}U)

David Golden, CA National Guard, showed a short video and gave a PowerPoint presentation called "Incident Commander's Command, Control, Communication Unit (IC^{4}U)" that explained the services, resources, and facilities offered by the CA National Guard. The National Guard's IC4Us are mobile devices that can link several communications systems together. They allow immediate command and control infrastructure for internet, e-mail, printing, voice, fax, data, and video. They are transportable by truck or airlift.

CA has seven (7) IC4Us stationed at strategic locations in North Highlands, Sacramento, Moffet Field, Fresno, Van Nuys, Compton, and San Diego. Units are assigned to the Northern Air Guard Command and Southern Army Command. The National Guard also has fourteen (14) high-tech Distributed Learning Classrooms that can be used as a command post or operations center to support any local, regional, or statewide crisis or Homeland Security/Defense operations or training exercises.

Questions and Answers:

- How long does it take to set up an IC4U?
  - It can be set up in 15 minutes, with an assumption of 72 hours of self-sufficiency in terms of fuel, water, and food. The unit can be loaded on a C130 and flown across the country (for example, when notification came the day after Hurricane

Katrina, the unit was packed that evening , loaded on a C130 Humvee platform and flown to New Orleans for 45 days).

- Where are the Distance Learning Centers located?
  - Currently they are all at Mather in Sacramento. They will be fielded in Compton as well.

Robert Samaan, CA OHS, explained that the National Guard's IC4U units are similar to the mobile tactical gateway units that are envisioned for the statewide gateway program. The gateways would be utilized for mutual aid situations, according to MOUs with local agencies. The Northern Planning Area should think about where it makes most sense to pre-stage gateways units while also considering the coverage of National Guard IC4Us, and which local agencies might be willing to host them.

Lunchtime Demonstration of Mobile Systems

During lunch, there was an outside demonstration/exhibit of mobile command units by the Sutter County Sheriff's Office and by the California National Guard.

Local Presentations
A number of attendees gave brief presentations summarized below:

Yurok Tribe (Gail Tarbell)
- The Yurok Tribe has a population of nearly 5,000 members.
- Located in the rural area of Del Norte and Humboldt Counties.
- Attempting to adopt NIMS
- Challenged by their isolated location
- Seeking more collaboration and mutual aid with counties

CALSIEC Chairman John Powell said that tribes should be able to apply for technical assistance from ICTAP in same manner as state and local agencies.

***Tehama County Sherriff's Office* (*Dennis Garner, Undersheriff*)**
- Local interoperability has already been addressed through workarounds; a black box isn't needed.
- Local counties have letters of agreement to share frequencies.
- When National Guard has been called, they have not brought their own radio capacity. Locals end up having to give them handhelds to do their mission.
- Have 2 frequencies in dispatch center. One of them is not repeated.
- Lacking money since the U.S. Department of Homeland Security took away its law enforcement grants. Grants used to pay for radios… but now instead they pay for hazmat suits to respond to anthrax threats, bells and whistles that aren't useful here. Can't afford basic equipment.

***Glenn County (Bob Pasero, Chief of Police, Orland Police Department*)**
- Operability is needed before we can start looking at interoperability. We are putting the cart before the horse.
- There is not a radio in the world that will work in all situations.
- Glenn County has only one repeater and needs more frequencies.

***Humboldt County* (*David Christian, Sheriff Volunteer*)**

- 3 main frequencies belong to the Sheriff. The 1st is repeated, the 2nd is a remote base that the dispatch can talk on, and the 3rd is car-to-car tactical frequency.
- In addition, all fire or law enforcement vehicles in the county are required to have 5 frequencies, CLEMARS, CALCORD, NALMARS, OES 1, and OES 2. Those channels are used for interoperability.

Charlie Simpson, CA OES clarified that CALSIEC was not asking local jurisdictions to give up their primary frequencies. Rather, the reason for a Tactical Interoperability Plan is to think about and prepare for incidents that go beyond normal day-do-day operations and would require response from outside of the surrounding counties.

Bill De Camp, DGS-TD said the purpose of tactical interoperable planning is to identify the local workarounds that already exist. Regarding operability vs. interoperability dilemma, operability is an important justification for grant applications to CA OHS and federal DHS. Local issues are more likely to be addressed and federally funded if they are documented in a local TICP and the Statewide Communications Interoperability Plan.

California Highway Patrol (CHP) Facilities

Rachel Henderson, CHP, informed the group that CHP command centers have gateway equipment and are actively looking for jurisdictions to partner. CHP can patch other jurisdictions as needed based on MOUs.

- Several people did not know that CHP had gateway facilities available.

General Discussion

- It is crucial not to tie up the main operational frequencies. It can be fatal when officers are caught in a shooting situation.
- Concern was expressed that the LAWNET microwave system was not being maintained and was falling into disrepair. Rural areas still rely on it to enable dispatch centers to talk to each other.
- The Statewide System Assessment Survey is too technical.
- There is general distrust of the State and Federal government.
- When linking counties for TICPs, it is important to think about it in terms of the event that is being planned for. Typical flood events will involve different sets of counties than typical fire events.

Clarification of Gateways and TICPs

- Some had a mistaken impression from the previous meeting that that each TICP will all get its own gateway unit
- Robert Samaan, CA OHS, clarified that the State was not going to provide each Operational Area with a gateway, but TICP planning needs to be done in the context of CHP and the National Guards units to ensure that gateways are only placed where they make the most sense.
- The State's preliminary federal Homeland Security Grant Program request had made an assumption for 44 gateways and 6 fixed sites, but that was only a potential ceiling. Now we are doing TICPs by Operational Areas to determine the actual need.
- Charlie Simpson, CA OES, said that at previous meeting, it was thought there were 20-30 gateways, but since then OES has found out that there are 168 gateways throughout the state. That means there is a significant amount of infrastructure that can be leveraged/shared, as well as

a significant need for governance protocols to prevent multiple gateways from being turned out at the same time.

TICP Timeline

- There was also confusion about the timeline for TICPs.
- Robert Samaan, CA OHS, clarified that CALSIEC would like to have an idea by December 2006 of which local jurisdictions need to work together. OHS is hoping to have a federal ICTAP contractor come on board in January 2007 to provide technical assistance to Operational Areas for writing the actual TICPs.
- The Statewide Communications Interoperability Plan (SCIP) is due in December 2007, so Operational Area TICPs need to be done before then so they their findings can be rolled up into the SCIP.

Statewide System Assessments

Holly Ziegler, CA OES, gave an overview of preliminary results of the 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. She thanked all those who had already participated. 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 for reporting gaps and progress to Department of Homeland Security, Congress, and the Legislature.

CALSIEC Northern Planning Area Governance (Small Group Exercise)

The group split into 3 small groups for discussion, using Page 11 of the "CALSIEC Planning Areas Governance Charter Workbook" handout as a template

Group #1

Purpose:

1. To determine needs on our areas (including counties, tribes, cities, and police and fire departments).
2. Determine needs and what we have and don't have.

Guiding Principles:

1. Follow state and federal guidelines;
2. Decision-making by Committee

3. Encourage counties to plan together

Roles and Responsibilities:

1. Identify needs
2. Communicate
3. Work together when things are bad.
4. Find out where funding is, and who needs it most. (local foundations may be a funding source)
5. Find out who has equipment that can be shared.

Structure of Planning Area:

1. Break down into small committees, smaller working groups can focus on different topics.

Group #2

1. Consider as a standing committee the mutual aid coordinators who meet on a quarterly basis. Integrate them into the MARAC organization. The MARAC meeting would have to be modified because of distribution of the Northern region to include the coastal counties, but they are already welcome.
2. Place responsibility with each OA to develop its own plan as to who to talk to and how to make it happen.
3. We can't work in a group this big. It has to be reduced to individual OA or standing committees.
4. Need to have multiple disciplines represented. Go to LEPCs and CUPAs

Group #:3

1. Have a limited number of representatives, one from each discipline like a steering group.
2. Have a MOU for interagency frequency (as a goal).
3. Use CA OES local representatives – they are consistent among the different counties. Use the OES Emergency Services Coordinator (local liaison) and the Telecomm Coordinator (subject matter expert).

Meeting Wrap-Up

Julia Lee, facilitator, everyone was invited to attend the next statewide CALSIEC meeting in Sacramento on Friday, October 6, 10:00-3:00.

A next step for the Northern CA Planning Area is to select a Chair to run future meetings. David Dean, Captain of Shasta County Sheriff's Office, was nominated *in absentia* by Bob Pasero, Orland PD. Dennis Garton, Tehama County Sheriff's Office, volunteered to be interim chair and host the next Planning Area meeting in Red Bluff.

Next meeting:
~~Thursday, November 9th, 2006~~
Changed to 11-30-06
10:00am to 12:00pm
1740 Walnut Street (old Juvenile Hall)
Red Bluff, CA 96080

There was a suggestion that future meeting sites could be rotated among different locations in the Northern Planning Area.

Adjourn

In Attendance

Doug Austin, Lieutenant, Colusa County Sherriff's Office
Michael Bentley, Administrative Sergeant, Plumas County Sheriff's Office
Joel Brown, Telecomm Tech, Butte County
Scott Bryan, OES Coordinator, CA Governor's Office of Emergency Services (CA OES)
Vincent Buehler, Analyst, CA Governor's Office of Homeland Security (CA OHS)
Scott Capilla, Lieutenant, Red Bluff Police Department
Paula Carr, Deputy Chief, CA OES
Dave Christian, Sheriff Volunteer, Humboldt Sheriff
Paul Clay, Sr. Telecom Tech, DGS Telecom
Bill Corey, Deputy Sheriff, Sutter County Sheriff's Office
Phil Daastol, Deputy Sheriff, Humboldt Sheriff
Chuck Datilen, Battalion Chief, Shasta Lake Fire Protection District
Dave Dean, Captain, Shasta County Sheriff's Office
Bill De Camp, CA Department of General Services Telecommunications Division (DGS-TD)
Dennis Garton, Undersheriff, Tehama County Sheriff's Office
Eric Gibson, Consultant, Valley Industrial
Mike Grant, Deputy Sheriff, Plumas County Sheriff's Office
Ben Green, Assistant Chief, CA OES
Weedy Hannibal, Telecom Manager, Butte County
Rachel Henderson, Dispatch Supervisor, CHP Redding
Chip Jackson, OES Chief, Lassen Operational Area
Dave Laffrachini, Undersheriff, Trinity County Sheriff's Office
Bob LaRose, Regional Manager, Raytheon JPS
Julia Lee, California State University Sacramento, Center for Collaborative Policy (CCP)
Alan Long, Captain, Yuba County Sheriff's Office
Kate Luginbuhl, Director of Operations, Mt. Shasta Fire Protection District
Scott D. Marshall, Sheriff, Colusa County
Ginger Marshall, Account Officer, Mt. Shasta Fire Protection District
Jake McHatton, Communications Officer, CA Department of Forestry (CDF) Telecom
Spiro Mitsanes, Epic Marketing
Richard Myers, Councilman. Yurok Tribe
Richard Osborne, T-Comm Chief, CA OES
Bob Pasero, Chief of Police, Orland Police Department
John Powell, Chairman, CA Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee (CALSIEC)
Christian Rizze, Consultant, Valley Industrial
Rob Rowley, Corporal, Siskiyou County Sheriff
Robert Samaan, Deputy Director, CA OHS
Jeff Schori, Battalion Chief, CDF
Jerry Shearman, Lieutenant, Shasta County Sherriff's Office
Charlie Simpson, Chief, CA OES-Law Enforcement
Al Smith, Lieutenant, Butte County Sheriff's Department
M.B. Stanbery, Glenn County Office of Emergency Services / Sherriff's Office
David Sumi, California State University Sacramento, Center for Collaborative Policy (CCP)
Tom Tappe, Lieutenant, Yuba City Police Department
Gail Tarbell, Planner: Grants, Yurok Tribe
Aaron Ward, Deputy County Administrator, Emergency Services, Yuba County
Keith White, Battalion Chief, CA Department of Forestry & Fire Protection
Holly Ziegler, OES Coordinator, CA OES