

Net Notes for April 28, 2010

News and Announcements

1) Upcoming Events

5/1 CARA Hamfest

7/4 Bisbee Coaster Race

7/16-17 Williams Hamfest

2) La Vuelta de Bisbee – First I want to thank all of you who participated this past weekend and helped with the La Vuelta de Bisbee. Mr. Hopper, the Race Director, reiterated that it would be impossible for him to organize and put on such an event without our assistance. I am still working on lessons learned for the After Action Report. I will try to finish in the next couple days.

Training — A couple weeks ago I attended the Communications Interoperability Outreach Workshop in Phoenix and a number of interesting items were discussed. I would like to share some of those with you this evening. Some of the items discussed included "Narrow-banding" of Public Safety radios by 1 January 2013, goals of the National Emergency Communications Plan (NECP), the State Communications Interoperability Plan (SCIP), the Arizona Interoperability Radio System (AIRS) and the Tactical Interoperability Communications Plans (TICPs).

First Narrow-banding – I think most of you are already aware that there is a mandate for users in the VHF band of 150-174 MHz, UHF band of 450 – 512 MHz to move to narrow band equipment by 1 January 2013. It does not impact 700 or 800 MHz allocations. The public safety agencies within Cochise County are working toward meeting this mandate through license upgrades and equipment upgrades. For example, we already have swapped out some radios in the MCU to be narrow band compliant. We are not finished yet with upgrading MCU equipment because some of our possible clients are also switching to digital modes. We are also trying to educate other users such as school systems and other users through the Local Emergency Planning Committee. If you are aware of users such as cab companies, tow companies etc that are users of these bands, we should all be letting them know of these requirements so that they can make an orderly transition to the narrow band equipment.

National Emergency Communications Plan (NECP) – The current NECP was released in 2008. It is built around three primary goals and sets timelines to demonstrate successful communications response levels to emergencies. The key goal is that emergency response personnel can communicate as needed, on demand, and as authorized at all levels of government across all disciplines. Specific timelines were set for various jurisdictions to demonstrate successful Response Level Emergency Communications. This subset of goals are:

Goal 1 – By 2010 - 90% of the Urban Area Security Initiatives (UASIs) within one hour. In Arizona we have two designated UASIs: Maricopa County & Pima County. They just completed their evaluation but the results have not been released. The events

used for evaluation included the Davis Monthan Air Show & a recent NASCAR Race in Phoenix. More on that in a minute.

Goal 2 - By 2011 – 75% of non-UASI jurisdictions within one hour. In Arizona, this means the remaining 13 counties need to be evaluated. Cochise County is scheduled to be evaluated between Dec 2010 and May 2011. Specific criteria are being developed and are scheduled to be released in November.

Goal 3 – By 2012 – 75% of all jurisdictions must react within 3 hours,

Of the 60 UASI regions identified within the states the following challenges were identified during the Goal 1 evaluation preparation:

- 1) General lack of familiarization with ICS Forms
- 2) Lack of familiarization with creating an Incident Action Plan or IAP.
- 3) Lack of ICS 217 forms in the region. The 217 is a catalog of available frequencies and usage in the region.
- 4) Frequency/Channel limitations
- 5) Lack of a Tactical Interoperable Communications Plan (We are working on one for Cochise County as we speak.
- 6) Continued use of 10-codes or coded substitutions.
- 7) Reluctance to establish Unified Command when required.
- 8) Lack of acceptance of NECP goals as a way of doing business.
- 9) Span of Control. One supervisor, too many subordinates.

We know that when we are evaluated these areas will be examined carefully:

Written Command Policies & Procedures

Leadership Roles & Responsibilities

Quality and Continuity of Communications during the event.

To wrap up tonight's training I want to explain what the TICP is in more detail. The TICP documents:

The Interoperable communications structure for the area

Technology Assets available

Usage Policies & Procedures for those assets

It also Defines:

Breadth & Scope of interoperable assets in the area

How the assets such as the MCU is shared

How the use of assets is prioritized

What steps individual agencies should follow to request, activate, use and deactivate each asset.

I hope this explanation is clear enough for you to understand why this is important to us as RACES members as well as the folks we traditionally support. We will discuss different aspects of this in future nets.

Don't forget our next Net will be on May 12 at 2000 Hrs. Don't forget the CARA net on Thursday evenings at 1900 hours on the 146.76 repeater. This is N7INK and the net is closed.

Bob

Robert L Hollister

Thought for the day:

"Life may not be the party you expected but while you're here you may as well dance."

Unknown