

AGENDA NOTE – HRPDC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

ITEM #9: PORT SECURITY GRANT PROGRAM (PSGP) FISCAL YEAR 2009 APPLICATION

SUBJECT:

The HRPDC Deputy Director and the Emergency Management Administrator have worked diligently with the Hampton Roads Interoperability Communications Advisory Committee (HRICAC) in identifying and applying for funding to support a maintenance and service contract for the Hampton Roads Tactical Regional Area Network (HRTacRAN). The HRICAC has the responsibility, with administrative and fiduciary support from the HRPDC, to sustain and maintain a highly reliable regional communications and data system to increase interoperability in response to emergencies due to port security threats, urban area homeland security threats, or disasters due to natural phenomena. In order to accomplish this, funding is needed for system upgrades along with a maintenance and service contract in order to sustain the system. Funding sustainment is allowable through this grant program upon award of this grant.

BACKGROUND:

The HRTacRAN was originally constructed with grant funds from the “Urban Area Security Initiative Port Security Program (PSGP)” from FY2003 that was issued by DHS’s Office of Domestic Preparedness. The HRTacRAN is a highly survivable regional microwave communications system supporting radio interoperability; emergency data file services, video teleconferencing, emergency voice communications, and emergency notification system and enhanced public information dissemination. Currently, there is no maintenance and service support contract to sustain this public safety interoperable communications system. Previous grant applications for FY07 and FY10 PSGP were not selected for funding.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Authorize the Executive Director to submit the grant application to the Virginia Department of Emergency Management for consideration and review by the Area Maritime Security Committee.

Authorize the Executive Director to accept a grant award if offered and matching funds are available.

STAFF COMMENTARY:

The FY09 PSGP would provide enough funding to initiate the solicitation and procurement of a service provider to upgrade, repair, and begin maintenance and service to this fragile system. Additionally, this funding would provide for the sustainment of this service and ensure this critical communications system remains operational and ready for use prior to,

during, and/or after a manmade or natural disaster. There is a 25% cash match with this grant application. If the region is successful in having this grant application funded, the Chief Administrative Officers will be consulted on their ability to support the match before accepting the grant award. If the match cannot be made, the grant will not be accepted and the HRPDC and HRICAC will have to seek other avenues of funding to support the HRTacRAN.