2018
BIANNUAL NCSWIC MEETING
Portland, Oregon
May 15-16, 2018

NCSWIC™

Tuesday, May 15, 2018

National Council of Statewide Interoperability Coordinators (NCSWIC) Executive Summary

NCSWIC welcomes their new members!

- *Gary Davis, Region III: Maryland Acting Point of Contact*
- *Robbie L. Hunt, Region III: Delaware SWIC*
- *Greg Hauser, Region IV: North Carolina SWIC**
- *Edwin Whitworth, Region IV: Georgia SWIC*
- *Molly Boss, Region V: Wisconsin Deputy SWIC**
- *Melissa Friend, Region IX: Nevada SWIC**
- *Brent Larson, Region X: Idaho SWIC**

In Attendance

Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Office of Emergency Communications (OEC) Update

Speaker: Ron Hewitt, Director, DHS OEC
Objective: Welcome NCSWIC members to Oregon and provide a DHS OEC update.
Key Points: Due to significant transformations in the emergency communications (EC) environment, the OEC Director highlighted potential areas for future concentration: 1) expand the collaborative Statewide Interoperability Coordinator (SWIC) umbrella to include new partners leading broadband, alerts & warnings, and Next Generation 911 (NG 911); 2) deploy new technologies in a more uniform manner; 3) use common applications; 4) develop interdisciplinary, interjurisdictional plans to improve how agencies interoperate during planned events; 5) build strong yet flexible governance structures to develop common operating procedures. OEC remains committed to supporting these shifts, especially as they relate to technical assistance and training; 2) supporting the Communications Section Task Force to elevate the Communications Unit to a Section within ICS and ensure Communication Unit Leader (COML) and Communications Technician (COMT) presence during incident response; and 3) driving state governance to coordinate complex forms of information and data exchange among EC systems (e.g., Public Safety Answering Points, Emergency Operations Centers).

Welcome to Oregon: An Emergency Communications Perspective of the State

Speaker: Mark Buchholz, Director of Willamette Valley 9-1-1 and SAFECOM At-Large Member
Objective: Welcome members to Oregon, providing details on the state's demographics, industries, and EC efforts in the state.
Key Points: Oregon's hazards are many (e.g., earthquakes, wildfires, floods, high winds, civil unrest), requiring a broad spectrum of planning and response to incidents. Oregon utilizes a variety of communications systems in these efforts (e.g., statewide/regional trunked/local radio), which require significant regional coordination (e.g., Inter RF Subsystem Interface [ISSI], Oregon Public Safety Emergency Communications Working Group, regional 800/700 MHz planning, Annual

Figure 1. Mount Hood, Oregon

Radio Conference). The SWIC's office falls under the State Chief Information Officer. Oregon has a Statewide Interoperability Executive Council to coordinate on strategic planning, broadband, and technology.

The Evolving Role of SWIC: Coordination, Expansion, and Support

Speakers: Jeff Pierce, South Dakota SWIC; Brad Stoddard, Michigan SWIC; Todd Early, Texas SWIC; Budge Currier, California SWIC
Objective: Discuss the evolving nature of the position as a coordination point for all public safety communications systems with local, state, regional, and Federal partners.
Key Points: The SWIC's core responsibilities continue to focus on ensuring communications during response. However, the role now involves having to understand a broader set of functions, including strategic planning, liaising with decision makers to sustain the role and EC in the state, and technical and security proficiencies. The success of this role expansion depends on seeking mid- and long-term funding solutions, educating legislators and planning

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experts/policy-makers within and beyond the state, and planning for how SWIC emergency response functions will be affected by the integration of new and emerging technologies. As a result of these shifts, the Statewide Communication Interoperability Plan (SCIP) has evolved from supporting operational objectives to more strategic goals, and the SWIC should continue to consider methods and content for increasing the effectiveness of the SCIP in each state. In addition to challenges surrounding SWIC sustainment, NCSWIC should continue to clarify their role moving forward by advocating for a comprehensive vision of EC in the state (i.e., interconnected systems spanning the emergency communications ecosystem).

The Future of Emergency Communications Governance: Outcomes from the First Two National Governors Association (NGA) Workshops

Speakers: Nikki Cassingham, Oklahoma SWIC; Jason Bryant, Kansas SWIC; Vicki Helfrich, Mississippi SWIC; Richard Schmahl, Ohio SWIC

Objective: Share perspectives, outcomes, and benefits of the NGA Regional Workshops.

Key Points: The workshops strive to enhance and streamline public safety communications governance and promote interoperability champions within states and territories. SWICs noted the workshops' power highlighting a need to formally align offices responsible for managing emergency communications across the continuum (e.g., land mobile radio [LMR], broadband, NG 911). For instance, some states focused on establishing new public safety communications councils with representatives from these divergent areas while others developed state governance charters. Panelists agreed the greatest benefit of the workshops has been inviting decision- and policy-makers to the table. The workshops not only provided opportunities to educate key influencers on the value and responsibilities of the SWIC, but the growing need for funding, state champions within the governor's office, and legislation supporting the SWIC and formalized state governance. Kansas shared legislation (KS HB2556) formulated as a result of the workshop, which established a State Interoperability Advisory Committee (SIAC).

Keynote: State of the Industry – Modern Threats in Targeted Verticals

Speaker: Steve Povolny, Head of Advanced Threat Research (ATR) at McAfee LLC

Objective: Provide an overview on safeguarding public safety networks and how the evolving threat landscape should increasingly shape our approach to privacy and security using lessons learned from recent real-world scenarios.

Key Points: Steve provided members with greater awareness of other lesser-known threats in the cyber space, with a focus on vulnerabilities. For instance, he described how medical equipment can be altered to mimic heart rates for both physical attacks and as a distraction mechanism in an attempt to carry out a larger disturbance. He also explained how any equipment connected to a network can be used to infiltrate other systems thought to be secure, including communications equipment, devices, and applications used during response.

Figure 2. Steve Povolny

Project 25 (P25) and Memorandums of Understanding (MOU) Update

Speaker: James Downes, DHS OEC; Roberto Mussenden, Federal Communications Commission (FCC); Scott Jackson, National Telecommunications & Information Administration (NTIA); Christopher Lewis, Department of Interior (DOI)

Objective: Engage in a discussion on P25 topics affecting the states as well as updates to the SWIC-Federal MOU and FCC procedures for licensing the Federal Interoperability Channels.

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Key Points: OEC, in cooperation with NTIA, FCC, and DOI, developed an MOU in 2016 allowing State, Local, Tribal, and Territorial public safety agencies to use Federal Law Enforcement and Incident Response (LE/IR) channels to improve EC interoperability. Panelists provided updates on the MOU effort, including revisions to NTIA Manual Section 4.3.16 on new rules and limitations that allow a simplified process to coordinate use through the SWICs. OEC has also assisted in the development of a geo-tool to coordinate the Canadian Border restrictions (CANCOR) for Norther Tier states. The DOI is using this tool to help SWICs understand restrictions placed on the use of certain channels along the border. Eleven states have signed MOUs and five are pending. Additionally, Jim Downes provided information on the May 16th P25 Open Users Session and May 17th P25 Executive Summit, noting potential discussion topics, such as coordination among the user and vendor communities on the implementation of standard and nonstandard features.

A Facilitated Discussion on the Communications Section Task Force: Recommended Changes and Impacts to States

Speakers: Wes Rogers, DHS OEC; Chris Lombard, SAFECOM Co-Chair, Communications Section Task Force Chair; John Miller, New Jersey SWIC, NCSWIC Liaison

Objective: Participate in a facilitated discussion pertaining to work accomplished and planned by stakeholders on the Communication Section Task Force as well as how this work impacts SWICs.

Key Points: The Joint SAFECOM and NCSWIC Communications Section Task Force provided its proposal to restructure the National Incident Management System (NIMS) Incident Command System (ICS) and establish a Communications Section within the general staff to manage the span of control when delivering both LMR and information technology (IT) to NCSWIC. During this facilitated discussion, the Task Force leadership discussed the communications and IT challenges experienced within the ICS structure, reviewed the stakeholder-driven process for developing recommended solutions, presented the Task Force's proposal, and described how the recommended solutions would impact SWICs. John Miller noted the biggest impact to SWICs, from an administrative standpoint, involves establishing additional training programs, possible changes to state recognition programs, and updates to existing COML/COMT personnel. These structural changes also offer a number of benefits, including the elevation of the SWIC position to a higher level due to the SWICs oversight of emergency and planned public safety communications. Chris Lombard and John requested SWICs start messaging these changes and their benefits to other agencies in their state.

Future Meetings

Table 1: Upcoming Planned NCSWIC Meetings

Meeting	Type/Location	Date
Communications Section Task Force ITSL Alpha Course	Fairfax, Virginia	June 4-8, 2018
NCSWIC Executive Committee	Conference Call	June 12, 2018
NCSWIC Governance Committee **(Tentative)**	Washington, DC area	July 2018 **(TBD)**
Communications Section Task Force ITSL Beta Course	Houston, Texas	July 9-13, 2018
NCSWIC Planning, Training, and Exercise Committee	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania	July 24, 2018
NCSWIC Executive Committee **(Tentative)**	Location TBD	August 2018 **(TBD)**
Joint Bi-Annual NCSWIC-SAFECOM Meetings	Norman, Oklahoma	December 3-7, 2018