

**New Hampshire
Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee (SIEC) Meeting
February 11, 2022 | 9:00 AM
NHFA Classrooms 5, 6 & 7**

I. Welcome and Introduction

The meeting was called to order at 9:07 AM.

II. Accepting Minutes from December 3rd

A motion was made to approve the minutes by Chief Sitar, and seconded by Assistant Commissioner Bailey. All voted in favor, except for Judy Aron and Paul Raymond who both abstained. The minutes are approved.

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

There is an ongoing effort regarding the Compact Response Deployables (CRDs), involving working on a P37, and this will eventually come before Governor and Council. Mutualink has had great success throughout NH. Training for Mutualink is still being planned, but due to COVID some of these trainings have had to be postponed and rescheduled. If you or your agency have a need for training, please let the SWIC's Office know so that arrangements can be made.

Upcoming exercises: TERT Rally on May 20, FALLCOMM, New England Planning Exercise, an exercise in Gorham this spring, and various others. HSEM, the Fire Academy and the SWIC's Office are working collaboratively to develop a shared training calendar across Dept. of Safety agencies. We appreciate the ongoing support that CISA has provided to the state. Our 2022 requests are for a SCIP (Statewide Communication Interoperability Plan) update, an eFOG (e-Field Operations Guide) development workshop, drive testing in Belknap and Carroll counties, and a communication focused exercise.

IV. Working Groups Status Updates

○ **Radio Frequency Communications WG – Jon Goldman**

- Tom Andross advised that TwinState#4 in the FireNet will be going away.
- Mass Border Towns: Arlene brought up the issue with Mass agencies who come up on a NH frequency, and we don't know because they don't have Astro ID. (DOD Comm's will look into this to make a recommendation)
- Merrimack 800 Project: Merrimack is migrating to the Nashua 800 system for PD & FD. The PD will be encrypted on a day to day basis and if they have an incident that involves other towns they will patch VHF to 800. Sounds like FD will be patched all the time. They need to put an additional site on Hutchinson Road water tower to get 100% coverage.
- Strafford County Simulcast: Strafford County is putting in a multi-site simulcast system in for its fire department frequencies.
- Planning to have the radio shops back in to have a discussion about the reprogramming project. Some shops are reprogramming with out of date code-plugs. John Stevens will set a meeting up in the future.
- Josh @ DOS advised that they received correspondence from Seabrook Station regarding an interop channel for events on the property. They will patch the Interop channel to their system. Discussion and the committee decided to assign VCALL-10 as a go-to channel for incidents involving a response to Seabrook Station.
- John Stevens advised only 12% have opted in regarding the re-programming grant. Deadline is August 2022. If other agencies want to get in on the grant they need to submit paperwork ASAP.

Captain Feole added that the NH Tactical Officers Association had asked for a Mutualink presentation, and Sean Goodwin was able to accommodate the request. Sean thought the presentation went well, and offered to come back again and continue the conversations with them.

- **Operations WG – George Feole**

Interoperability Zone Deconfliction: Thayer Paronto has made great progress with development of the page and has done further beta testing with the page. Neil Cantin, NH DOS, has recently updated the progress and provided the screen shots below. There is some work to be done regarding historical tracking which isn't anticipated to take more than a day or so to complete. Once accomplished a larger set of beta testing can be accomplished to work out any final issues.

The top screenshot displays the 'SIEC Interoperability Channels' interface. It features a search bar and a table with the following data:

Frequency No.	Status	Contact Name	Contact Phone	Last Modified
VTAC11	IN USE	Dan Murphy	603-573-1712	01/25/2022 14:49:28
VCALL10	AVAILABLE	Dan Murphy	603-573-1712	01/25/2022 14:44:02
VTAC13	IN USE	Dan Murphy	603-573-1712	01/25/2022 13:18:10
VFIRE32	OUT OF SERVICE	Dan Murphy	603-573-1712	01/25/2022 13:13:37
VCALL10	IN USE	Dan Murphy	603-573-1712	01/25/2022 13:12:34
VFIRE35	RESERVED FOR CONTINUED USE	Dan Murphy	603-573-1712	01/25/2022 13:12:20

The bottom screenshot shows a detailed view of a 'SIEC Interoperability Channel'. It includes the same table as above and an 'Events' section with the following data:

Event #	Event Name	Start Date/Time
0002.3	NASCAR	01/27/2022 12:00:00

Below the events is a 'Comments/History' section with the following data:

Name/Position	Date/Time
Dan Murphy WebSOC Development	01/25/2022 14:49:28

- **COMU Subcommittee – Cecily McNair**

Cecily is enjoying time in warmer climates, however she recently approved 2 COML re-certifications, one for Rick Todd and the other for Josh Mann. We have a couple of people waiting for a review board meeting. They have indicated that they are willing to wait until Cecily returns in the spring for review. Cecily will set those up in May.

▪ **Data Communications WG –Art Durette**

Coverage

DOS is working with carriers to improve LTE coverage in public buildings.

DESC is purchasing equipment and software to be able to assess both LMR and LTE coverage (indoors and out).

PTT Interoperability

DHS is funding a solicitation for solutions to allow different vendor PTT apps to interoperate.

Siyata (Uniden) has released an MCPTT compliant LTE portable with available lapel mic and amplified vehicle dock.

LTE/LMR Interoperability

Motorola and Sierra have a solution where the APX mobile radio can transmit over LTE when the LMR connection is lost

Mutualink

LNK360 is being tested. Much easier to install and use. No VPN required.

DESC is testing portable (handheld size) LTE router.

Seacoast

DNCR and DOS are collaborating to improve situational awareness at Hampton Beach. New cameras similar to the deployables sent there last year are being purchased that will be viewable by the lifeguards, police and fire.

Seacoast Chiefs Command Vehicle has been outfitted with an encrypted downlink receiver for NHSP helicopter FLIR camera, Fusus interface and Mutualink.

DOC

DOC and DOS are collaborating to assess DOC state of communications technology and determine a path forward for improvement.

HPUE

DESC will resume testing HPUE with updated equipment.

RAN Quarterly Updates

Meetings and engagement continues.

A motion to approve the working group status updates was made by Rob Farley and seconded by Chief Sitar. All voted in favor, the working group status updates are approved

V. CISA Presentation – Melissa Nazzaro, Emergency Communications Coordinator Region I, CISA

Melissa is new in her role as the Region I Coordinator. Cyber and critical infrastructure security work will be an area of focus in the coming months. Four technical assistance requests for the state are planned for this year. The SCIP update, an e-FOG app development workshop, a communications focused exercise, and drive testing. She would like to attend future trainings in the state.

Marty McClain, noted that NH has an engaged SWIC, as well as an engaged committee (SIEC) which helps with the ongoing collaboration between the state and CISA.

VI. FirstNet Update – Bruce Fitzgerald, Region I Coordinator

Bruce spoke about wanting to be involved with the SCIP and e-FOG workshop.

Upcoming webinars:

- Feb 23: Network Experience Engagement webinar, exercise inject catalog, engagement after the event.
- Feb 24: FirstNet Tools, network status tool, uplift tool, live demo of the CRD

Focus groups will be ongoing this spring, including an air and maritime focus group, data and applications focus group, and a push-to-talk applications focus group. NH is leading the pack for these feedback sessions.

The FirstNet board met in New Mexico earlier this week. The next board meeting will be held in NH during the first week of May. This will be a summit coupled with a session on first responder health and wellness. This summit will be open to all of New England.

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

Ryan Clark spoke to the more than 3M national connections, and the more than 190 applications, as well as the more than 400 FirstNet ready devices, and more than 2.7M square miles of coverage with 97% of the band-14 buildout completed. There are 100 dedicated deployables responding to emergencies and national disasters as well as planned events. All but 3 of their FirstNet sites have been turned on, the remaining 3 will come on this year which is year four of a five year planned build out. There are 179 towns with at least one site of band-14. More than 200 agencies throughout the state have adopted FirstNet, they are working on delivering the CRDs, and the two SatCOLTs are available.

Lisa Benincasa spoke to the continued good progress in NH, more agencies in the North Country have subscribed. They are utilizing HPUEs, which are special devices that enhance coverage, they are happy to provide demos, and are continuing to engage throughout the state.

Bob Haarde spoke and took a moment to acknowledge the partnership with the SWIC's Office, and the committee. Regarding HPUE, the FCC has authorized band-14 to be broadcast on these modems which are 6x more powerful than regular devices, which means you can get a signal 6x further.

VIII. Verizon Presentation – Robert Derosa, Verizon Wireless

Verizon made a presentation on their current offerings. Noting recent network updates: 8 macro sites, 33 small cells, in-building coverage, and 5G in select areas (Concord, Manchester, Salem and the Lakes Region).

IX. New Business

Representative Judy Aron asked if the state has an emergency response team to come the aid of small municipalities, etc.? She made reference to the serious flooding event that occurred in the Acworth area which left 9 roads impassable, 7 of which were paved, and it was difficult to even respond to a 911 call. Tom Andross answered that the SIEC is focused on interoperable communications, but this committee is made of multiple public safety members throughout the community. These members can work to connect you with the right resources, such as HSEM and DOT. John Stevens added that now there are committees and organizations dedicated to getting the

resources you need.

X. ROUNDTABLE

Thayer Paronto noted that there will be an APCO Atlantic/NHEDA joint conference occurring on Oct 30th. Director Doyle mentioned the \$110K in grant training funds available and that coordination is ongoing regarding these funds. Paul Hatch spoke about the ongoing Seabrook exercise, and that they have been utilizing Mutualink successfully. Judy Aron offered to check on any pending legislature that might affect the committee. Bruce Fitzgerald noted that are virtual demonstrations offered at the FirstNet Boulder lab, which he could set up. These include a virtual lab walk through, and a live demo of QPP.

XI. Next Meeting Date:

- **May 13, 2022 at 9:00 AM, NHFA classrooms 5, 6, & 7**

XII. Adjourn

A motion was made to adjourn by Thayer Paronto, and seconded by Rob Farley. All voted in favor. The meeting adjourned at 10:26 AM.