

SCSORT EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES

October 24, 2000

Board Member

Dr. David Hoover
Dist. Chief Marcus Moore
Annette Petranic
Acting Chief Jim Paulett

Members Absent

Dr. Mary Jo McMullen

Staff/Guest

Captain Steve Wood
Lt. Fred Jackson
Mike Oberuch
Sharon Ulman

The meeting of the Summit County Special Operations Response Teams (SCSORT) Executive Board was called to order by Chairperson, Dr. David Hoover, on Tuesday, October 24, 2000, at 1:38 p.m., in City Council Conference Room #2, Akron Municipal Building, 3rd Floor, 166 South High Street, Akron, Ohio 44308.

CHAIRPERSON'S COMMENTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

Dr. Hoover stated the only correspondence for the Board's review was a letter from Acting Chief Paulett that was faxed to the Summit County Fire Chiefs' Association regarding funding for the SCSORT Board.

HAZ-MAT DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS REPORT

Captain Wood presented the Haz-Mat Director of Operations Report.

Captain Wood stated the Propane Emergency training is scheduled for this evening at Fairlawn. It will take two classes to finish the book. Therefore, the Weapons of Mass Destruction training, scheduled for November 16th at Tallmadge and November 28th at Fairlawn, is postponed until after the first of the year.

Captain Wood stated the Radiation class is scheduled for December 14th in Tallmadge and December 19th in Fairlawn.

Captain Wood informed the Board that the Zone Coordinators have agreed the SOG will not be ready in January as originally anticipated. The SOG meeting will now be held in April, 2001.

Captain Wood passed around a tentative 2001 training schedule. He asked Ms. Petranic to give him a target date for an actual scenario and tabletop exercise for Weapons of Mass Destruction.

Captain Wood stated the administrative section of the SOG is complete. A meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 30th, so the last three sections can be completed.

Captain Wood passed out an advertisement regarding a Haz-Mat Conference, scheduled for December 8th and 9th in Chagrin Falls, Ohio. This conference is open to Summit County or Akron Fire Department team members.

Regarding committee reports, Captain Wood stated there were some problems with the physicals. He will be writing a letter to all new team members. The bloodwork could not be used because it did not get transported to the Akron Health Department.

Dr. Hoover inquired if any bloodwork needed to be re-taken. Captain Wood responded one person needs to have his blood re-taken.

Ms. Petranic asked if the blood is going to be stored at the Akron Health Department. Captain Wood replied it is going to be stored there in the future.

Captain Wood stated truck 3816 was out of service due to a serpentine belt problem. However, Akron Fire found a belt and the unit was back in service within 8 hours.

Captain Wood informed the Board that repairs to the brakes and airtank, as well as a new paint job, on the Decon Unit should be finished either October 25th or October 27th. Paperwork regarding the generator should be completed within a week and a half.

Pertaining to detection equipment, Captain Wood stated the TMX meter is still missing and the CL266 meter is out of service. The sensor for the CL266 should be arriving shortly.

Captain Wood spoke briefly on the hazard and risk assessment. The updated version will be in the newly updated SOG. Ms. Petranic inquired what topics would be covered. Captain Wood answered it would deal with incidents.

In regards to purchasing, Captain Wood stated he and Mr. Oberuch have been working on the Weapons of Mass Destruction grants.

Captain Wood stated, after discussing the matter with the zone coordinators, it was decided the EMA Grant would be submitted for 800 MHz radios for SORT.

District Chief Moore voiced concerns regarding issues surrounding the 800 MHz radios. He asked Captain Wood if he wanted the radios for the overall scene or in-suit radios. Captain Wood responded due to the amount of the grant and the cost of in-suit safe units, the best idea would be to place the radios in the units. District Chief Moore stated a huge concern with in-suit radios deals with the function of the radio during a structural collapse.

Captain Wood stated performance capability would be a major factor in determining which radio to purchase. He stated a major concern for him is the inability of the Haz-Mat team to communicate with the county fire departments. The possibility of going with aviation mobile radios enables Haz-Mat and TROT to communicate with anyone. However, wattage is a big deterrent from using these radios.

District Chief Moore stated a person would have to be licensed in order to operate an aviation mobile radio.

Captain Wood stated this system might not work due to their wattage being 5-20 watts and there can be no ground or terrain interference. 50-100 watts would be needed to adequately cover the county.

Dr. Hoover asked Captain Wood when the grant would be ready. Captain Wood replied Chief Groves told him he would write the grant when all of the numbers are together.

Dr. Hoover asked Ms. Petranic when the presentations would be. Ms. Petranic replied they would not be ready until January, 2001. Everyone will get a chance to give a presentation. The meeting is tentatively scheduled for the 3rd Thursday in January. All of the grant packets will be distributed at the EMA meeting in December.

Dr. Hoover asked if the grant would go through without the SCSORT Board being able to see it. Ms. Petranic answered affirmatively. However, she stated the packet could either be copied and mailed or faxed to the members of the Board.

Regarding incident review, Captain Wood passed a summary sheet listing all of the Haz-Mat incidents in the year, 2000. It was mentioned Stark County called for assistance but the team was unable to help due to the CL2 meter being out of service.

Captain Wood noted this was the first call in awhile in which the request was made through the Emergency Management Agency.

Captain Wood stated there is not a form in the dispatch notebook regarding this type of situation. However, Captain Moore, Copley Fire Department, informed Captain Wood that he would write the form for future reference.

Acting Chief Paulett asked Captain Wood what is needed to make the CL2 meter operational. Captain Wood responded the part was ordered October 18th and should be coming in the mail.

Captain Wood briefly discussed the west zone call-out on September 27th for the structure fire in Springfield Township. On September 17th, a TAT call was received from Norton for a mercury spill in the roadway. A spill kit was used and brokered through the Summit County Solid Waste facility.

Captain Wood attended the meeting that was held on October 4, 2000. Ms. Petranic added the money that is being awarded is for the Summit County medical system and goes through the Domestic Preparedness Task Force. Captain Wood stated a HazMat representative needs to be present at these meetings.

Ms. Petranic stated Dr. Erme is adding to the list of Task Force members. She added Dr. Hoover and Dr. McMullen are also on the Task Force representing the SCSORT Executive Board.

Ms. Petranic clarified that the grant being discussed is one in which a total of \$600,000 will be awarded.

Ms. Petranic stated it was decided, at the last Domestic Preparedness Task Force meeting, the Terrorism Annex would not be a separate plan but rather a part of the Emergency Operations Plan (EOP).

Captain Wood asked Ms. Petranic if he could obtain a copy of the Terrorism Annex. Ms. Petranic replied he could not as it is not finished. She is writing a grant for the Threat and Risk Assessment to be completed. Once this is finished, the Terrorism Annex will be done shortly thereafter.

Captain Wood stated the items listed on the blue sheet include new tires for unit 3800, duct tape, chemical tape, hydrocarbon booms, absorption pads and rolls. Due to the incident in Springfield Township, Captain Wood stated he would be increasing the amount of inventory ordered.

Ms. Petranic made the motion to approve the blue sheet; Acting Chief Paulett seconded it. It passed unanimously by voice vote.

Captain Wood stated the next meeting of the HazMat Zone Coordinators is scheduled for Monday, November 20th at 7:00 p.m. in Fairlawn.

TROT Director of Operations Report

Lt. Jackson presented the TROT Director of Operations Report.

Lt. Jackson stated the Trench Committee met a week ago to discuss the new equipment that will be needed in the future. The Water Committee met to discuss how to obtain funding, as they have no money in their account.

Lt. Jackson informed the Board he had sent a registered letter to Lt. Tom Peddle, Akron Fire Department, regarding his application for Assistant Director of Operations. He asked the Board members if EMA or anyone present had heard from Lt. Peddle or received his application. All present responded negatively. Lt. Jackson stated he also sent Lt. Peddle a certified letter on October 18th. He passed around a copy of the letter that was sent to Lt. Peddle for the Board members to review.

Ms. Petranic stated she doesn't understand why Lt. Peddle has not responded as the recommendation letter from Chief Gladman was received a long time ago.

Dr. Hoover asked District Chief Moore what he recommended the Board do about the situation. District Chief Moore asked if the other applications were present with Lt. Jackson. He stated Chief Gladman would have liked to have seen Lt. Peddle be considered for the position but since he has not responded, there is nothing else to do but move forward.

Dr. Hoover asked Lt. Jackson if he would like to move forward. Lt. Jackson stated he has, in his possession, applications from Lt. John Carney, Bath and Tallmadge Fire Departments, and Chief Tim Black, Macedonia Fire Department, who is willing to represent and oversee Confined Space. According to the rules, interviews must be conducted.

Dr. Hoover told Lt. Jackson he would write a letter to the Zone Coordinators so the interviews can be scheduled. He asked Lt. Jackson how quickly this process needs to be. Lt. Jackson answered it should be done as soon as possible.

District Chief Moore stated e-mail people are needed for the Summit County Fire Chiefs', as well as the Firefighters' Association, so business (course announcements, meeting dates, etc.) can be conducted at a more rapid pace. Acting Chief Paulett stated the Fire Chiefs' should be able to receive e-mail.

Dr. Hoover asked District Chief Moore whom he wanted to put in charge of this endeavor. District Chief Moore replied he would like to have the copies of the

significant individuals in Summit County i.e. the Fire Chiefs in the Firefighters' Association.

Ms. Petranic suggested District Chief Moore contact Bob Zarle for this information.

Dr. Hoover stated he would talk with Lt. Jackson on October 26th regarding the interviews and will mail the letters to the Zone Coordinators on October 27th. The interviews were scheduled for November 13th at 12:00 p.m. in the library at Dr. Hoover's office.

Lt. Jackson spoke briefly on trailer bids. They are based on Stow's trailer specifications. The trailer needs to be 20' long due to the size of some of the equipment being 16'-17' long. The best bid came back at \$8,976.00. Bids were taken from Navarre Trailer Sales, Sirpilla RVs' and Haulmark Trailers.

Ms. Petranic asked where the funding would be coming from to purchase this item. Lt. Jackson answered he wanted to take \$5,000 from one grant; \$2,000 from the other and take the balance of \$1,856 out of the line item that is currently in place.

District Chief Moore stated he was under the impression the money was coming from the Summit County Fire Chiefs' Association. Ms. Petranic and Dr. Hoover replied \$7,000 is coming from this group.

Dr. Hoover stated he was under the impression that Ms. Petranic was going to front the money. Ms. Petranic stated EMA would pay for the trailer and the Summit County Fire Chiefs' Association would have to pay her back.

Ms. Petranic asked if the cost of the trailer (\$8,976) includes any purchasing of equipment. Lt. Jackson replied the plan is to take all equipment that is being stored in the trailer at Cuyahoga Falls Fire Station #4 and place it in the new trailer.

Lt. Jackson asked Ms. Petranic if it is a better idea to put any necessary equipment expenses in the purchase order for the trailer or to place the items on a green sheet once it is known what is truly needed. Ms. Petranic replied it should be a priority to make sure the trailer is equipped and ready for use.

District Chief Moore made a motion to use \$9,500 to purchase a trailer; Acting Chief Paulett seconded it. It passed unanimously by voice vote.

Lt. Jackson passed the bid sheets from the various trailer companies around for the Board to review.

Before asking District Chief Moore what questions he had regarding last month's minutes.

District Chief Moore voiced his concern, in what appeared to him, to be “Akron bashing” as reflected in the minutes of September 20, 2000. He was referring to comments made regarding Chief Gladman’s attitude in reference to Akron Fire responding to a HazMat or TROT call. Chief Gladman does not feel Akron should have to respond to out of county calls.

Ms. Petranic asked Lt. Jackson how the SOG is written. Is it clearly stated which zones are required to respond to what areas for HazMat or TROT? Lt. Jackson stated a map was drawn of all 27 communities and zone teams were assigned to each community. Due to the small size of the team, it is written in the SOG more than one TROT zone will respond to a call. Regarding HazMat calls, the county was divided in half in order to establish an eastern zone, western zone and Akron stands independently as a zone. Lt. Jackson stated 3 or 4 years ago when the dispatch manuals for TROT were written, it was deemed not enough people were trained and the expertise wasn’t high enough to warrant a standard procedure for call out. Ms. Petranic countered at what level are individuals deemed adequately trained.

Dr. Hoover asked District Chief Moore if Chief Gladman could write a letter stating the Akron Fire Department will be deemed a “stay back” organization for TROT calls. District Chief Moore stated Chief Gladman was referring to out of county TROT calls. Lt. Jackson interjected this discussion is concerning TROT calls within Summit County.

Dr. Hoover explained that his understanding of Chief Gladman and Chief Alexander’s comments regarding HazMat calls was Akron Fire was the “stay back” team for in county calls. District Chief Moore countered Akron Fire would be dispatched after the zone team was called and needed assistance.

Lt. Jackson stated this situation was never discussed until a couple of months ago. The SOG was written, as Chief Alexander wanted it. He added no one notified him, as Director of Operations, that it should be changed.

Ms. Petranic stated the Board; from Chief Alexander explaining what he wanted received nothing. Therefore, Chief Gladman or the next Chief wouldn’t know that anything needed to be changed. Lt. Jackson stated regardless of any comments, the SOG should be followed as written.

Ms. Petranic commented HazMat is different from TROT, as Akron does not have stand-alone teams in TROT. However, the Akron HazMat team can stay back and still have team that is able to function on another incident. District Chief Moore informed Ms. Petranic that although Akron HazMat has 60 technicians, equipment for the team is the problem. Ms. Petranic stated in a TROT call this would be an issue but with HazMat, there is no issue because there are 2 teams.

After the recent Zone Coordinators meeting, Lt. Jackson stated Rick Williams would prefer the SOG reflect TROT response to be like HazMat. This being Akron Fire would not be called out when all other county resources are committed. (This statement refers to TROT calls only.)

Dr. Hoover informed Lt. Jackson not to do anything with the SOG until he is told to do so.

District Chief Moore stated he would talk with Rick Williams to clarify how the SOG should be written.

Ms. Petranic asked what should be written regarding other operations such as dive team, trench rescue, etc. Lt. Jackson replied he would like all TROT calls to be treated the same, as it is very confusing to the dispatchers.

District Chief Moore asked if Lt. Jackson was referring to trench calls only. Lt. Jackson replied this is the way the SOG is written for all disciplines. However, Lt. Jackson commented he believes the SOG should be re-written for each discipline; rope, confined space, dive, etc.

Lt. Jackson stated the major issue with the dispatchers is which team should be called for additional assistance.

Ms. Petranic asked Lt. Jackson if he receives a report from the dispatchers, as there is some concern that TROT members call directly into dispatch. Lt. Jackson answered he has listened to the tape from Copley regarding the Medina trench call. After listening to the tape, Lt. Jackson stated he didn't feel that any calls from firefighters should be deemed "inappropriate". A discussion regarding training and policies of handling dispatch calls ensued between Lt. Jackson and Ms. Petranic.

Dr. Hoover asked Ms. Petranic for an update on payment for the Land O' Lakes incident. Ms. Petranic stated the county legal department has contacted the Portage County Prosecutor but she has received no answer from them as to what is going on.

Dr. Hoover discussed and passed out copies of the presentation that is to be given to County Council to try and obtain funds for the SCSORT Board. He stated an Executive Summary would also be included.

Ms. Petranic stated she does not want to send out information sheets to update TROT team training information. This has been done several times in the past and it shouldn't need to be repeated continuously.

Dr. Hoover asked who is in charge of keeping the data. District Chief Moore responded Fire Training is the keeper of all records pertaining to training sessions.

Lt. Jackson stated he would like to have an accurate roster of the TROT team members. He also asked what would happen if the members would not provide any information regarding training. Ms. Petranic answered they possibly would not be allowed to respond with the team on a call. Lt. Jackson asked Ms. Petranic if she meant her comment literally. She replied this is the way that it is regarding the HazMat team.

Dr. Hoover stated District Chief Moore would look into the information management aspect of this situation.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Mr. Oberuch presented the Financial Report. He passed around copies of the October Budget Summary for HazMat and TROT. He briefly informed the Board of the monies available for each group.

Dr. Hoover asked if there was any money available to replace the missing TMX meter. Mr. Oberuch stated Captain Wood wants to wait a little bit longer for it to be found before he spends money to replace it.

MEDICAL REPORT

Due to Dr. McMullen's absence, there was no medical report presented.

NEXT MEETING

Acting Chief Paulett made a motion to accept the minutes of the last meeting; Ms. Petranic seconded it. It passed unanimously by voice vote.

The next meeting of the SCSORT Executive Board is scheduled for Wednesday, November 29, 2000 at 1:30 p.m. in Akron City Council Room #2, 166 South High Street, 3rd Floor, Akron, Ohio.

Dr. Hoover asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

District Chief Moore made the motion; Acting Chief Paulett seconded it. It passed unanimously by voice vote.

OTHER BUSINESS

There being no further business to come before the SCSORT Executive Board, the meeting was adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

JAMES PAULETT, ACTING CHIEF
Secretary

/slu

cc: File

