



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO
REPORT TO THE CITY COUNCIL

DATE ISSUED: May 1, 2008 REPORT NO. 08-073

ATTENTION: Public Safety and Neighborhood Services Committee
Agenda of May 14, 2008

SUBJECT: Informational Report from the San Diego Police Department regarding
Regional Command and Control Communications (3Cs) Program

SUMMARY

THIS IS AN INFORMATION ITEM ONLY. NO ACTION IS REQUIRED ON THE PART OF THE COMMITTEE OR THE CITY COUNCIL.

BACKGROUND

San Diego is a nationally recognized leader in public safety communications. The Regional Command and Control Communications (3Cs) Program is taking communications one step further, by providing first responders more ways to work together to protect the lives and property of the communities they serve. 3Cs is an independent private communications network which directly connects public safety agencies and encourages inter-agency collaboration. After the devastating fire seasons of both 2003 and 2007, public safety officials across the region agree on the importance of law enforcement and fire-rescue departments working together. The Regional 3Cs Program is an example of the San Diego Police Department taking the lead in the region to bring together government agencies focused on public safety, to find a common solution which benefits the region as a whole.

The concept for the 3Cs network was born from the aftermath of the 2003 wild fires. At that time, communications were severely impacted by the firestorms. Public telephones, commercial wireless services, and internet services were down in much of the City and County of San Diego. Public safety voice radio systems did remain operable during the incident but were extremely overwhelmed. Coordination between agencies often had to be done on the radio, utilizing constrained air-time, because no other means of communication was available.

The technology and design concepts used in building voice radio networks have proven to be reliable, even when all other communications systems are down. 3Cs takes these same design principals and incorporates new technologies to expand the amount of information that can be passed through the network. Once a network of this size which meets the security requirements to pass secure law enforcement and public safety data is available the options become endless in

the ways the network can be utilized to pass critical information, not only during large-scale incidents, but also for day to day collaboration.

This report will focus on the current status of network construction as well as the planned transition of the project to a long-term sustainable program supported by the region.

DISCUSSION:

The building of a regional communications network is a large scale effort in any region of this country. Due to size and geographic complexity of the County of San Diego, the task is even more challenging to engineer. The fact that the network is being built utilizing grant funding and governed by a multi-agency governing body further compounds the challenges faced by the project team. To better manage the task, the team has implemented Agile Project Management, which divides projects into small discrete phases, allowing teams to work quickly and implement in parts, while working towards a larger system as a whole.

Phase 1 (Pilot)

Timeframe: December 2005 to March 2007

Budget Grant Awards:	\$7,343,978.14
Budget Grant Matching Value (City/County split 50% each):	\$2,242,210.00
Budget Remaining Grant Funds from Previous Phase:	0.00
Total Budget	\$9,586,188.14

The pilot phase included the design and construction of the base network, as well as the incorporation of two initial applications selected to enhance regional collaboration: video conferencing and streaming of live video from the City of San Diego's fleet of public safety helicopters. This phase of the project has been in place and has been utilized during major drills and critical incidents since March 2007.

Proposed jointly by the City and County of San Diego as a regional solution, the pilot program for the 3Cs network connected sites at the following agencies:

- San Diego Police Department
- San Diego Fire-Rescue Department
- City of San Diego Public Safety/Homeland Security Emergency Operations Center
- San Diego Sheriff's Department
- CalFire San Diego Unit
- County of San Diego Office of Emergency Service Emergency Operations Center

Due to the success of the original pilot phase, the San Diego Police Department, on behalf of the regional consortium that governs 3Cs, has applied for and received additional grant funds totaling \$13M to continue growth of the network, expand coverage of the helicopter downlink program, and expand services to include data transfer between agencies.

Phase 2

Timeframe: May 2007 to April 2008

Budget Grant Awards:	\$4,140,983.60
Budget Grant Matching Value:	\$0.00
Budget Remaining Grant Funds from Previous Phase:	\$3,091,223.09
Total Budget	\$7,232,206.69

Phase 2 of the project concentrated on building additional redundancy into the network which now spans San Diego County, stretches east to Imperial County, and north to Riverside County. Phase 2 expands the helicopter downlink program outside of City of San Diego limits to cover approximately 60% of the county. The first Sheriff helicopter was equipped with video downlink equipment during this phase. The network is also preparing for its first data applications to be added, planned for Fall 2008.

Additionally, the following agencies were added to the network:

- NorthComm at Rancho Santa Fe Fire (with connection to existing fire locations on existing video conferencing network – Del Mar, Elfin Forrest, Encinitas, Escondido, North County Fire, Oceanside, Rancho Santa Fe, San Marcos, Solana Beach, and Vista)
- Carlsbad Public Safety Complex (alternate connection to north county network)
- City of Chula Vista
- Coast Guard JHOC Facility
- FBI San Diego Field Office (Summer 2008)
- County Jails (Central Jail, South Bay, Los Colinas, and Descanso)
- County Hazardous Materials Section
- Traffic Management Center (CalTrans/ California Highway Patrol)
- Metropolitan Transit System
- San Diego Convention Center

Currently Phases 3 and 4 are being planned to continue to extend the network to more agencies in the region and expand services for new applications. Due to an intensive effort to incorporate input and support from public safety agencies in the region, 3Cs now have a waiting list of 28 agencies, from local municipalities to federal law enforcement agencies, and the military.

In response to this overwhelming support by the region, the City of San Diego and the regional governing body for 3Cs are currently implementing plans to formalize the project into a program. Included in this effort is staffing by the City of a full-time program manager to work with regional governance to ensure that the network has a sustained and support model capable of ensuring the needs of the region are met during critical incidents as well as day-to-day use of the network. There is also a need for a more formalized Memorandum of Understanding between participating agencies, clearly defining ownership, costs (support and equipment refresh), and terms of usage of the network.

CONCLUSION:

Though still a relatively new system in the region, 3Cs has already proven to be a useful tool for the City of San Diego, and the region as a whole. During the La Jolla Landslide, 3Cs streaming from the helicopters allowed incident commanders at the site, as well as city and department operations centers to get a live image and assess damage. During the 2007 Firestorm, video conferencing was utilized by law enforcement and fire agencies to receive incident briefings and coordinate evacuation and repopulations.

The value of 3Cs will only continue to increase as the network reaches out to more of the City's partnering agencies. During critical incidents our goal is that all agencies participating will have an up to date and accurate understanding of the incident, which will allow them to make better

operational decisions. For day-to-day operations, we strive to provide a secure network for the transfer of data, becoming less reliant on commercial services, which are not built to withstand natural disasters and terrorist events.

The San Diego Police Department looks forward to continuing to support and champion the 3Cs as it continues to grow and develop as not only a regional resource, but also a national model for interoperable communications. We believe that 3Cs is an example of using technology to better serve our citizens, part of the commitment to excellence that has made us "America's Finest" Police Department.

Respectfully submitted,



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