State of Wyoming

Public Safety Communications Commission

SALECS Work Group
Minutes for September 14, 2010
Emerson Building – Room 321E and Phone Conference

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Steve DeCecco at 2:00 pm.

Members and guest in attendance: Steve DeCecco (phone), Bill Westerfield, Jim Siler, Patty Bauer, Richard Bolin, Bill Morse (phone), Marty McCoy, Larry Sheridan (phone), Richard Anderson and Bob Symons

Review of the minutes from the April 16, 2010 meeting. The minutes were not presented to the work group for approval.

SALECS Talkgroups

Dick Bolin stated there have been concerns with dispatch on the labeling of the talkgroups on the consoles. The dispatchers are transitioning from the conventional SALECS to the new SALECS talkgroups and there may be a better way of naming the talkgroups on the consoles to help the dispatchers identify the unit locations.

Patty Bauer related some concerns about the use of SALECS talkgroups and Agency talkgroups. Sometimes it may be better for some of the agency calls to be moved to the agency talkgroups instead of the SALECS talkgroups to help alleviate radio traffic on SALECS. The agencies have indicated that the lack of scanning in the agency radios is causing the agency user to use SALECS instead of the agency talkgroups. Not having scanning in the user radios means the user on an agency talkgroup may cause the user to miss a call from dispatch.

Scanning on WyoLink

The agencies have received conflicting information on whether scanning is available on WyoLink. The capabilities of the system need to be provided to the agencies so decision can be made by the agency on whether to add scanning to the use radios. Some agencies have not programmed scanning because of the lack of information on scanning with trunking radios.

Most local agencies have not migrated to WyoLink, there is a problem with interoperability between trunking radio users and conventional users. An interoperability problem was noted on the recent search at Glendo, multiple portable radios were carried by the incident commander so that he could communicate with all agencies involved.

Bob Symons presented a Power Point presentation on scanning on WyoLink.

Marty McCoy has developed programming directions for scanning that has been sent to all of the WYDOT radio technicians. The work group discussed some of the methods that could be used by the agencies to request the talkgroups that would be included in a scan list. The radios are limited to 12 to 14 talkgroups in a scan list but the radios are capable of having multiple scan lists. There are commercial scanners available that will scan trunking talkgroups. WYDOT has been testing multiple vendor trunking scanners. Larry Sheridan presented information on the capabilities of the commercial scanners. Commercial scanners cost between $350 and $550.

Wyoming has a limited number of public safety officers on duty every day and the agencies rely upon other agencies to help provide backup to the initial agency. The lack of scanning is hindering the ability of agencies to provide backup to other agencies. WyoLink and SALECS must work on finding solutions to the problem of not being able know other agencies needing assistance. There are scanning options in the radios including priorities and this information needs to be provided to the agencies. The WyoLink office will work with the agencies to develop scanning lists for the agency radios.

Interoperability

The work group held a discussion on Interoperability. The WyoLink talkgroup plans include the WyoLink interoperability talkgroups and the conventional interoperable channels. There is a disconnect between conventional and talkgroups. At this time, there are limited cache radios available in Wyoming which has both WyoLink and conventional channels. The Wyoming Office of Homeland Security is in the process of adding a reserve of radios that may be used for providing interoperability and will have trunking and conventional capabilities. The plan is to provide those radios within the regional response regions.

There are many county and local agencies that are working toward migration to WyoLink and the sooner those agencies migrate the better the interoperability will become with WyoLink. This time frame when there are agencies needing interoperability and not having trunking, the best interoperability is with conventional channels. Training will help identify the best methods of interoperability available to users. As local agencies request state agency talkgroups those agencies need to reciprocate the sharing of talkgroups. Written permissions must be provided for agency talkgroup sharing and before WyoLink Support can program the shared talkgroups.

Are the SALECS talkgroups working the way they were expected? Sometimes there are too many users on one talkgroup. The dispatchers have the ability to request users to change talkgroups. The agencies have protocols on the use agency talkgroups, although the protocols are different between the agencies. The users need more training and operational use to become better users and understand the capabilities of the radios.

Training

The work groups discussed the current WyoLink training. The agencies are requesting additional training including a train-the trainer class. There are plans being developed to bring the WyoLink trainers together to review the current program and make decision on how to improve the program. The training program needs to be dynamic and changes are needed to keep the program updated.

WyoLink is moving from the main emphasis of construction and development to operational. This transition is causing concerns among users and non users of WyoLink. As agencies provide permissions to other agencies for talkgroup sharing the radios will need to have the codeplugs updated. Every time codeplugs are read or wrote into the radios, it costs the agencies time and funding. Depending upon which agencies migrate to WyoLink may determine when codeplugs need updating. Talkgroup sharing is important for interoperability in addition to the MAT and CAT talkgroups. Encryption will cause problems with interoperability if the dispatch talkgroups are encrypted.

SALECS Permissions

Bob Symons will be providing the SALECS workgroup the listing of applicants that have requested SALECS talkgroups. Another meeting of the SALECS workgroup will be required to approve the SAELCS talkgroup sharing. The local and county agencies will not be allowed to use SALECS talkgroups for dispatch services and will be used for interoperability.

Being no further business, Bill Westerfield made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Jim Siler and the motion passed on a voice vote. Chairman DeCecco adjourned the meeting at 4:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted

Robert Symons