

**Public Safety Collaborative
Minutes
January 29, 2004**

1. Meeting was called to order at about 8:35 a.m. by Joye McElwee
2. Attendance listing is available at Attachment 1.
3. Summary of the meeting:
 - a. Joye opened the meeting with an overview of the handouts (Minutes, Needs Table, Draft Missouri Region D Radio Interoperability Plan, etc.).
 - b. First order of business involved approval of the October 16, 2003 meeting minutes and Unmet Needs List developed from the October meeting. The time of the last meeting was corrected to 9:05 a.m.
 - c. Roger Brogue discussed scenarios regarding use of microphones and antenna placement on the 800 TRS handheld radios, after hearing questions raised by Lt. Jay Huff. Joye will draft information with pictures and submit it to Roger and Don Kocian for review before publishing it on the OEM website. Jay Huff indicated how important it was in getting this information to law enforcement and firefighters. Understanding the impact on transmit signal strength that placement of the radio antenna may have during use of the equipment is critical to all users. You may reduce radio transmitted signal strength by 50 percent or more, depending on how you configure your equipment.
 - d. Joye reviewed the draft Missouri Region D Radio Interoperability Plan distributed to attendees. He asked that people review and provide comments as appropriate for Joye to use in feedback to Mr. Al Campbell, who is chairing the regional group that is drafting the Region D plan. Joye explained that J.R. Webb is working a Memorandum of Understanding with the State for use of VHF and UHF statewide interoperability frequencies (MTAC/VTAC). The interface between outside agencies and Springfield/Greene County organizations would be accomplished by using the cross-band repeaters being purchased for HAZMAT, police, and emergency management (stored at 911). The MOU only allows use of the frequencies for interoperability in portables and mobiles—no base station equipment. The cross-band repeaters will meet that criteria and allow interfacing with the 800 TRS.
 - e. Joye also opened discussion on gaining interoperability between Joplin and Greene County 800 TRSs. He explained that a recent exercise identified the importance of having radio communications with regional WMD/HAZMAT response teams and the Civil Support Team from Ft. Leonard Wood as they enter Greene County on a response. We can't count on cellular or telephone equipment. Since Joplin and Greene County organizations have compatible 800 radio systems, perhaps for now

we can incorporate National Public Safety Participating Activities Committee (NPSPAC) channels or other measures that would allow portables and mobiles to talk when they jointly work I-44 incidents between Springfield and Joplin. He also discussed again how the important long-range goal is to interface the two systems using a tower or other technology. Grant funds may be available in the soon to be released Homeland Security Grant that may help accomplish this task. Don and Roger explained that only two NPSPAC frequencies are currently on our tower system and that they are untrunked. Being untrunked, they would not have the range trunked frequencies offer. J.R. Webb is discussing ways of communicating between the two systems with Joplin and should discuss that information with Don and Roger. For teams responding with VHF/UHF equipment, the cross-band repeaters should allow us to communicate with them.

- f. Ron Shook indicated that we need to watch the use of the MTAC frequency for interoperability as it is currently a wide-band VHF frequency and that could go away by December 2004 when it goes to narrow band.
- g. Joye indicated another interoperability issue being worked is to interface the 800 TRS at SMSU somehow with the Greene County 800 TRS. SMSU uses a Kenwood TRS that is incompatible with signaling capability with the Greene County TRS. As pointed out in the discussion by Don and Roger, Joplin's 800 TRS is like Motorola TRS to ours, and they can be made to talk easily with each other. SMSU's system is a different situation. Joye and J.R. Webb will meet with the SMSU staff on March 29, 2004 to discuss options. Hopefully, the NPSPAC will be an avenue for interface.
- h. A brief discussion arose over the difference in the ACU-1000 and the cross-band repeater systems Greene County OEM is getting ready to purchase for HAZMAT, Police, and OEM for use at 911. The ACU-1000 must be configured on the fly, but will interface with about any radio system out there. The question becomes, what interface cables for radios do you purchase? It can become cost prohibitive. The cross-band repeater units being purchased don't have this complexity or cable issue.
- i. Commissioners Coonrod and Decker provided the group with a detailed explanation of the law enforcement tax initiative that was on the February 3, 2004 ballot. The examples provided were very helpful in understanding how and where funds would have been used.
- j. Joye outlined that two large regional exercises will be held in April 2004 here in Springfield. The first involves the response to a terrorism and hazardous materials scenario, involving three simultaneous locations or scenarios. This exercise was planned for April 3rd but has had to move to

April 10th because of local activities such as the grand opening of the new baseball stadium, Brooks and Dunn concert, etc. The second involves the receipt, staging, and distribution of the Strategic National Stockpile, about seven semi-trailer loads of prescription drugs, medical equipment, etc. This exercise had been planned for April 6th but is being considered for movement to April 8th because of local activities such as Election Day, school State testing schedules, etc. Schools are used for elections and student testing. In preparation for these exercises, the Civil Support Team out of Ft. Wood will bring their communications trailer to familiarize their team with local communications systems and interfaces. Large-scale exercises will become more of the norm over the next few years, according to State and Federal organizations. The response and recovery plans at the federal, state, and local levels are all being modified heavily to accommodate the ability to prepare for and respond to terrorist events. These new plans that bring more complexity and structure than ever before must be validated. The best way to accomplish that is large exercises. These will be the largest, most realistic exercises we have ever conducted.

- k. The State is hiring a contractor to evaluate all 28 WMD/HAZMAT teams in the State. The April exercises will help our Region D teams prepare for that process, as well as evaluate their ability to work with other teams within the region.
4. The next PSC meeting is planned for April 15, 2004 at 9:00 a.m. in the Office of Emergency Management EOC. Also mark July 15, 2004 and October 21, 2004 for other PSC meetings, same time and location as the April meeting.

Respectively Submitted,

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1. Attendance Listing

Joye G. McElwee

Attachment 1

**Attendance Listing
Public Safety Collaborative
January 29, 2004**

Don Kocian	City Utilities
Roger Brogue	City Utilities
Bill Deal	City Utilities
Jay Huff	Springfield Police Department
Ron Shook	Greene County Resource Management
Joye McElwee	Office of Emergency Management, Springfield-Greene County
Steve Eggers	Springfield-Branson Regional Airport Fire
Richard Berry	SMSU Public Safety
Darrell Decker	Greene County Commission
Becky Jungmann	911 Communications
Dave Coonrod	Greene County Commission
Jeff Reinold	Greene County Budget Officer
Capt. Jim Barber	Greene County Sheriff's Department
Steve Runnels	National Weather Service
Mark Lowe	Republic Police Dept.