



Mutual Aid Box Alarm System Communications Committee

Meeting Minutes

January 15, 2007

Members Present: Paul Maplethorpe, Round Lake; Dave Dato, Wauconda; Dave Riddle, Channahon; Bill Bouma, Mt. Pleasant; John Lozar, Ducomm; Steve Rauter, WESCOM

Guests Present: Brian Satula, Oak Creek, WI.

Agenda Item:	Discussion/Decision:	Follow-up/Responsibility:
Call to Order	Co-Chair Paul Maplethorpe welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 1000 hours at Lisle-Woodridge Station 1.	
Approve Minutes	Chief Bouma moved to approve the minutes from the December 18, 2006 meeting as presented. Second by Chief Dato. All AYES; motion carried.	
IFERN Capacity	<p>Chief Bouma reported that MABAS Wisconsin's Communications Committee has discussed capacity issues regarding IFERN. They are proposing that Wisconsin use IFERN2 instead of IFERN for MABAS operations.</p> <p>Chief Maplethorpe related that recent activation of a patch between Milwaukee County's 800 MHz trunked system and the IFERN base station in Oak Creek is the cause of much of the discussion. He suggested that if the need for a patch continues, Milwaukee County should consider lower power and lower antenna height base radios for the patch.</p> <p>Chief Satula reported that Oak Creek plans to lower its base antenna for the patch. Terrain issues were also discussed. Several options were debated including other link options, frequencies, link locations.</p> <p>Chief Maplethorpe stated that use of IFERN2 for routine MABAS operations in Wisconsin would be problematic, especially for Divisions that border Illinois. The narrow-band IFERN2 will also be an issue for many departments using older equipment. Interoperability is a goal of MABAS and separating frequencies by state seems to work against that goal.</p> <p>Chief Bouma suggested that members of the MABAS Communications Committee meet with MABAS Wisconsin's Communications Committee to brainstorm the problem. Dates in February will be considered.</p> <p>A discussion was also held concerning the need for more courtesy, procedures and discipline on IFERN.</p>	Chief Bouma – Propose Dates

<p>MABAS Division Radio Test Schedule</p>	<p>Chief Bouma presented the revised MABAS Division communications test schedule for consideration. Corrections were made to the listing for Division 16 and 106. Chief Bouma will make the corrections discussed and forward the document to Chief Maplethorpe. It will then be forwarded to Chief Reardon for consideration at the February MABAS Executive Board meeting.</p> <p>Mr. Rauter moved to approve the revised MABAS Division Radio Test Schedule and forward the schedule to the MABAS Executive Board for consideration. Second by Chief Dato. All AYES; motion carried.</p>	<p>Chief Bouma – Update Document Chief Maplethorpe – Forward Document for Consideration</p>
<p>2007 MABAS Conference</p>	<p>Chief Maplethorpe reported that the agenda for the 2007 MABAS Conference has not been released yet. He also related that the Communications Committee has not been asked to participate in the conference.</p>	
<p>OLD BUSINESS: MERCY Base Stations</p>	<p>Mr. Rauter reported that various hospital “PL” issues are being resolved.</p>	
<p>VHF Interoperability</p>	<p>No report.</p>	
<p>Rock Island County</p>	<p>No report.</p>	
<p>Southwest Central</p>	<p>No report.</p>	
<p>EMnet</p>	<p>Chief Maplethorpe reported that the fire departments identified as Priority 1 for EMnet have received applications from Comlabs.</p> <p>Chief Bouma reported that Esponder is functioning in Wisconsin. A brief discussion ensued concerning a potential link between EMnet and Esponder.</p>	
<p>MABAS Dispatch Yahoo Group</p>	<p>Mr. Rauter reported that memberships in the MABAS Dispatch Yahoo Group continue to ramp up. Chief Maplethorpe suggested closer moderation of some of the topics to prevent them from going too far astray and becoming counter-productive.</p>	
<p>Statewide Radio License</p>	<p>Chief Maplethorpe reported that this issue remains stagnant but needs to move forward.</p>	
<p>Carbondale Area</p>	<p>No report.</p>	
<p>Statewide Interop Executive Committee</p>	<p>Chief Dato reported that the Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee is progressing slowly. ISP Colonel Allen is the acting chairman. The SIEC is looking at interoperability at all frequency bands, not just 700 MHz. Chief Dato suggested that the MABAS Communications Committee support the SIEC coordinating interoperability in all bands.</p> <p>Chief Riddle moved to direct Chief Dato to prepare a resolution supporting the SIEC and interoperability in all frequency bands. Second by Chief Bouma. All AYES; motion carried.</p>	<p>Chief Dato – Prepare Resolution</p>

Starcom21	<p>Chief Dato reported that acceptance for the system has been moved to the first quarter of 2007. He also related that Motorola will be reprogramming all radios to add talkgroups.</p> <p>Chief Maplethorpe reported that Mike Chamness recently stated that ITTF will host one more round of purchasing for Starcom21 radios in 2007. Departments interested in obtaining a Starcom21 radio should send a letter to Mike Chamness and Don Kauerauf at ITTF requesting consideration.</p> <p>A general discussion ensued concerning the numerous requests from MABAS members for guidance on the use of Starcom21, VHF Interoperability Radios and EMnet.</p>	
BLUE Fireground	Chief Satula reported that the City of Milwaukee will be dropping its patch on BLUE Fireground.	
<p>New Business: Committee Membership</p> <p>Information for the Good of the Committee Region 54</p>	<p>Mr. Rauter has retired from the Lisle-Woodridge Fire Protection District but has accepted the position of Executive Director of the WESCOM Communications Center in Plainfield.</p> <p>Chief Dato moved to maintain Mr. Rauter’s membership on the Communications Committee. Second by Chief Bouma. All AYES; motion carried.</p> <p>Mr. Rauter reported that Region 54 has finalized its 700 MHz interoperability plan. The plan has been distributed to neighboring regions for concurrence. Region 54 plans to submit the plan to the FCC in approximately 4 months.</p>	
Cyren Call	Chief Bouma questioned the status of the Cyren Call proposal. Consensus of the Committee was to support reserving the 700 MHz frequencies for public safety use. The Committee did not support a monopoly controlling these frequencies, however.	
Chicago Fire Department	Chief Riddle briefly discussed recent DHS and media reports concerning public safety interoperability between Chicago and the suburbs. He requested that a member be added to the Communications Committee from Chicago F.D. Chief Maplethorpe agreed to contact Chicago to request a representative for the committee.	Chief Maplethorpe – Contact Chicago
Adjournment	Chief Dato moved to adjourn the meeting. Second by Chief Riddle. ALL Ayes; the meeting adjourned at 1200 hours.	
Next Meeting	The next meeting will be held on Monday, February 19, 2007 at Lisle-Woodridge Station 1 beginning at 0900 hours.	
	Minutes taken by Paul Maplethorpe.	