

**INTEROPERABILITY NETWORK OF THE
SOUTH BAY JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY
MEETING OF THE OPERATIONS COMMITTEE**

1. **CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

The Operations Committee of the Interoperability Network of the South Bay (INSB) Joint Powers Authority convened at 09:30 a.m. on Monday, November 13, 2017, in the City of Hawthorne – Police Department 2nd Floor Conference Room, 12501 Hawthorne Blvd, Hawthorne, CA 90250.

2. **ROLL CALL**

Present: Lt. Dorothy Scheid, Hermosa Beach Police Department
Sgt. Vince Martinez, El Segundo Police Department
Officer Matt Slawson, Torrance Police Department
Captain Nick Facer, Torrance Fire Department
Captain Michael Ishii, Hawthorne Police Department
Lt. Mike Saffell, Gardena Police Department
Captain Ben Bellante, Redondo Beach Fire Department
Lt. Andy Harrod, Manhattan Beach Police Department
Robert Mendoza, Manhattan Beach Police Department IT
Chief Mark Winter, Redondo Beach Fire Department

Absent: Lt. Landon Phillips, Hermosa Beach Police Department
Chief Shawn Bonfield, El Segundo Fire Department
Eng. Ryan Allee, El Segundo Fire Department
Vince Osorio, Gardena Police Department
Justin Korte, Redondo Beach Police Department
Chief Scott Hafdell, Manhattan Beach Fire Department
Engineer James Craig, Manhattan Beach Fire Department

Also Present: Communications Supervisor Jerry Edwards, City of Torrance
Executive Director Ernest Gallo, INSB JPA
Ops. Mgr. RCC, Shannon Kauffman
Admin Mgr. RCC, John Krok
Dennis Faro, City of Torrance CIT
Karen Farmer, Torrance Dispatch Supervisor
Jeff Fukasawa, Commline-RCC
Carl Jacobson, Glentek

3. **REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ON THE POSTING OF THE AGENDA**

Committee Chair confirmed that the City of Hawthorne properly posted the agenda.

5. **ORAL COMMUNICATIONS**

None.

6. **REPORTS**

Member Slawson presented the committee with a technical overview PowerPoint of the new digital trunked system. This presentation was intended to provide an understanding of the features of the system and the challenges the Operations Committee will have to coordinate interoperability communications.

Member Slawson, Technical Member Edwards, and Jeff Fukasawa assisted with answering any questions the committee had on the new system. See below in section 9 for details on Q & A.

7. **CONSENT CALENDAR**

None.

8. **ACTION ITEMS**

None.

9. **BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

Member Martinez asked about the statistical data on the number of busy signals that have happened to other agencies currently under the ICI system.

Technical Member Edwards stated that these statistics were not known at this time but that we should not experience many busy signals. The system is using 12 frequencies and that FD and PD will have priority when using the PTT.

Member Krok stated the system was build out to a 50% capacity.

Member Saffell asked if communications within a talkgroup would interfere with or have crossing communications with other talk groups, for example a 'Detective' talkgroup hear transmissions from another talkgroup.

Member Slawson stated you would not hear other talkgroups only those who are on that specific talkgroup.

Commline Fukasawa stated this system within INSB was build out for 8,000 users and the INSB will only have ~3,000.

Member Facer asked about out of range notice and what this means.

Member Slawson stated that the new radios will be in constant communication with the system/towers and when the radio goes beyond its reach you will have the 'out of range' notice on the radio.

Commline Fukasawa outlined the coverage areas where radios will start to say out of range. This will change as other agencies develop infrastructure.

Technical Member Edwards stated you will also get an out of range signal when going into some types of buildings.

Member Bellante asked if the range would extend to the west near the beach where radio issues are currently present.

Commline Fukasawa stated it should be better since the new radios will be operating under GPS clocking and using 6 locations to repeat from.

Member Slawson stated the new system will improve reliability.

Technical member Edwards stated it should improve due to the new tower site at Punta Place.

Commline Fukasawa stated the digital system corrects audio and you either get the communications or you don't. In the old analog radios there would be static with broken communications and under the digital it will take that static audio and correct it.

Member Harrod asked whether units like K9 or Motors leaving the area to Irvine for example have communications or be out of range.

Commline Fukasawa stated as the system grows, i.e. Montebello has just come aboard with 6 new sites, and then the range on communication will grow.

Member Bellante asked if a unit goes out of range does the user then go in direct mode.

Commline Fukasawa stated that direct mode is line of sight and usually no greater than 1 mile coverage. He stated our portable radios are 4watt to 4 watt transmission vs. 100 watts from the towers.

Member Slawson stated the legacy or conventional analog system will have the backup channels to then use a direct mode.

Technical Member Edwards stated they are working on a backup channel for these situations but for right now under the digital system they don't know whether or not we will have a direct mode. Technical committee will explore if this can be programmed with the code plug.

Member Facer confirmed what was stated, there is no direct mode within the new digital system or radios.

Technical Member Edwards stated the technical committee is looking into this to find the best solution.

Member Facer asked about E-triggers and if all dispatch consoles, Torrance, RCC, and Redondo can all activate when triggered.

Technical Member Edwards stated the technical committee will look into this.

Member Harrod asked about mutual aid and communications. For example Manhattan Beach with Inglewood.

Technical Member Edwards replied to meet and decide how communications will be handled between agencies. He stated that Inglewood would be part of LA-RICS.

Commline Fukasawa stated to have mutual aid agreements and discuss radio ID due to the new system having multilayers of identification.

Member Facer asked if there was a mandate for agencies to go digital.

Commline Fukasawa replied no digital mandate.

Member Kauffman discussed patching with Culver City.

Technical Member Edwards stated patching takes longer vs. an access channel. There is a delay with patching.

Member Slawson suggested to switch channels.

Commline Fukasawa stated LA County FD has P25 capable radios but they would need to have INSB talkgroups programmed into their radios.

Commline Fukasawa stated INSB has a high level encryption key. AES encryption.

Member Krok stated Santa Monica's encryption key is different.

Executive Director Gallo stated the new radios will have a multikey encryption configuration.

Commline Fukasawa stated the APX 8000 has multikey encryption but the 9000 series does not.

Executive Director Gallo asked how many keys we can have.

Member Slawson replied that there are only 8 keys of encryption available. Unless someone has different information.

Member Harrod asked about mutual aid with agencies that are not digital or have encryption capability how they would communicate. He asked if we would need to give them a radio.

Commline Fukasawa replied that it is a programming problem.

Member Slawson informed committee the number of talkgroups could impact usability.

Technical Member Edwards stated to not make too many talkgroups.

Member Slawson mentioned unifying our talkgroups in area G.

Commline Fukasawa stated an option to assign talkgroups for mutual aid.

Member Winter questioned the priority of talkgroups.

Technical Committee Member Edwards replied that FD and PD will have priority when using radio over the second responders.

Commline Fukasawa mentioned talkgroup priority needs to be programmed and coded.

Member Krok reminded the committee that some talkgroups will be monitored by dispatch and others not.

Member Harrod asked about radio priority on a tactical channel and who has PTT priority.

Member Slawson reminded committee that we have the old conventional system still in place. The legacy system and we will not tie up INSB channels.

Member Krok agreed that RCC will have the legacy equipment still in place.

Commline Fukasawa stated that a 2 to 1 ratio is a good starting point from current assigned channels to new talkgroups but the system is built to expand and hold more. In the future it is a simple software upgrade to increase capability. He also stated this new system will track data and statistics to provide input on improving our service delivery.

Member Saffell asked about a PD Red Channel.

Member Ishii responded it is a non-encrypted channel for all to access including the media. You can program the radios the scan the two channels but when the PTT is activated it will prioritize to the home or tactical channel.

Member Saffell asked about a pursuit that goes out of City. Do you switch channels?

Member Ishii replied to switch to Red channel.

Member Slawson asked if you can be patched to the Red channel.

Member Kauffman stated dispatch can simo-select.

Commline Fukasawa replied it is a multi-select switch but there are different consoles in each dispatch.

Member Slawson stated it is hard for PD to switch when driving on chase and patching would be better.

Commline Fukasawa informed committee that Red is a P25 clear channel. 'Secure' is encryption loaded and 'Clear' is P25 digital none encrypted.

Member Ishii stated to not transmit on Red but have dispatch put out general info to all agencies including the media.

Member Kauffman reminded committee that there are huge delays when patching in the dispatch center.

Member Ishii stated to keep 1 to 2 frequencies open to hear.

Member Saffell agreed to include a Red channel.

Commline Fukasawa reminded committee the new digital radios sound different and when using the PTT you have to hold it down longer before speaking. We will new to address this in training.

Member Krok informed committee about the end user ID when using PTT and the training needs on radio etiquette.

Member Saffell stated end users may use the new system as a Nextel and have conversations within talkgroups. Thus negatively impacting the system.

Member Ishii stated that we can create channels that are in a direct mode for simple conversations to not impact the system. PD needs to decide if shared channels are encrypted.

Tech. Member Edwards asked how we coordinate with mutual aid and what frequencies we use.

Member Ishii replied they switch to our main frequency.

Tech. Member Edwards informed committee that Technical committee has had a kick off meeting with Motorola and the expected launch date has been moved back till August 2018.

Executive Director Gallo reminded the operations committee to explore if our training needs, mutual aid agreements, etc. will be finalized before the launch date. Is the timeline acceptable to the committee?

Member Saffell questioned if there was a financial penalty if we are not ready.

Executive Director Gallo replied no. The grant to build out the system was not until Dec. of 2019. More importantly when does the Operations Committee think they are ready to launch new system?

Tech. Member Edwards stated we would have equipment out in soon for testing way in advance. In Torrance some equipment will be ready in January.

Executive Director Gallo confirmed this.

Member Saffell asked if the committee could get a copy of the current assigned channels.

Member Kauffman stated she would get these copies out.

Member Facer asked if Member Kauffman would email to him he could then email the current radio channels to the committee members.

Member Slawson asked if the committee would agree upon having a rough draft of their agencies proposed talkgroups by the next operations committee meeting on Dec. 5th.

Member Facer confirmed this and asked committee members to have this ready by next regular scheduled meeting.

10. **STAFF COMMENTS**

Executive Director Gallo brought up the need to address roaming rules using a mutual aid agreement between agencies.

11. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:50 AM.

Next Regular Meeting

City of Hawthorne – Police Department Community Room
12501 Hawthorne Blvd, Hawthorne, CA 90250
December 5, 2017 at 09:30 a.m.