SAFECOM & NCSWIC QUARTERLY
Newsletter

SAFECOM

NCSWIC

Note from the Director

By: Ron Hewitt, OEC Director

Welcome to Volume III, Issue II of the SAFECOM-National Council of Statewide Interoperability Coordinators (NCSWIC) Quarterly Newsletter. I would like to start by thanking everyone who attended the recent SAFECOM and NCSWIC meetings held in San Antonio, Texas, in May. I heard great things about the discussions coming out of the joint meeting, your individual sessions, and the committee meetings.

The Communications Unit (COMU) Working Group Leadership recently traveled to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Office of Emergency Communications (OEC) to hold a two day in-person meeting. During the course of the meeting, they reaffirmed the need for a federated governance model, which includes agencies involved in emergency communications and the communications unit environments, as the best arrangement for identifying and developing solutions to current communications problems. Additionally, they identified options for a new Incident Command System (ICS) structure to better reflect the current requirements and responsibilities of the communications unit and allow for expanded information technology responsibilities and enhanced curriculum of the current positions. In the coming months, the Working Group will be drafting a mission statement outlining COMU 2.0 and a timeline for developing the COML 2.0 that will be presented at the November 2017 Joint SAFECOM and NCSWIC Meeting.

In April 2017, the National Governors Association (NGA) Center for Best Practices released a white paper with recommendations and lessons learned during the 2016 Policy Academy on Enhancing Emergency Communications Interoperability. OEC plans to incorporate best practices and recommendations from the Academy into Technical Assistance (TA) offerings and Statewide Communication Interoperability Plan (SCIP) workshops.

In support of the SAFECOM/NCSWIC Emergency Communications Governance Guide of September 2015, OEC launched new Enhanced SCIP Pilot Engagements based on observations from the NGA Policy Academy and stakeholder feedback, to provide a more intensive review of states' needs involving governance, technology, and lifecycle funding sustainment with an eye on the emergency communications ecosystem. OEC is conducting Pilot Engagements in Alaska, Arkansas, Iowa, North Carolina, Oregon, Tennessee, Washington, D.C., West Virginia, and Wisconsin. To date, OEC has observed broader participation from stakeholders representing all points of the ecosystem; more in-depth discussions on the desired state of governance, technology, and funding sustainment; and a recognition of the need to sustain land mobile radio (LMR) and plan for new technologies at the same time. OEC has also seen increased collaboration within states and localities and across neighboring borders.

About the Newsletter

The SAFECOM-NCSWIC Quarterly Newsletter is designed to be a source of information, news, and updates for SAFECOM, Statewide Interoperability Coordinators (SWICs), their staff, and members of the stakeholder community. We hope it will be a valuable resource as you lead future statewide planning efforts and implementation of the National Emergency Communications Plan (NECP).

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Generation 9-1-1 (NG 9-1-1), and 13 focus on developing governance plans for the COMU. All but eight states or territories have submitted requests for FY17 technical assistance.

On June 9, 2017, OEC released the *Fiscal Year 2017 SAFECOM Guidance for Emergency Communications Grants (SAFECOM Guidance)*. The SAFECOM Guidance is updated annually to provide current information on emergency communications policies, eligible costs, best practices, and technical standards for state, local, tribal, and territorial grantees investing federal funds in emergency communications projects. This document aims to ensure emergency communications standards and policies across federal grant programs provide a consistent approach to improving emergency communications nationwide. Key changes to the Fiscal Year (FY) 2017 SAFECOM Guidance include additional cybersecurity resources, FirstNet guidance on broadband projects, and implications of data information sharing. As in previous years, OEC developed the FY 2017 SAFECOM Guidance in partnership with SAFECOM and NCSWIC, working closely with the Joint Funding and Sustainment Committee members to develop new content and update investment priorities. OEC also consulted federal partners and the Emergency Communications Preparedness Center to review policies and encourage adoption across federal grant programs.

The SAFECOM Nationwide Survey (SNS) is making its way through the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) process. Testing was completed in June, and our strategic communications efforts are underway. OEC tested the survey content with state, local, and federal responders over a four-week period and received positive feedback during this time. I would like to thank those who provided media or membership points of contact within your agencies or jurisdictions; OEC hopes to work with them to help elicit additional responses. If you have not yet provided a point of contact, or have additional thoughts on how we can engage the broader public safety community, please reach out to SNS@hq.dhs.gov. Additionally, SNS documents are available on the SAFECOM website with information about the survey's overview, target population, development, public safety partner benefits, and release.
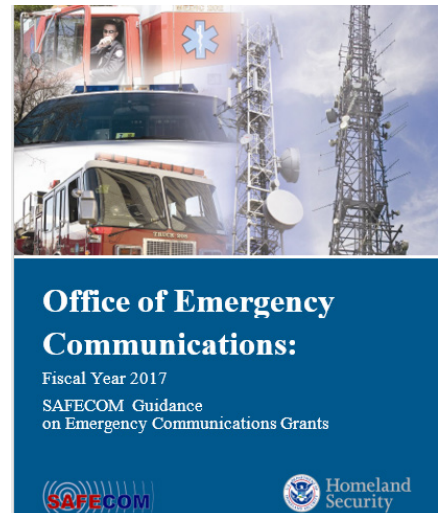
OEC is currently working on a high-level project plan for the 2019 NECP. The 2019 NECP will expand upon the ecosystem concept introduced in 2014 to bring better granularity to the engagement and planning processes for expanding emergency communications capabilities.

OEC continues to support interoperability between the United States and Canada and is working to improve the communications landscape among states along the northern border. The Canada-United States Communications Interoperability Working Group (CANUS CIWG) hosted a meeting in Buffalo, New York, on June 20-21. The meeting brought together federal, state, local, and tribal stakeholders from both sides of the border to discuss a wide array of issues to include spectrum management, NG911, mutual aid, and other issues challenging or enhancing cross-border communications. OEC's border program is also supporting the fifth Canada-U.S. Enhanced Resiliency Experiment (CAUSE V). This experiment tests emerging communications technologies along the northern border, most notably broadband technologies, allowing American and Canadian officials to provide mutual aid during incidents requiring a cross-border response.

The Southwest Border Communications Working Group (SWBCWG) held an in-person meeting in Sacramento, California, May 23-24. In early 2017, the SWBCWG established a focus group to continue identifying gaps in public safety communications voice and data operability and interoperability within 100 kilometers (roughly 60 miles) along the southwest border. The next SWBCWG in-person meeting will be held in Weslaco, Texas, September 12-13, 2017.

Lastly, OEC continues efforts to establish and build collaborative relationships with federally-recognized tribes. OEC is developing governance profiles with participating tribes to better understand tribal emergency communications operations, resources, and interoperable emergency challenges, and to identify opportunities to help tribes

assess and improve their communications interoperability capabilities. To date, nine profiles have been completed and five are in progress. In May, OEC published an article in the spring edition of TribalNet Magazine, explaining its efforts to assist with tribal emergency management planning to improve response and recovery efforts through TA, Priority Telecommunications Services, and the communications governance profiling effort.

Public safety communications is going through unprecedented change, more so than any time in our Nation's history, with the deployment of next generation networks. These multimedia capabilities bring significant opportunities, but also new risks (e.g., cybersecurity, data storage, privacy, and data/icon/application standards). I look forward to working with SAFECOM and NCSWIC to mitigate these risks to ensure information seamlessly flows from the citizen to all appropriate public safety responders.

I would like to thank everyone for their continued support. Progress in public safety communications interoperability would not be possible without your hard work, dedication, input, and recommendations. ∎

Note from the SAFECOM Chair

*By: **Chief Gerald Reardon**, SAFECOM At-Large*

Thank you to everyone who attended the recent SAFECOM and NCSWIC meetings in San Antonio, Texas. The collaborative and productive nature of the meetings was encouraging. As a leader in the public safety communications community, SAFECOM continues to discuss and develop guidance for elected officials and decision makers on the relevance of LMR sustainment, T-Band, and encryption and standards. Additionally, SAFECOM will increasingly consider and provide guidance on the integration of new and emerging technologies, such as broadband and NG9-1-1, and how these shifts affect the future of public safety communications along the lanes of the continuum. Therefore, SAFECOM must begin to think more broadly. How can we, as experts in the field, contribute to and assist with the evolving complexity of public safety communications while continuing to solve our communications problems of today? How do these considerations align with the SAFECOM program's mission and our future work? The insights presented in San Antonio surrounding preparations for and execution of Super Bowl LI from a public safety communications perspective provides us a window into how new practices and policies are being implemented and carried out during actual events. It is important SAFECOM continue to be a guiding voice for the responder community and an authority for decision makers seeking recommendations on priorities in the field.

Later this summer, there will be several opportunities to build upon SAFECOM's work. The SAFECOM Education and Outreach Committee will meet on August 2, in Glynco, Georgia. The COMU Working Group will meet in-person, August 17-18, in Denver, Colorado. I look forward to hearing about the discussions and outcomes of these meetings.

Finally, as a reminder, the NG9-1-1 Working Group will be kicking off soon. Those interested in joining should send an email to the **SAFECOM Inbox**, if you have not already communicated your interest. ∎

Note from the NCSWIC Vice Chair

*By: **Joe Galvin**, Illinois Statewide Interoperability Coordinator (SWIC)*

NCSWIC members, thank you for allowing me the privilege to serve as Vice Chair of NCSWIC. As a member of the NCSWIC community for the past six years, I have seen tremendous growth and opportunity present itself. As a result of the NCSWIC, I can say the State of Illinois is further along in regards to interoperability, integrating other technologies under a single planning section, and our strategic technology reserves. The success in Illinois is due to the combination of the support we get through DHS OEC, sharing strategies through my fellow SWICs from across the nation, plus hard work by some passionate team members and volunteers here in Illinois.

As NCSWIC Vice Chair, my main focus will be on continuing to advance the importance of SWICs as key leaders and advocates for

statewide public safety communications by educating lawmakers, policymakers, and stakeholders on the importance of supporting policies for public safety communications. The roles and responsibilities of the various SWIC positions across the 56 states and territories are as variable as paint selections at the hardware store, but a common thread seems to be the SWIC acts as a knowledge repository. More specifically, their responsibility includes fostering collaboration and coordination across disciplines as it relates to communications. I believe leveraging this is key.

In Illinois, success in communications is easily defined as two words: "people" and "strategy." Without people, nothing else matters. Whether it is your management, your employees, or your volunteers—it is about managing expectations and using each group of "people" as effectively as possible.

A state's public safety communications strategy should focus on ensuring statewide and regional linkages for public safety agencies and to provide a foundation to further develop continuing access to information (voice and data). To evaluate communications technology capabilities, the governing body and the SWIC should develop an approach that assists in identifying strengths and limitations in supporting effective public safety communications, and then establishes goals and initiatives that will permit the state to address any identified limitations. The entire public safety communications ecosystem, including 9-1-1, LMR, amateur radio, data, and public alerts and notifications, will continue to evolve and develop. Staying connected and flexible will be key for the years that follow.

There is no "finish line." As communications continue to evolve, we must continue to select and implement the technologies that will improve our ability to effectively communicate with each other. Remember, planning is key—for daily operability, local interoperability, statewide interoperability, and the possible introduction of federal responders. Continue to participate with your neighbors and to practice, but most importantly, we need leadership from you when it comes time to drive home the importance of public safety communications within your state. ■

Regional Coordinator Update

Regional Coordinators (RC) strengthen emergency communications capabilities across federal, state, local, tribal, and territorial governments through building trusted relationships, knowledge sharing, and program and service delivery. Below are a few examples of how RCs have been busy over the past year supporting OEC's stakeholders:

■ Pam Montanari in Region IV has been working with stakeholders to test Emergency Mutual Aid Compact (EMAC) procedures with pre-built Mission Ready Packages (MRP) for deployment of mobile communications assets in southeastern states. Pam has been working with Derek Nesselrode, Kentucky SWIC, and the other seven regional SWICs and EMAC coordinators to help the states test EMAC procedures for interstate deployments of equipment. This is a continuation of a TA engagement originally requested in 2015 by Chuck Murph, former Alabama SWIC.

■ This past September Tom Lawless, Region IX, supported the International Conservation Union Convention, a National Special Security Event (NSSE), in Honolulu, Hawaii, while two tropical storms bore down on the Islands. In addition to supporting an NSSE, he also supported communications planning for the pending hurricanes, which fortunately did not hit the islands. During a transition to a new SWIC in January, Tom advised the state's Adjutant General on SWIC functions and responsibilities.

■ Chris Tuttle in Region II and the OEC SCIP team supported the St. Regis Mohawk Tribe, a Federally recognized Tribal Nation, in upstate New York with communications strategic planning, an effort modeled on OEC's statewide communications interoperability planning methodology. The support was unique in that the Tribe's reservation is located in both Canada and New York State.

■ Many RCs are actively involved in the continued promotion of the Federal Interoperability Channel Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) template which provides easier access for the state, local, tribal, and territorial public safety agencies to federal law enforcement and incident response (LE/IR) interoperability channels for emergency communications with a federal agency. OEC RCs have been instrumental in five states' adopting the MOU with Department of Interior in the last six months.

RCs work to help SWICs and other OEC stakeholders request OEC services to meet the challenges and issues called out in states' and territories' SCIP plans, and are directly involved in the annual TA and SCIP request process. They support governance at all levels of state government and are available to help SWICs involve key stakeholders with challenges to communications effective interoperability.

For more information about the Regional Coordinators, please contact Chris Essid, Southeast Regional Supervisor, at chris.essid@hq.dhs.gov. ∎

2017 Committee Schedule

	Committee	Meeting Dates
SAFECOM	Education and Outreach	Last Wednesday of every month at 2pm ET
	Governance	Second Wednesday of every month at 2pm ET
Joint	Technology Policy	Third Tuesday of every month at 3pm ET
	Funding and Sustainment	Third Wednesday of every month at 4pm ET
NCSWIC	Governance	Fourth Thursday of every month at 1:30pm ET
	Planning, Training and Exercises	Fourth Tuesday of every month at 3pm ET

2017 SAFECOM & NCSWIC Committee Leadership

NCSWIC Governance Committee:
Chair: Bob Symons
Vice Chair: Craig Allen

NCSWIC Planning, Training, and Exercise Committee:
Chair: John Miller
Vice Chair: Sue Krogman

SAFECOM Governance Committee:
Chair: Don Bowers
Vice Chair: Sheriff Paul Fitzgerald

SAFECOM Education and Outreach Committee:
Chair: Chris Lombard
Vice Chair: Mike Murphy

Joint Technology Policy Committee:
SAFECOM Chair: Chief Gerald Reardon
NCSWIC Chair: Craig Allen
SAFECOM Vice Chair: Dan Wills
NCSWIC Vice Chair: Steve Staffier

Joint Funding and Sustainment Committee:
SAFECOM Chair: Tom Roche
NCSWIC Chair: David Soloos

Upcoming SAFECOM and NCSWIC Meetings

Month	Day	Meeting
July	11	NCSWIC EC Conference Call
	13	SAFECOM EC Conference Call
August	2	SAFECOM Education and Outreach Meeting; Glynco, GA (FLETC)
	2	NCSWIC Leadership Meeting; Chicago, IL
	17-18	COMU Working Group Meeting; Denver, CO
September	12	NCSWIC EC Conference Call
	14	SAFECOM EC Conference Call
November	6-10	SAFECOM & NCSWIC Meetings; Norman, OK
December	7	SAFECOM EC Conference Call
	12	NCSWIC EC Conference Call

SAFECOM and NCSWIC May Executive Committee (EC) Meetings

The SAFECOM EC met on Tuesday, May 2, 2017:

- Received updates from each SAFECOM committee
- Received updates on the COMU WG's activities and accomplishments
  - The COMU WG identified the need for a federated governance model as the best arrangement for identifying and developing solutions to current communications problems
  - Next Steps: The COMU WG is holding an in-person meeting, August 17-18, in Denver, Colorado

The NCSWIC EC met on Thursday, May 4, 2017:

- Received updates from each NCSWIC committee
- Discussed the importance of utilizing social media to elevate NCSWIC's presence among the public safety community
- Elected Joe Galvin, Illinois SWIC, as the new NCSWIC Vice Chair
- Nikki Cassingham, Oklahoma SWIC, took over as NCSWIC Chair after Bob Symons, NCSWIC Chair, officially stepped down

The SAFECOM and NCSWIC ECs approved the following documents during the May 2017 meetings:

- Project 25 (P25) Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)
- Trustmark Framework Position Paper
- Trustmark Framework Tri-fold Brochure
- Identity, Credential, and Access Management 101 Executive Briefing

Please contact the **SAFECOM Inbox** for more information on SAFECOM activities, and **NCSWIC Inbox** for more information on NCSWIC activities. ∎

Meet the Stakeholders

Everett Kaneshige
NCSWIC, *Hawaii SWIC*

Everett Kaneshige was appointed as the SWIC for the State of Hawaii in March 2017. Prior to his appointment, he served as Hawaii's Chief Strategy Officer for Broadband and Telecommunications where he was responsible for the development and implementation of the state's Broadband Strategic Plan. He was also co-lead with the Departments of Commerce and Consumer Affairs and the Office of Information Management & Technology on various broadband infrastructure and adoption projects. Previously, he served as the Deputy Director for Commerce and Consumer Affairs and Deputy Attorney General advising the state's Department of Business Economic Development & Tourism and the High Technology Development Corporation.

Everett's background includes 30+ years as an attorney specializing in real estate and telecommunications. He serves as a course writer and instructor for Hawaii's Real Estate Commission on topics such as technology, condominiums, and broker and salesperson licensing. In 1999, he co-founded a software company which pioneered accessing real estate listing information on mobile wireless devices in all 50 states, the Virgin Islands, and Canada.

Everett is a graduate of the University of Hawaii and the University of California Hastings College of the Law. He has also served as an officer and director for local charities; including Ronald McDonald House of Hawaii and Hawaii Meals on Wheels. ∎

Everett can be reached at everett.s.kaneshige@hawaii.gov.

OEC HQ Spotlights

Wes Rogers
Telecommunications Specialist and COMU Working Group Federal Lead OEC, *Public Safety and National Security/Emergency Preparedness (NS/EP) Governance Branch*

Wes Rogers joined the DHS OEC, Interoperable Communications Technical Assistance Program (ICTAP) Branch in February 2017. Before beginning his work with OEC, Wes was employed by the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department for 27 years. During his time in Fairfax, he served in the Operations and Communications Section and was the Program Manager for the National Capital Region (NCR) and Virginia Communications Cache Team. Wes was also a member of Virginia Task Force One (VATF-1) and USA-1 as a Communications Specialist. During this time, he deployed all around the world with one of the two International Urban Search and Rescue Teams. Wes also participated on the working group that wrote the All Hazards Communications Leader (COML) curriculum, and was the lead in writing the Communications Unit Technician (COMT) Curriculum. He also previously served on SAFECOM and was the Vice Chair of the SAFECOM Education and Outreach Committee and a member of the COMU Working Group. ∎

Wes can be reached at wes.rogers@hq.dhs.gov.

SWBCWG Continues to Address Border Communications Challenges

The Southwest Border Communications Working Group (SWBCWG) met in Sacramento, California, on May 23-24, 2017. The meeting focused on public safety interoperability efforts and California's statewide emergency response/preparedness capabilities and activities, including tribal coordination.

FY 2017 SAFECOM Guidance

On June 9, 2017, OEC released the Fiscal Year 2017 SAFECOM Guidance for Emergency Communications Grants (SAFECOM Guidance).

SAFECOM Guidance Frequently Asked Questions: Understanding P25 Standards and Compliance

To assist public safety practitioners navigate compliance requirements for Project 25 (P25) standards of land mobile radio equipment, the Joint SAFECOM – NCSWIC Funding and Sustainment Committee released the SAFECOM Guidance Frequently Asked Questions: Understanding Project 25 Standards and Compliance.

National Governors Association (NGA) White Paper Released

In 2016, the National Governors Association (NGA) Center for Best Practices and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Office of Emergency Communications (OEC) launched a Policy Academy on Enhancing Emergency Communications Interoperability. In April 2017, NGA released a white paper, which provided lessons learned and recommendations following the execution of the Policy Academy workshops

SAFECOM and NCSWIC Encourage Public Safety to Adopt Trustmark Framework

At their biannual meetings May 2 – 4, 2017, SAFECOM and the National Council of Statewide Interoperability Coordinators (NCSWIC) Executive Committees unanimously approved a position paper encouraging public safety agencies to adopt and leverage the Trustmark Framework. This represents a critical step by public safety officials to address key security concerns arising from an increasingly interconnected environment.

SAFECOM-NCSWIC Offers Life Cycle Planning Tool

The Joint SAFECOM-NCSWIC Funding and Sustainment Committee recently updated the Life Cycle Planning Tool for state and local stakeholders to utilize when planning public safety communications projects and identifying optimal funding sources for each phase of a system life cycle.

Elevating the Importance of the SWIC and SIGBs

In 2016, DHS, OEC established a short-term Statewide Governance and Planning Integrated Project Team (IPT) to identify the most significant barriers to statewide governance and planning, and create a plan to transform OEC's products and services to support states in addressing these challenges. One sub-group to the IPT focused on promoting governance and the role of Statewide Interoperability Coordinators (SWICs) and Statewide Interoperability Governing Boards (SIGBs), thus elevating their importance within state government, optimizing resources, and leveraging strategic relationships to further emergency communications interoperability statewide.

2016 NCSWIC Annual Report & 2016 NCSWIC Strategic Priorities: Summary of Accomplishments

The NCSWIC Governance Committee recently released the 2016 NCSWIC Annual Report. This year-in-review document showcases NCSWIC's recent successes and achievements. Sections of the report review NCSWIC committee products and activities, in-person meeting outcomes, and highlights from each of the regions. The committee also developed and published the 2016 NSCWIC Strategic Priorities: Summary of Accomplishments, which provides a snapshot of NCSWIC committee and working group key initiatives and products from 2016.

CONTRIBUTE TO THE NEWSLETTER

If you would like to contribute articles for future newsletters highlighting innovative practices in your state, territory, or represented association, please contact NCSWICGovernance@hq.dhs.gov or SAFECOMGovernance@hq.dhs.gov.