



Mutual Aid Box Alarm System

Telecommunications, Communications & Dispatch Committee

Meeting Minutes (DRAFT)

March 31, 2008

Members Present:	Steve Rauter Co-chair, WESCOM; John Lozar, DuComm; Bob Mierop, Bolingbrook FD entered meeting @ 10:15; Dennis Higgins, Ford County 911; Rick Kleinhaus, Evergreen Park FD; Bill Bouma, Mt. Pleasant FD, WI MABAS Liaison
Guests Present:	Paul Maplethorpe, Round Lake joined @ 10:18 via conference call bridge
Conference Call:	David Riddle, Channahon FPD, MABAS 15; Alan Choutka, DuPage County; Chris Kindlespire, Grundy County 9-1-1; Jim Clausen, RED Center; Larry Matkaitis, OSFM; Len Edling, CFD @ 10:53, Karl Guse, Wisconsin @ 10:15, attending via conference call bridge

Agenda Item	Discussion/Decision	Follow-up Responsibility
Call to Order	Co-Chair Steve Rauter welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 1006 hours at Lisle Woodridge FPD Station #1.	
Approve Minutes	Kris Kindlespire moved to approve the February 25, 2008 meeting minutes as presented. Second by John Lozar. All AYES; motion carried.	
OLD BUSINESS		
2008 MABAS Conferences	Rauter sent out copy of attendee's responses from MABAS conference presentations. Please review. General discussion. Matkaitis agreed with the general positive comments received. Clausen thinks some more emphasis should be placed on "beginner" level classes should be on the agenda for next year. Additional discussion on more table-top exercises should be offered. Also, more opportunities for interaction between Chiefs and T/C's during the instructional portions should be available. Consideration of a different/larger space should be considered for the future to accommodate this interaction. This will be on the next agenda	
Starcom21 SOG	Procedures needed still regarding documentation ("MABAS 101" as referred to by Rauter) on issues that are still arising. Rauter addressed this and is awaiting further from Dato. Rauter also sees need for training package. Maplethorpe thinks things are on track but would like to resend the document out for review. Rauter would like a "just-in-time" deployment document for use. Jim Clausen will develop document. Maplethorpe wants to remind everyone that one of the goals of Starcom21 is to be used as a deployment coordinating tool for the various disciplines. Maplethorpe also ordered new Motorola radio equipment for the 2008 Starcom21 interoperability order. The radios will be XTL 2500's.	Steve Rauter and Dave Dato Jim Clausen
Incident Benchmark SOG	Bouma relates that Wisconsin is reviewing the Illinois policy to coordinate the two. Bouma will send a draft copy of what they have so far for attachment to these minutes. Maplethorpe adds comments relating to the MABAS time-frame benchmark standards following established NFPA standards. This will be on the agenda for next meeting.	Bill Bouma and Jim Clausen
MABAS Computer network	Developing an interactive web site is a great need. It is moving forward and is a priority. Rauter summarized progress. Still moving forward.	

Narrowband Migration – Statewide Frequencies	2 meetings so far for narrowband interoperability for Illinois. Moving resolution to 2012 vs. 2103. Coordinating with I-Reach and ISPERN boards. Lozar addresses Tri-Com narrow band plan. PD first, Fire next year.	John Lozar, Steve Rauter and Dennis Higgins
Associate MABAS Membership for Comm Centers, Division Dispatch	Given to MABAS Bylaws committee. No report yet as far as we know.	
SIEC	Kindlespire set up an FTP site for members to review the documents relating to this plan. SCIP to be endorsed by committee. Higgins motion, Mierop second to accept the SCIP on behalf of MABAS. Roll call vote = All AYES, motion carried. Rauter will draft letter indicating Committee’s support. Kindlespire will provide Rauter with template for letter to be sent to Don Keuerauff.	Rauter
EMnet	Choutka having FEMA regional meetings with multi-disciplinary groups. He’s received 3 post conference comments that people want more info on EMnet.	Choutka
Statewide Radio License	Maplethorpe hasn’t submitted yet, but should do so today. Paul gave summary of what license changes he’s applied for. This is an update to the statewide MABAS licenses. Question on the MERCI licenses. Paul is just doing the statewide MABAS licenses.	Maplethorpe
Cook County UASI Interoperability Committee	Chicago’s plan of putting repeaters on the V-Tac channels has been modified and is acceptable to all stakeholders. Kindlespire raised the issue that the license preparer for Chicago’s plan may not be in sync with the agreement with MABAS for the modification of Chicago’s original plan.	
Chicago Interoperability – Guideline established	Motorola says that by August system will be up. CFD will migrate gradually, to the new system, aiming at a late-fall complete transition. Edling then summarized how the various companies will be provided with the various radios, types and frequencies and a description of how the system will operate.	
Haz-Mat Operations Frequencies	A Statewide universal plan perhaps including 700mHz analog was discussed. This in an attempt to allow interoperability plan for Hazmat ops. Maplethorpe relates that the Statewide plan has a Hazmat ops suite identified already. This can be viewed in the MABAS matrix. Plan will improve after everyone goes to narrow band. Adjacent channel interference is a problem, potentially, now but will be resolved. This will be removed from future agendas.	

New Business

Kindlespire relates that at the NIPSTC meetings it was discussed that the “red, white and blue naming conventions were well-established in Illinois. However the naming conventions should be followed for the new 700MHz frequencies. There should also be a quick cross-reference chart available for the Illinois naming conventions already in use, to make it user friendly (cheat-sheet) for out-of-Illinois responders. Gusse believes the tone-squelch (156.7) from the national plan could be a problem for adjacent channel interference in the Illinois plan. Lozar references pg. 8 from NIPSTC, he doesn’t see fireground gold as a naming convention. Maplethorpe responds that frequencies (153.83 and 153.85?) originally reserved for low power mobile operations only on the fireground are not now interoperability channels licensed for that use. Rauter believes we should include a cross-reference matrix in the interoperability policy for Illinois naming conventions as they relate to the federal naming conventions. Rauter will provide this for approval at the next meeting.

Rauter

Rauter asks if there should be some local effort to have pre-designated channels for other discipline’s channel assignments.

IV.B.ii – This committee would like to be involved in this discussion as it relates to 800 or 700 tactical standards.

IV.B.iii – nothing new here yet on device solutions.

IV.B.iii.2 – (25 ft. - 25w guideline) General discussion. Maplethorpe opposed to fixed base stations on these channels. Milwaukee was moving in this direction. This is an on-going issue and this committee should get a hand on the issues this presents. **This will remain on agenda under old business.**

Liaison Information

Wisconsin MABAS-Gusse: 6 channel application to FCC for FTA in the 800 range. Application returned for further information. Bouma: Some departments having trouble joining MABAS. Also, he discussed a change in the box card format because some agencies staff their stations in quarters rather than “truly” responding to other agencies who have requested assistance, due to their policy of staying in quarters UNLESS they’re actually needed at a working incident. Clausen provided a simple solution and Bouma will offer that solution to his agencies in Wisconsin.

OSFM- Now has a seat at Chicago’s 9-1-1 center. Fire Prevention reports are now via email to local departments/districts. No more written reports will be mailed.

IDPH- A short discussion on the apparent disarray that exists in this agency.

Information for the Good of the Committee

Bouma requesting audio of box alarms that he can use for training.

Clausen

Maplethorpe relates that MABAS is working with Motorola to develop a training curriculum to certify fire dispatchers. Multiple levels would be available in this curriculum. They want to take it to the OSFM for future certification and the testing process. Clausen, Maplethorpe, Lipinski and others are involved in these early discussions. They’ve had 2 meetings so far. **This will be an agenda time for future reports from Jim Clausen.**

Adjournment

Bob Mierop moved to adjourn the meeting. Second by Len Edling. All AYES; the meeting adjourned at 1149 hours.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Monday, April 28, 2008 at Lisle Woodridge FPD Station #1 beginning at 1000 hours. Minutes taken by David Riddle.