



1. Attendance Roster

P = Present	T = Via Telephone	A = Absent
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Primary

A	Barrie	Tony	354 MDSS	Eielson AFB
T	Browning	Greg	Juneau PD	Chief
T	DuPont	Sue	Fairbanks AST Dispatch	Radio Dispatcher III
T	Goggia	Tammy	Soldotna AST Dispatch	SPSCC/AST Communications Center Manager
T	Johnson	Brad	Fairbanks PD	Deputy Chief (Chair)
A	Lamasko	Susan	APCO	Sr. Electronics Technician
T	Paiz	Pablo	Anchorage PD	Sergeant
T	Sell	Kris	Juneau PD	Lieutenant
T	Stearns	Dan	MATCOM	Public Safety Dispatch Manager
T	Stewart	Janie	Homer PD	Dispatch Supervisor
A	Tamagni	Al	Anchorage FD	Dispatch
A	Tucker	Jeff	Chief	North Star FD
T	Wallace	Jimmie	Corrections	Probation Parole, Director's Office

Others Present

T	Piscoya	Lonnie	Deputy Commander	Fairbanks AST Dispatch
T	Mlynarik	Pete	Capt	AST Detachment E
P	Shafer	Sherry	ALMR	Operations Management Office
P	Smith	Del	ALMR	Operations Manager

2. Meeting Minutes

Agenda Item / Topic	Discussion	Action Items
Called to Order	The meeting came to order at 1:00 p.m.	
Welcome and Introductions	<p>Mr. Del Smith confirmed members in attendance and welcomed the group.</p> <p>He emphasized to the group that the purpose of the meeting was not to mandate that all agencies go to Common Language. This Working Group would be exploring the current use of Common Language and looking at whether this was something Alaska should adopt statewide or not adopt. If there were opinions why it should not be done, we want to hear them and see if there is a way to work around them and move forward. There is no time line, we just think it is worthwhile to talk about as we move ahead.</p>	



	<p>Common Language is mandated in multi-agency, multi-jurisdiction responses.</p>	
<p>Chair Comments/Background</p>	<p>Deputy Chief Brad Johnson provided some background on how the subject of Common Language was being discussed from a law enforcement perspective, and if it made sense to hang on to 10 Codes when they are operating with other disciplines like fire and EMS who were required to talk in 'plain' language.</p> <p>It didn't make sense to operate independently with this laundry list of 10 codes when any time they had to talk to any other agencies, plain language was supposed to be used. They looked at whether they really needed to be on 10 Codes anymore at all, and how important that they were or if there were other alternatives for law enforcement, as well.</p> <p>He began talking to other agencies to see if there was interest in pursuing this. Fairbanks PD decided since they worked closely with the troopers, but troopers would not implement any change like this on just a regional basis because that wouldn't make sense, so they would need to do it on a statewide basis.</p> <p>If the troopers decided to go forward with this, they would need to be interoperable with many other agencies, so it only made sense to pursue it on a statewide initiative and get everyone on board in some manner and make the migration from 10 codes to 'plain' language when responding.</p> <p>Brad talked to other states and agencies that had already done the migration (Virginia being one). He used the Virginia model to put together the example that was presented to the User Council since Virginia had made the migration in 2006. There were a few exceptions to using common language terms to meet those officer safety requirements that exist. He used the commonly used 10 codes from the Fairbanks area and used those as an example to convert to 'plain' language, but still have some signals to use to meet officer safety specific requirements.</p> <p>This list is just a start point for discussion. This is not something that can be mandated on agencies, but we are looking for participation from those interested in moving in this direction to try to come up with a common path that we can all follow to get there and keep it simple.</p>	<p>OMO to send out materials after the meeting.</p>
<p>Discussion/Goals</p>	<p>1. Del asked Chief Greg Browning and Lt Kris Sell to give us an overview of Juneau's transition to common</p>	



	<p>language. Chief Browning stated in 2007 that they began the transition. They had seen the NIMS requirements and also some grants were now requiring the use of common language. It just made sense to move in that direction. He figured the best approach was to do it gradually.</p> <p>They began with discussion in the staff meetings and eventually came up with a very short list of common terms. About a year later, they followed up with the specific direction and implemented the change. There are only a few disposition codes they continue to use, and that is for their record keeping. The newer officers are having no problems with it, the more senior officers have occasional slips but overall they have had very few issues with the transition.</p> <p>Lt Sell confirmed that there were few problems with implementation. Most their officers have ear pieces now. These have become critical for the transmission of sensitive information with the use of common language terms.</p> <p>Del asked either Lt Lonnie Piscoya or Captain Pete Mlynarik if all the troopers had ear pieces yet. Capt Mlynarik stated they did not, and asked what if the suspect was sitting in the vehicle at the time of transmissions.</p> <p>Brad stated this was why they thought there would be a need to hold over some special codes or signals for officer safety situations, but it is preferable to make them standard so everyone across the state would know what they meant, if we can get there. Virginia came up with Signal 1 thru Signal 4, which are similar to 10 codes.</p> <p>2. Del asked Sgt Pablo Paiz from Anchorage Police Department what their current position and thinking is on this subject. Sgt Paiz stated that they had been looking at moving to 'plain' language when they received the invitation to participate in the working group. This is a direction they are already moving toward so they are looking forward to this.</p> <p>3. Capt Mlynarik stated his reservations were changing something for those with a lot of longevity. When you say 10 codes, although they may be different among agencies, it's clearly understood what it means. If someone has an accent or the transmission gets clipped, it's easier to misunderstand what is transmitted. They have worked with special teams and they have had to go to 'plain' language in these situations and have had no issues. It is more appropriate in places like Virginia than Alaska. His</p>	
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	<p>Detachment is not real jazzed about changing. Del acknowledged the objection.</p> <p>4. Del asked any of the dispatchers if there was an issue with Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) if we moved forward.</p> <p>Mr. Stearns stated they do have some CAD commands associated with 10 codes but they are really just aliases of another command. He stated the CAD commands are customized for their purpose and that customization could certainly occur again. The bigger question for MATCOM who dispatches multi-agencies would be if one agency was on fully and one agency was reluctant, then the pressure would be on the dispatchers to change mindsets from chair to chair and console to console. This may not be something that cannot be overcome. Palmer dispatches fire, EMS, and police agencies and doesn't have any problems. How will the change be managed?</p> <p>Deputy Chief Johnson stated they are also a multi-agency, multi-discipline dispatch center and use a CAD system. The programming portion can be a bit tedious, because some of the disposition codes are predicated on 10 codes, but those things can be changed. Fairbanks communication center is behind this effort and is prepared to do that programming change and looks forward to having all the agencies they dispatch for being on a common language.</p> <p>5. Del asked Lt Piscoya or Ms. Sue DuPont if they had any comments from D Dispatch perspective. Lt Piscoya said there is some initial apprehension about the change, and the troopers with longevity are less susceptible to change. With regard to the ear pieces, some of their troopers don't wear them, so that is an issue where they would have to make sure they all wear them. He is interested to hear how Juneau came up with a common terms that become more prevalent when many agencies say vehicle, car, truck, etc. that might be misconstrued by the dispatcher.</p> <p>Lt Sell said they use the verbage from the 10 Code and call a disabled vehicle a 'disabled vehicle.' If they are calling out a description, then they get more specific.</p> <p>Lt Piscoya stated the other issue is for SERT applications, they do have multi-agency members on their team and predominantly using 'plain language' to communicate what they need during the operation. It's a difficult issue because it's purely a change issue, and he was certain it would take a long time for the 10 Codes to disappear out</p>	
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	<p>of their conversations.</p> <p>Del stated there is no expectation of one day we do, and one day we don't. We recognize that for anybody this could occur over time.</p> <p>Chief Browning stated there were a lot of officers that were relieved over this change due to the lack of difficulty implementing it. There were still some that were opposed because it was something new, but there were changes in the past that were much more difficult. Lt Sell stated the one prevalent statement that have come up is they now hear from dispatch is 'are you prepared to copy confidential information.' This usually precedes a warrant for other sensitive information, but that has worked pretty well for us.</p> <p>6. Del asked Ms. Janie Stewart what she had to offer. Ms. Stewart stated ear pieces were also an issue because not everyone used them. The one prevalent issue is the officer's safety and what the suspects are hearing and should be the paramount concern along with interoperability. She noted she was not being a naysayer because this was not insurmountable.</p> <p>Del noted that 10 Codes are no secret and you can go on the internet and if he was a bad guy, he'd probably know 10-99 was a warrant.</p> <p>Lt Piscoya stated that one of the other issues that doesn't have anything to do with radio traffic but was brought up by another Detachment Commander was that a lot of times troopers and police officers if they are going to do something, and there is a suspect present, they will talk in a 10 Code instead of saying it so if you eliminate it they'd have to come up with another sign because it's useful not only on the radio but in real life situations where there is officer safety involved.</p> <p>Ms. Stewart stated it does get into your everyday speak and not only used on the radio, and dispersed in everyday language.</p> <p>Lt Piscoya asked Juneau if they had had any times where they wished they had the 10 Codes when they were in contact with someone and not necessarily radio communications.</p> <p>Lt Sell stated she had not heard of anything where it had been an issue, it hadn't come up. At first everyone stated that there were going to be officer safety problems, but</p>	
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	<p>that did not play out. Chief Browning confirmed he had not heard of anything like that happening.</p> <p>Deputy Chief Johnson stated they don't rely on 10 Codes anymore because they are common knowledge now and online all over the place, by agency.</p> <p>Lt Sell noted Western Auto hands out the 10 Codes when an individual purchases a scanner.</p> <p>7. Del asked Chief Browning if he knew why Ketchikan had implemented 'plain' language and why they had went back. Del had left a couple phone messages but no one had returned them.</p> <p>Chief Browning stated that there had been some leadership changes recently and that might be the reason why.</p>	
<p>Meeting Schedule</p>	<p>The next regularly scheduled meetings are Mar 13, Apr 10, and May 8.</p> <p>Meeting start time is 1:30 p.m.</p> <p>Call in number is 1-877-369-6530 Code: 10272004</p>	
<p>Adjourn</p>	<p>The meeting was adjourned at 1:35 p.m.</p>	