

COMMUNICATIONS UNIT WORKGROUP (COMU WG) MEETING

MARCH 5, 2019
10:00 AM

DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AFFAIRS
2400 WRIGHT STREET
GOVERNOR'S CONFERENCE ROOM A115
MADISON, WI 53704

MEETING MINUTES

1. Meeting called to order at 10:08 AM

Quorum was established. Present in person: Tom Czaja, Brian Jansen, Rick Lange, Todd Lindert, Doug Lofreddo, Gene Oldenburg, Heather Harris-Fatty, and Melinda Landon. Present via teleconference: Jim Jarvis and Jim Westover.

2. Review of January 24, 2019 Meeting Minutes

Motion was made to approve the meeting minutes by Czaja. Seconded by Lindert. Unanimous approval.

3. Public Comment – There was no public comment.

4. Old Business

A. ICS 205/217 Project Status

- At the January 24, 2019 meeting Paul Hughes reported that he had been directed to start working on regional ICS 205 plans. The Office of Emergency Communications (OEC) staff will assist Hughes with this project.

B. COMU Standard Operating Guidelines (SOG) Update Project

- Oldenburg presented a revised draft of the SOG which included changes based on comments by Workgroup members at the January 24, 2019 COMU Workgroup meeting.
- There were discussions about verbiage changes regarding sponsoring agency, insurance coverage, the Review and Approval Process Diagram, removal of the appeal process, the recognition renewal process, and the appendices.
- It was decided that an applicant who submits their position task book (PTB) would receive a response of either Recommended or Additional Training/Information Required.
- There was a consensus of the Workgroup to remove the WICAMS verbiage out of the Review and Approval Process Diagram.
- The additional feedback and comments that were provided by attendees would be incorporated into a draft that will be given to Department of Military Affairs legal office for review.

C. SIMCOM 2019 Update

- Lofreddo requested that anyone who may have ideas for military-type injects for the Master Scenario Events List (MSEL) to forward those to him.
- The AT&T SatCOLT, which is deployed out of Green Bay, will be at the SIMCOM Exercise.

D. Other Old Business

- Oldenburg and Josh Ripp had met with Tim Halbach at National Weather Service (NWS) Milwaukee/Sullivan. They had been using RCALL21 for severe weather warnings. La Crosse now has a radio and Green Bay is interested in participating as well, using their regional respective RCALL talkgroups.
- The NWS is transitioning off of the National Attack Warning Alert System (NAWAS) due to limited agencies having NAWAS phones. This is an NWS project as the weather services do not match up with interoperability initiatives and the other RCALL regions. Westover reported that there are examples around the state where agencies are responsible to fan-out information to contiguous non-NAWAS counties. The NWS is attempting to modernize the process, but it will take time as there are state policies regarding NAWAS usage and fan-out.
- There have been weather related warning service in some counties that did not pick up on RCALL21. A discussion followed regarding the options of using a STAC channel, NAWAS alerts, and how to encourage locals to use WISCOM radios.
- There was verbiage inserted into the SCIP Plan Update, as a technology goal, to increase weather service capabilities which could potentially open up grant funding opportunities.

5. New Business

A. Position Task Book (PTB) Review/Approvals

- There were no new applications submitted since the last COMU Workgroup meeting.
- There was one question from an applicant as to whether the Birkebeiner 2019 could be used for the task book. The decision was that the Birkebeiner could be used as a training event, but there would need to be someone at the event to sign the task book.

B. Michigan Interop Conference Report

- Westover and Hughes were invited to present at the Michigan Interoperability Conference the week of February 18, 2019 to discuss SIMCOM. There was a forty-five-minute presentation in the general session with 200+ participants. Westover stated that there were many questions during and after the session.
- Jim Jarvis presented an overview on the Information Technology Service Unit Leader (ITSL), which Jarvis will also present at the first day of SIMCOM.

6. Next meeting date and location to be determined.

7. Meeting adjourned at 12:55 PM.

Motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Lindert. Seconded by Jansen. Unanimous approval.

Respectfully,

Melinda Landon
DMA/OEC