MINUTES of the Cecil Co. Firemans Assn. Communications Committee

The committee met for the 2nd time at the Civil Def. area of the Court House Bldg.

DATE: 11 March, 1993.

TIME: 1930 hrs.

ATTENDING:

Station #5: Mr.Bill Doss
" #6: Mr.Ed Rayn, III
" #8: Mr.Dave Gray

BACKGROUND:

There was a large truck-company operation in progress in the Elkton fire district, and many of the committee members were on the fire scene. The previous minutes were distributed, and a short discussion was held. The next series of topics were then addressed:

SYSTEM ENHANCEMENT

* Base Stations,- TX & RX alignment, feedline replacement/upgrade, antenna replacement/upgrade, alter/enhance antenna pattern.

* Local Tone Activation (via base station), - pagers, monitors, & any other tone-activated device will get a stronger, better dispersed signal into their respective fire district from their OWN base station.

CENTRAL ANTENNA SITE(S)

* Support A Voting System

* Central Antenna Pattern: in respect to the base-stations throughout the County. This will support the existing system, or the Voting System.

EMERGENCY OPERATIONS

* Electrical Power, - Generator, 110/220 v.a.c.,60 hz, in the present facility is apparatently unmaintainable- for whatever reason.
This belongs to another facility and is under some-one elses'(other than us) direct influence. ALSO the facility would not easily lend itself to seperation of the electrical service to insert a second (and seperate) generator.
We feel that a better systems approach would be to provide dependable power at the transmitter site and remote the audio. An even better systems approach

would have the audio/dispatch at the transmitter site. A long term solution would be to begin planning an alternate, centrally located Emergency Operations Center.

- Battery Back-up, becoming very common among digital equipment, this would be similar to a U.P.S. This would require some care and feeding of deep-cycle batterys, similar to the system used by the telephone company. This would provide instant, short-term power to low-voltage equipment, and inverter supplied power to 110 v.a.c. equipment.

ANTENNAS/TOWERS

* Antennas/Towers - The antenna tower at the present EOC (Transmitter Site,Court House) is at about maximum capicity, size, weight, and wind loading.
The location is poor, VERY POOR: relative to the location of the Fire Companys, the EOC sits in a topographical BOWL.

The next major flaw in the site is its proximity to the two state borders: it places an approximate 1/4 to 1/3 of the signal AWAY from the users-- The Fire Companys.

We can maximise the available signal with a gain/ directional antenna.

ALTERNATE E.O.C.(s)/Towers, If we plan for a Central Transmitter site, with on and off-site electrical power that must be housed, it would be prudent to maximise the trans-mitter site capabilities by including facilities for Emergency Operations.

The Industrial Park area near Nort East, the county water tower property, the land fill above N.E. with land-line remote and/or micro-wave link, are typical Alternate E.O.C. sites.

The Mobile Command unit should be an intergral part this process

PROCEDURES/PLANS, - This concept, as it evolves into actual planning will have to include, but not be limited to, the County Emergency Plan.

ALTERNATE COMMUNICATIONS, - as experienced by the East Coast states in the last two storms, most countys activated their EOC's which included the RACES/ARES planned support. While their state-wide communications are in place and exercised monthly, they have a county/regional capability that has proven both effective and reliable.

Bill Lon
Communications Committee