

**New Hampshire
Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee (SIEC) Meeting
August 13, 2021
Richard M. Flynn Fire & EMS Academy
98 Smokey Bear Boulevard
Concord, New Hampshire**

I. Welcome and Introduction

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Tom Andross at 9:16 AM with 14 people present. The quorum requirement of 12 voting members present was not met. **The meeting is being held for information purposes only.**

II. Accepting Minutes from May 14, 2021 SIEC meeting

No approval taken due to a lack of quorum. Approval will be requested at November 12, 2021 SIEC meeting.

III. New Hampshire Updates – John Stevens, SWIC/SPOC

- *COMT (Technician) class – August 2021
- *ICS 300 class – August 2021
- *COML (Leader) class – scheduled for September 2021
- *COMU (Unit) Exercise – scheduled for October 2021 with a Mutualink component
- *FirstNet Executive Board meeting in NH – scheduled for May 2022
- *AT&T cellular coverage testing – scheduled for August 2021 in Cheshire, Grafton & Sullivan counties
- *Recruit class on Interoperability Communications – scheduled for October 2021
- *Mutualink Training Sessions: 54 sites & 175 on-line
- *AT&T RAN Meeting – scheduled for September 2021
- *FirstNet webinars on-going

IV. MUTALINK Presentation – Mark Hatten, CEO/Chairman

- *NH first state to implement a statewide platform of “Connected Smart Communities”
- *Emphasis to unify, connect and act

V. FirstNet’s Public Safety Advisory Committee (PSAC) Update – Denis Goulet, Commissioner, CIO, DoIT

- *Review of the AT&T Nashville Data Center incident (initial battery power use due to generators under water)
- *FirstNet applications working well in many disasters
- *Continuous outreach to communities for recommendations on FirstNet upgrades/implementations
- *Discussions on FirstNet interoperability between cell carriers

VI. Work Groups Status Updates

***Radio Frequency Communications WG – Rick Todd**

Jon Goldman, Chairman, submitted the following notes:

1. Several update items over the past months:
 - *Derry FD P25 is a stand-alone channel
 - *Chester FD/Auburn FD repeater channel remains in Fire matrix

- *LRMFA Channel 7 to be added to Fire matrix when space available
- *VTAC 36/SOU deconfliction process under review
- *Continued work on console ID programming procedure for SWIC implementation
- *Meeting with Bill Mansfield-Nashua Communications regarding Merrimack FD using Nashua FD 800 MHz system. Merrimack FD will retain current VHF system for incoming mutual aid use
- *WG member Adam Sattler reviewing all matrices & to deconflict them from the "H" Bank & "Federal Law" Bank
- *Work Group/SWIC/NHDESC researching radio patching of VTAC13/Seacoast Fire incidents

*Rick Todd noted the following:

1. VTAC36 conflicts with regional SWAT operations programming with discussion in progress
2. "TIC FOG" document updates being coordinated by WG

***Operations WG – Thayer Paronto**

George Feole, Chairman, submitted the following notes:

1. Interoperability Zone Deconfliction issue:

Thayer Paronto making great progress on developing procedure. Beta testing accomplished and further testing by selected comms centers prior to implementation

2. **COMU (Unit) Subcommittee – Cecily McNair**

- *Communications classes, as reported previously, held or scheduled through fall 2021
- *Formal COML recertification review for Josh Mann will be conducted
- *Efforts continue to establish an Interoperability Training Subcommittee
- **"Interoperability Communications" classes available through the NH Fire & Police Academies

***Data Communications WG – Art Durette**

Art Durette, Chairman, submitted the following notes (read by John Stevens):

- *Increased FirstNet coverage in Hillsboro, Londonderry, Manchester & Twin Mountain areas
- *HPUE (High Power User Equipment) authorized by the FCC to amplify Band 14 tested in DOS vehicles. Data provided to vendor (Argain) including remote data collection capability and adding GPS antennas. Upgraded units will be tested.
- *NH Fish & Game and NHDESC testing FirstNet LTE-equipped LMR portable radios
- *NHDESC continues to assist with communications, video and data connectivity at incidents and planned NH events such as NASCAR and Hampton Beach
- *NHHSEM & NHDESC continue cellular, LMR and landline school surveys for communications capabilities and gaps
- *In-building LMR and cellular coverage issues at Hazen Drive-Concord being reviewed and mitigated
- *SIYATA (UNIDEN) has announce a ruggedized MCPTT-rated handheld device which will be unveiled at the APCO convention

VII. FirstNet Update – Bruce Fitzgerald, Region I Coordinator

Bruce Fitzgerald, Region I Coordinator, submitted the following notes (read by Lisa Benincasa):

- *Thanks to John Stevens, Art Durette and Jon Goldman for participating in the FirstNet Authority focus group on NextGen devices yesterday
- *Nationwide public safety officials input on "next generation" handheld devices requirements
- *LMR vs LTE, device capabilities, ruggedness and essential features under discussion
- *Discussion on common communications tasks (location/dispatching/database queries/help calls, etc.) for today and future needs

- *New Hampshire officials feedback greatly appreciated
- *FirstNet Maximizing Coverage webinar scheduled
- *FirstNet Authority “Emergency Management Resource Guide” in August 2021
Topics include: Deployables, FirstNet Central, best practices: device caches, pre-planning and exercises, updating communications plans with projected release September 2021
- *SIEC member familiar with FirstNet Central Network Status Tool and Uplift
- *Team project to develop technical assistance with training on Central Network functions and pre-planning mutual aid functions and engage selected SIEC members in beta testing
- *Lisa advised FirstNet has Planning Teams available to assist public safety agencies

VIII. AT&T Presentation – Lisa Benincasa, FirstNet Principal Consultant

1. 2021 NH infrastructure statistics:

- *11 new sites operational: 6 FirstNet & 5 BAU (Business as Usual)
- *Recent Towers: Londonderry & Twin Mountain
- *New Sites operational: Hazen Drive-Concord, Jaffrey, Shelburne, Stewartstown
- * AT&T and SWIC planning “County” meetings to identify cell coverage “gaps”
- *Steve Shea advised Manchester-Boston Regional Airport project with AT&T to automate runway snow melter system tanks use from snow plow vehicles
- *Next AT&T RAN meeting August 24, 2021 9:00 AM at NH Fire & EMS Academy-Concord

IX. New Business

- *Training Sub-committee can assist Grants Management Unit-NH Department of Safety in Identifying statewide training needs for utilizing funding for programs
- *SIEC Executive Management Board to review Training Committee needs after September 24, 2021 Work Groups meeting
- *Tom Andross recommended review of Committee Chairman position in coming months
- *Rick Todd advised “NH Fire & All Hazards Mobilization Plan” currently under review
- *Thayer Paronto noted that Grafton Country Sheriff’s Office, Hanover Police Department and other NH agencies working on a contract with CSI
- *David Chase advised FCC rule changes underway regarding frequencies updates

X. Roundtable

- *No topics

XI. Next meeting

- *Friday, November 12, 2021 Classrooms, “New Dorm” NH Fire & EMS Academy Concord, NH

XII. Adjournment

- *With no quorum, Chairman Tom Andross closed the meeting at 10:30 AM

Respectfully submitted.

William H. Wood
Secretary