



Governors Office of Emergency Services

Henry Renteria, Director

“Central Valley Planning Area”

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

City of Clovis Fire Department-EOC Room
1233 5th Street, Clovis, CA 93612

September 27, 2006 Meeting Notes- DRAFT

Meeting Purpose: To initiate the formation of the establishment of the Central 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/>). This will be the first meeting of the CALSIEC Central Planning Area. *Counties in Central California Planning Area of CALSIEC:* Fresno, Kern, Kings, Madera, Mariposa, Merced, and Tulare.

Meeting Outcomes: Provide basic information on technical aspects of interoperability, learn about operability and interoperability needs and concerns of the 7 counties in the Central California Planning Area, and lay out future plans for group including discussion of charter.

Next Meeting Date: Thursday, November 3, 10:00 am – 1:00 pm. City of Clovis Fire Department.

Summary of Attendance: Representatives from all 7 counties attended. Full list of attendees included at back of notes.

Action Items:

- Because of the large great turn out there were not enough packets of information. If you need the materials please contact Julia and the materials will be emailed to you (je.lee@verizon.net)
- Documents to be posted on the web. Bill DeCamp & David Golden’s presentation slides.
- Documents to be emailed out to all attendees. Planning area governance structure (please reply with feedback). The meeting summary and next meeting information.
- If you are interested in becoming the chair or co-chair of the Central Valley Planning area please let Julia Lee know.
- Next meeting topics: Who has a TICP? Does it make sense to add other counties to that plan? Who should group together to make a TICP? Where are gaps in your area? Governance is also a critical discussion topic.

Welcome, Agenda Review and Greetings

Julia Lee, facilitator from the Center for Collaborative Policy, California State University Sacramento, opened the meeting. Lee Kraft, Clovis Fire Department and host for the day welcomed all. Ken Alvis, Manager Kern County Communications and a (statewide) CALSIEC member welcomed participants.

Julie went over the meeting materials and talked about the importance of the day's formation meeting. The new Central Valley CALSIEC group is a local group and participants were encouraged to "make it your meeting." Julia reviewed the agenda and then asked everyone to introduce themselves. Finally she reviewed some basic ground rules.

CALSIEC Mission, Vision, Governance

Bill DeCamp, CALSIEC & PSRSPC Member, Sr. Engineer, California Department of General Services (DGS), spoke about the CALSIEC Mission, vision, governance document (included in the meeting packet). He also referred to the CALSIEC website (a copy of the front page of the website was handed out).

Bill explained how the statewide CALSIEC group in Sacramento decided to divide the state into portions. That is how the four CALSIEC planning areas came to be. He noted that the State is providing facilitation support to all the regions (if they want it) through the Center for Collaborative Policy.

Next he talked through legislation that is about to be passed (copies included in the packet). Then Bill talked about SAFECOM and asked everyone to refer to the SAFECOM handout. It is a Federal organization that has many public safety representatives from around the country. The SAFECOM website has a lot of good information.

Bill then focused on gateways. Many have deployed gateways once and then when they need them they don't come together. Training and usage are critical. For example, in Los Angeles County they test their system each Tuesday and Thursday. They do it during a shift change to operate that variable. They basically do a role call of all the participating agencies (about 120 agencies) and it takes them about an hour each time.

Packet - California Interoperability: Introductory Information

Robert Samaan, CALSIEC & PSRSCP Member, Deputy Director, Governor's Office of Homeland Security (OHS), went over the 'read ahead' or packet of material entitled "California Interoperability: Introductory Information" (29 pages available online at: [http://rimsinland.oes.ca.gov/Operational/OESHome.nsf/PDF/CALSIEC%20Read-Ahead/\\$file/Interop%20Intro%20Info.pdf](http://rimsinland.oes.ca.gov/Operational/OESHome.nsf/PDF/CALSIEC%20Read-Ahead/$file/Interop%20Intro%20Info.pdf)). Robert explained that at the formation meeting of the Northern California group there were all types and levels of participants and all felt it would be helpful if there were some introductory materials. So the hope is this will be helpful to some. He then went over the table of contents.

Robert then focused on TICP's – Technical Interoperable Communications Plans. He explained that the State's designated Urban Area Strategic Initiative (UASI) areas have already been funded to do TICPS. What the State wants to do is expand beyond the urban areas. Looking first at where the plans have already been done and expanding from there. To create a TICP there are templates and they are fairly easy to fill out and finish. After the plans are done an exercise is conducted to validate them. With the TICPs that have been done so far, there are 8 exercises left to do out of 70. Robert referred to a yellow handout and noted that a requirement of the FY07 homeland security grants is to do a statewide TICP. So the idea is that the state will take all the TICPs from around the state and roll them up into one document. The yellow handout is the template of the planning development. So one charge of this new group that would be very helpful would be to assist in that effort.

ABC's of operability and interoperability

Bill DeCamp went through an informative PowerPoint presentation. He went over the electromagnetic spectrum, frequency allocations, frequency versus radio channels, public safety bands, propagation and band characteristics (low band, high band, UHF, 700/800 MHz).

He then talked about:

- Simplex radio communications, duplex communications, conventional repeaters, conventional systems.
- Voting receivers, analog v digital. The suite of standards known as Project 25 or P25 (for more on P25 see the "read-ahead" materials referenced earlier).
- Modulation choices were reviewed. Analog and standards better than P25.
- Trunked systems. A trunked system can be efficient. It requires a number of frequencies to be available.
- Simulcast. Multiple coordinated sites transmit simultaneously.
- Narrow banding and its implications. Narrow banding will free up more spectrum and allow others to have more access. There's a FCC mandate to change from wide band to narrowband by January 1, 2013.

Next he focused on interoperability. Interoperability is: The ability to talk to who you need to when you need to.

Operability must be addressed before interoperability. Bill talked about the many reasons to work toward interoperability such as natural disasters and terrorism. He then went over the SAFECOM interoperability spectrum. Gateways, shared channels (mutual aid), proprietary shared systems. Standards based shared system. Interoperability is just one of the vulnerable aspects of a communications system. It needs to be functional, operable, and personnel are needed to maintain the system.

David Golden, Chief of the Adjutant General State Military Department, then gave a presentation. He talked about how the National Guard is an asset to all local jurisdictions and a lot of people don't realize that. He noted that the perspective of the slides is from

the military department and it is not supposed to be taken as authoritative. He showed a video. The video highlighted a new asset called the IC4U for "Incident Commanders, Command, Communications Unit". The specialized communications equipment contained in the IC4U links voice/data/video from many sources for satellite uplink to a joint operations headquarters. The IC4U uses the latest technology to link radios from federal, state, local, military as well as emergency "Ham radio" operators into a common "talk-group" system. David talked about his experience in post-Hurricane Katrina Louisiana with multiple IC4U units in the field. His efforts have really been about building a solution to interoperability challenges from an IT perspective.

Demonstration of Local System

David Golden then led everyone outside where he had the IC4U setup.

Statewide Assessment Survey on Interoperability - Update

Rich Mallory, Project Manager, Office of Emergency Services (OES), referenced an excel spreadsheet (in the meeting packet). He noted that CALSIEC and PSRSPC members are the same people, in that they are people with an interest in public safety. The interoperability project is the exploration and use of gateways in regional/ local areas. As a pilot project two gateways will be deployed. The PSRSPC Technical Working Group (TWG) is looking at all the issues of governance, trying to bring technology and governance together. Many have struggled for years with old radios that can't be replaced, but now, post 9/11 the public is saying we want top-notch communications systems.

The State is currently doing a statewide Communications Systems Assessment and that will help everyone understand what there is and what we need and how we get there.

If you go to the PSRSPC website, go to the left column "communications systems assessment survey" to take a look. If you haven't filled out the survey yet please do so. The folks that are inputting the info into the survey will become a resource for the state.

Robert Saaman added that understanding what everyone needs helps to make the case as to where resources to go. PSRSPC would like to make the survey information available to the planning areas so everyone can use it. It is for planning purposes.

City, County, and Operational Area Presentations

John Downing, Telecommunications Engineer, County of Fresno started off with a video on their Operation FORCE program which has 15 agencies participating.

A question was asked: How did you integrate that into your TICP?

Answer. Fresno was recipient of a UASI award of 7 million dollars. The area work group decided how to integrate voice operability and concentrated on voice. The area has disparate frequencies -- High, low, everything. They were trying to link channels based on where incident was but this wasn't functional. The tech folks said lets link dispatch centers and then everyone could cross communicate. It has been a long process, since 2004.

Ken Alvis, CALSIEC member, Manager Kern County Communications, began by explaining that Kern County straddles both the Central Valley and Southern planning regions.

Ken has 8000 sq miles and all types of terrain. They have spent 28 million on upgrades. They have VHF, fire, UHF. They keep what they do simplistic because they effect so many. Anyone can utilize their frequencies; they currently have 50 agency agreements. A request is made and then they send it back with conditions. They have a mutual aid channel. If anyone want access just see him and he'll be glad to accommodate you.

CALSIEC Central Valley Planning Area Governance (Charter)

Julia referenced a workbook in the meeting packet that is focus on small group work. She asked everyone to get into groups of 5 to 8 people and discuss development a charter for the Central Valley Planning Area.

The groups reported out:

Group A.

- The discussion focused on planning a CHP gateway.
- How to interact? At a planning level, who needs to talk to who? Command level, On scene level.
- Needs to be planned before the incident or you'll have trouble.
- Different variation -- If possible to build one office then I'd cohabitate.
- Most important is that people in the field can talk to each other. That should be focus.
- Most of the gateways can have different levels of connectivity.

Group B.

- ❖ This group was local vendors and they talked about their gateway products.

Group C.

- See the purpose of this planning area as a place to share information.
- Working beyond one's own county.
- All the technical stuff is hard (know this from all the efforts so far).

Group D.

- ❖ The focus of the discussion was on resources;
- ❖ Important to understand what resources are available between counties and how to use them.
- ❖ CHF, CHP and of mutual aid channels but people don't know how to use them.
- ❖ Focus should on what's available
- ❖ Would a gateway be cross-banded in field or in dispatch centers Who'd be in control?

Group E.

- An example had been discussed. An area had total agreement on what to do – they implemented that plan and it was a failure.
- The technology wasn't there.
- Result: The Sheriff went to tech people and they linked channels together and today it is in place and works well.
- Must have a plan and then the technology will come. Plan then money – not the other way around!

Group F.

- ❖ Their discussion focused on the many different operational needs. Small and large agencies have different needs.
- ❖ All players need to be well represented.
- ❖ But that makes for a big group. How to narrow it down?
- ❖ In this area we are 16-18 cities, 7 counties. Really need to consider all the players.
- ❖ Added: There is plenty of interest by the small cities. Sometimes it would be a city manager for a very small city or other times it would be fire, EMS, police.

It was noted that Ken has been the torchbearer for the Central Valley area. If anyone else is interested in becoming a statewide CALSIEC member please let Ken or Julia Lee know.

Next Steps

- Meeting packet handouts. There were not enough packets for all attendees, if you need the materials please contact Julia and the materials will be emailed to you.
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Meeting Evaluation

Pluses:

- ❖ Timeliness

Changes:

- ❖ Sound system

Attendees:

Feryan	Matt		OES-Fresno Co.
Armstrong	Marion	PSDSI CHP	CHP
Green	Ben	Asst. Chief Telecom	OES-State
Haskill	Rick	Lt.	Visalia PD
Martin	Lyle	Lieutenant	Bakersfield PD
Downing	John	Telecomm Engineer	County of Fresno
Jones	David	EMS Coordinator	County of Fresno
Perry	Mel	Comm Coordinator	City of Bakersfield
Marchini	Derek	Manager	Cook's Comm Corp
Myers	Matt	EMS Specialist	County of Fresno
Buehler	Vinnie	Analyst	CA Off of Homeland Sec
Coolbaugh	Eric	PM	ICTAP SSC-SD
Moore	Francis	Commander	Kern Co. Sheriff
Mendoza	Ted	Div Chief	Tulare Co. Fire
Semonious	Ted	Captain	Fresno Fire
Navarrette	John	Dir General Services	Fresno County
Ishii	Jeanette	Assistant CAO	Fresno County
Orta	Brandi	Princ Analyst	Fresno County
Pettit	Glen	Capt	CA ANG 144 FW
Pipes	Gordon	SSG	CA ANG 144 FW/CF
Carter	Marsh	Lt.	Tulare Co. S.D.
Simpson	Charlie	Chief	CA -OES -LAW
Gross	Don	Lieutenant	Fresno PD
Salvador	Michael	Lieutenant	Madera SO
De Camp	Bill	Sr Telecom Engr	DGSTD
Binnewies	Doug	Capt	Mariposa Sheriff's Department
Samaan	Robert	Dep Director	CA Off of Homeland Sec
Dottai	Mike	Comm Mgr.	Fresno City
Greathouse	Russ	Capt	Clovis PD
Secovitch	Robert	Comm Supervisor	Tulare County
Middleton	Jim	Deputy Fire Chief	Mariposa County
Nelson	Donna	Com Supr	Kingsburg PD
Lambert	Paul		Cook's Comm Corp
Cook	Mary	Comm/Disp Coor	EMSA
Thomson	Preston	Frequency Advisor	NAPCO
Singleton	David	Sgt	Tulare County Sheriff
Blake-Lobb	Glenn	Sr. Dispatcher	Kern Co. S.O.
McHatton	Jake	Com Officer	CDF F.P. Telecom
Gaad	Allen	Lt.	CSUF P.D.
Smith	Clay	Battalion Chief	Kings County Fire
Ruiz	Javier	Systems Analyst	City of Visalia
Baker	Jon	Sergenat	CHP- Fresno
Rau	Mark	Com Mgr	Clovis PD
Brogdon	Mike	Lieutenant	Fresno, PD
Baucom	Chuck	EMS Administrator	Merced EMS
Alvis	Ken	Comm Mgr.	Kern County
Munro	Jim	Officer	Clovis PD
Lemas	Traci	Lieutenant	CHP/Merced
Norton	Bill	Sr. Telecom tech	DGS, Telecom

Handley	Stacy	Comm Supervisor	Visalia PD
Delap	Lee	Fire Warden	Fresno County
Harjo	Lee	Lt.	CHP Fresno
Dyck	Myron	Lt.	Selma P.D.
Andreotti	Gregg	Sgt	FSO
Kraft	Lee	Bat Chief	Clovis Fire
Ballowe	Bill		Epic Marketing
Krstic	Murio	Chief of Police	Farmersville P.D.
Phelan	Leanne	Comm Supervisor	CHP
Emerzian	Randy	Manager	J's Comm- Motorola
Austin	Ken	Coordinator	Fresno Co OES
Powell	David	Fire Chief	City of Reedley
Barken	Jerry	Lieutenant	CHP
Albitre	Joe	Pub Safety Dispatch	CHP Bakersfield
Lee	Julia	Facilitator	CSUS-CCP
Rubin	Sarah	Facilitator	CSUS-CCP