

**MINUTES OF THE SIXTH MEETING OF THE  
PUBLIC SAFETY NATIONAL COORDINATION COMMITTEE**

**Date/Time:** Friday, January 28, 2000; Meeting commenced at 1:40 p.m.

**Address:** San Francisco City Hall – The Chambers (Room 250)  
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place  
San Francisco, CA 94102

**Attendees:** See attached list

Kathleen Wallman, National Coordination Committee (“NCC”) Chair, convened the sixth meeting of the NCC, welcoming attendees. She noted that the NCC had accomplished much over the past 11 months and is in the process of producing a significant interim report containing a number of recommendations which are due to the Federal Communications Commission (“FCC”) February 25, 2000. Ms. Wallman said today’s meeting would consist of NCC subcommittee reports summarizing their work over the past year and presenting their recommendations to the Steering Committee. Ms. Wallman thanked Louise Renne, Esq. (NCC Steering Committee member) and her staff for their excellent work in providing the facilities and support for the NCC’s January meeting. She then called for the report from the Interoperability Subcommittee.

**Interoperability Subcommittee Report.** John Powell, Chair, noted that the Subcommittee had been charged with the task of providing guidance on administrative oversight for the interoperability channels and earlier had addressed that issue in revised Document 0036D. He said the document expresses a preference for State management of interoperability channels, with the alternative of regional planning committee (“RPC”) management as a fallback position if the States decline the management function. The issue of governance of the interoperability channels constituted the Subcommittee’s first recommendation to the NCC Steering Committee. Mr. Powell said the Subcommittee’s second recommendation was that the FCC require licensing of subscriber units on the interoperability channels. He said the third recommendation was that the RPCs have oversight for the technical parameters of infrastructure operation (*i.e.*, the base stations or temporary base stations or repeaters implemented within their regions). Moreover, he said, the RPCs should be tasked with developing the operational plans discussed in Recommendation No. 1. Mr. Powell said the Subcommittee’s fourth recommendation was establishing a prototype memorandum of understanding (“MOU”) initiated between either the state planning committee or the RPC, as appropriate, and the individual user agencies and containing the essential provisions for management of the interoperability channels. He said some of the key criteria of the MOU should include: (1) monitoring the calling channels at all times to identify any declaration of priority use by a calling party; (2) use plain (*i.e.* unencrypted) language on the interoperability channels for all transmissions; and (3) relinquish secondary trunked operation on approved trunking interoperability channels when requested by a conventional user with the same or higher priority.

Mr. Powell also discussed six recommendations contained in a second document, revised Document 0037D, pertaining to low speed data transmission (*i.e.*, data typically transmitted in a channel width of 25 kHz or less): (1) Select one pair of channels for each of the two TV blocks (*i.e.*, TV channels 63-64 and 68-69) and assign them for use as 12.5 kHz channels. He stated that appropriate changes to the Subcommittee’s suggested channel assignment plan were made to reflect re-designation of channels for data transmission. (2) A single technical standard for the data channels be selected by the Technology Subcommittee. (3) Identification of a standard that

would support three different transmission modes, *i.e.*, direct unit-to-unit mode in any interoperability scenario, a unit-to-unit mode using one or more stand-alone intermediate stations acting as a repeater or store and forward facility, and a unit-to-unit mode through some type of infrastructure. (4) The data standard must be robust and capable of showing unit I.D.s (identifications). (5) The standard selected should be RF band neutral in order to communicate with subscriber units in other bands through an appropriate gateway. (6) If a subscriber unit has data capability, data must be transmitted and received only according to a data interoperability standard to be specified by the Technology Subcommittee.

**Remarks of Chief Peter Hurley.** Ms. Wallman deferred questions or comments regarding Mr. Powell's presentation in order to introduce Chief Peter Hurley. Ms. Wallman said Chief Hurley represented the California Police Chiefs Association ("CPCA") and is a CPCA past President with 33 years of California law enforcement service. In his remarks, Chief Hurley said that Marin County, California, of which he currently is Chief of Police, is implementing a county-wide public safety trunked digital radio system. The shared UHF TV band was chosen not only because of the shortage of 800 MHz channels but because of its superior performance characteristics in Marin County's irregular terrain. Chief Hurley said the trunked system uses a portion of the Project 25 (P-25) standards. Because the County chose the P-25 common air interface and vocoder, the system's units will be fully interoperable with those of other UHF public safety agencies. He urged NCC to recommend to the FCC that similar interoperability be provided in the 700 MHz band, saying interoperability is the key to rapid, effective multi-agency voice and data communication. He mentioned that the California Law Enforcement Mutual Aid Radio System ("CLEMARS") is the largest mutual aid radio system in the world, with over 100,000 subscriber units licensed. He recommended CLEMARS as a model to the NCC.

**Interoperability Subcommittee Report (continued).** Ms. Wallman invited questions for Mr. Powell regarding his Subcommittee presentation. Glenn Nash, representing the State of California, pointed out that, based on a point made by Dataradio Corporation (during the Subcommittee meeting), the NCC needed clarification from the FCC concerning the statement in the FCC's Public Safety Report and Order [FCC 98-191, adopted August, 1998, released September, 1998] ("R&O") that: "All radios offered for sale in this band [*i.e.*, the portion set aside for public safety in the R&O, namely, 764-776 MHz and 794-806 MHz (collectively, the "700 MHz band")] must be capable of operation on the interoperability channels." Clarification is needed on the question of whether the quoted provision requires that "data-only" radios be required to operate on the interoperability channels. Ms. Wallman requested Michael Wilhelm, the NCC's Designated Federal Official ("DFO"), to provide the requested clarification. Ms. Wallman then said that, in describing the work of the Interoperability Subcommittee, the NCC had before it three reports, *i.e.*, trunking, administrative oversight, and low speed data, and an additional matter (addressed below). Wayne Leland (representing absent Steering Committee member Ellen O'Hara) commended the Subcommittee's reports. Ms. Wallman said she understood a consensus among the Steering Committee members in attendance to forward these three reports to the FCC as recommendations. Mr. Powell and Ms. Wallman thanked David Buchanan and Carlton Wells for their efforts as working group members in compiling the reports.

Ms. Wallman said that the referenced additional matter pertained to a previous NCC discussion, concerning contents of a one-page document entitled, "Federal Co-Equal Access to Non-Federal Spectrum in the 764-776 MHz and 794-806 MHz Frequency Band". Ms. Wallman asked whether there was Steering Committee consensus on the substance of the document. Chief Harlin McEwen (Steering Committee member) said it was well-worded document that accurately covers matters previously discussed and decided, and, thus, that he endorsed it. Ms. Wallman thereupon ascertained that there was Steering Committee consensus for the document to be forwarded as

part of the NCC recommendation to the FCC. Ms. Wallman then asked for the NCC's Technology Subcommittee report.

**Technology Subcommittee Report.** Glen Nash, Chair, said that at the New York meeting, the Subcommittee achieved consensus regarding recommendations to the Steering Committee for the technical standards for voice operation on the narrowband interoperability channels. The consensus standard was identified as ANSI 102.BAAA (the common air interface standard) and ANSI Standard 102.EAEC (a vocoder standard). He said that a dissenting view was registered in a letter sent to Ms. Wallman by Nokia on January 20, 2000. Mr. Nash said that during the Subcommittee's meeting the previous day (*i.e.*, January 27), the Subcommittee listened to Nokia's comments, questioned the company's representatives, and decided not to reverse its recommendation. Mr. Nash therefore recommended to the Steering Committee that it forward the two referenced documents as recommendations to the FCC. Mr. Nash also said that on the previous day the Subcommittee had discussed recommendations regarding a data interoperability standard. He said based on the Interoperability Subcommittee's six requirements for such standard, the Technology Subcommittee arrived at a recommendation to forward to the Steering Committee. The recommendation encompassed five specific documents supporting data operations on the narrowband channels, *i.e.*, (1) ANSI 102.BAAA (common air interface establishing the over-the-air interface for transmission of digital information); (2) a document currently an interim standard with TIA, but balloted and approved for publication as a full ANSI standard pending publication, to be known as ANSI 102.BAEA (a data overview); (3) a document to be known as ANSI 102.BAEB (the packet data specification); (4) a document to be known as ANSI 102.BAEC (a circuit data specification); and (5) a document to be known as ANSI 102.BAEE (the radio control protocol defining the data interoperability mode of operation). Mr. Nash said the Subcommittee the previous day also acted on an encryption standard to recommend to the Steering Committee for forwarding to the FCC. He said the consensus was to recommend a document known as FIPS 46-3, which describes an encryption technique, "Triple DES". In response to Ms. Wallman, Mr. Nash said there was yet no written report to the Steering Committee describing the encryption recommendation but that he would prepare such a report.

Harlin McEwen, on behalf of the membership of the International Association of Chiefs of Police, commended the Subcommittee for its recommendations. He said that they properly took into account user needs for interoperability standards and would result in products that are competitive in the marketplace.

Because there was no written report regarding the encryption recommendation, Ms. Wallman sought Steering Committee advice on how to handle the matter procedurally. A discussion followed in which it was noted that the FIPS 46-3 document would eventually become an ANSI document after ANSI certification. In response to Ernest Hofmeister (Steering Committee member) asking if the encryption standard was required in the February 25<sup>th</sup> report to the FCC, Mr. Wilhelm said specification of such a standard would be desirable because of the need for non-Federal public safety radios to communicate with federal units that typically employ encryption and that it therefore should be included in the February 25 report. Ms. Wallman suggested that Glen Nash circulate a suggested encryption standard report using the listservers and that the matter be further addressed by the Steering Committee in a conference call prior to issuance of the February 25 report.

Ms. Wallman then asked for additional comments from the Steering Committee. Receiving none, she interpreted that as consensus that the Steering Committee forward a recommendation to the FCC for use of the TIA 102 voice standard. In response to Mr. Nash, Ms. Wallman then asked whether, apart from the encryption matter, there were any views involving the data

**Review of Dates of Upcoming Meetings.** It was ascertained that, according to the schedule of meetings previously established, upcoming NCC meetings would be held April 6 and 7, 2000, and June 1 and 2, 2000, at the FCC Headquarters in Washington, D.C.

**Public Discussion (Audience Participation).** Robert Schlieman read a letter he had provided to Ms. Wallman earlier that day which stated that the State of New York is currently engaged in a planning process to develop a statewide radio communication system for all agencies but is being frustrated by apparent disregard for the U.S. 700 MHz band by the proposed Canadian DTV allotment plan issued March 2, 1999. Mr. Schlieman then presented a PowerPoint presentation entitled, *Impact of Current Canadian Digital Television Transition Allotment Plan, Issue 2, April 1999, upon United States Public Safety use of the 764-776/794-806 MHz band in the New York State area. TV channels 62,63, 64, 65, 67, 68 and 69.* Mr. Schlieman said he gave this presentation at the Public Safety Wireless Network symposium in Lansing, Michigan, on September 23, 1999. He went through a sequence of slides showing the allotment of channels for DTV, and he discussed various technical matters arising out of his desired proactive stance in resolving potential interference problems.

Ms. Wallman said a hard copy of the PowerPoint presentation should be provided to the Steering Committee. She said while the interference matter was urgent, it is a matter of treaty negotiation between the United States and Canada and, thus, she wanted to be procedurally correct in terms of how the NCC might proceed in the matter and would seek the counsel of Mr. Wilhelm.

Mr. Eierman, speaking as a member of the Implementation Subcommittee and chair of the DTV Working Group, said his Working Group will be submitting a letter detailing some of the Canadian/U.S. border issues. He also said that the Canadian/U.S. border problem is not just a New York State issue; rather, it is a problem extending to Seattle, all the Great Lakes, and St. Lawrence Seaway. He said Mr. Schlieman's presentation would be useful backup information for inclusion in the letter. Mr. McEwen said his concern is that such matters have not been easily resolved in the past and, thus, he wanted to know how to bring the matter to the U.S. State Department for resolution. Ms. Wallman concurred with Mr. McEwen and said she wanted Mr. Wilhelm's advice and also wanted to speak with Thomas Sugrue (Chief of the FCC's Wireless Telecommunications Bureau ("WTB")) on the matter. Mr. Powell added that the problem is not solely with Canada but that interference issues also exist with respect to Mexico. He noted that there had been negotiations with Mexico concerning cross-border use of the NPSPAC channels.

Ms. Wallman informed the meeting that, earlier that day, she had received a memorandum from Steering Committee member Douglas Aiken who had taken issue with virtually all of the Subcommittee recommendations. She said she would speak to Mr. Aiken concerning how he preferred his views to be expressed in the February 25 report, e.g. as a dissenting opinion.

Ms. Wallman reiterated her thanks to Ms. Renne, Jayne Lee, Julia Friedlander and other San Francisco city employees who worked in support of the planning and execution of the San Francisco meeting. Ms. Wallman also thanked Bert Weintraub and Joy Alford of the WTB's Public Safety & Private Wireless Division ("PSPWD"). She acknowledged the presence in the audience of Jeanne Kowalski, PSPWD Deputy Chief for Public Safety. She also conveyed her thanks to Mr. Wilhelm, the NCC's Designated Federal Officer, and to the subcommittee and working group members who had contributed to the reports discussed during the meeting.

(Whereupon the meeting was adjourned at 3:20 p.m., Friday, January 28, 2000.)

Prepared by: Bert Weintraub  
Attorney Advisor  
Public Safety & Private Wireless Division  
Federal Communications Commission

Certified as to accuracy:

  
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Kathleen Wallman

Date: 3/8/2000