SAFECOM & NCSWIC QUARTERLY
Newsletter

Note from the Director

By: Ron Hewitt, *OEC Director*

Welcome to Volume IV, Issue III, of the SAFECOM-National Council of Statewide Interoperability Coordinators (NCSWIC) Quarterly Newsletter.

With Fiscal Year 2019 (FY19) underway, I would like to acknowledge all the outstanding progress made in FY18 to advance emergency communications interoperability through the tireless efforts of SAFECOM, NCSWIC, and the Office of Emergency Communications (OEC).

While we made tremendous strides for the emergency communications ecosystem in FY18, there is still much work left to do to ensure the seamless flow of information (voice and data) during incident response and daily operations. In support of that mission, OEC will be focusing on five key initiatives in the coming year, detailed below, with the ways in which SAFECOM and NCSWIC's involvement are critical to these initiatives' success.

Finalize and Publish the 2019 National Emergency Communications Plan:

The *National Emergency Communications Plan (NECP)* sets the national vision and strategy for improving interoperable emergency communications over the next five years. In FY18, SAFECOM and NCSWIC members played a crucial role in the 2019 NECP development process by providing valuable input to the SAFECOM Nationwide Survey (SNS), participating in NECP working groups and association interviews, and reviewing and revising draft content. Your expertise and insight ensures the 2019 NECP addresses the more pressing challenges facing public safety.

In FY19, NECP Working Group participants will present content

revisions during the December 2018 SAFECOM and NCSWIC meetings, which will kick-off the public comment period. If you have not yet provided input on the NECP, I encourage you to participate during the comment period. Public comment will end in mid-January, one month before we must finalize the NECP to route for sign-off. Your continued dedication to this process is paramount to developing a plan which meets the needs of public safety and is widely adopted by federal, state, local, tribal, and territorial stakeholders.

Integrate Governance and Planning Across the Ecosystem

As the emergency communications landscape evolves, governing bodies must engage decision-makers and communications system representatives in planning efforts to ensure the seamless flow of information. In FY18, we made important strides in enhancing integrated governance and planning across the emergency communications ecosystem, including:

- Conducted five nationwide governance workshops with 49 states and territories participating. The workshops convened senior-level state officials as well as state and local representatives across the full emergency communications ecosystem to discuss how governance can drive integration in their state to enhance public safety communications. OEC is now working with each participating state to develop and track an action plan to implement their governance goals. In FY19, OEC will continue to provide holistic support to states and territories to advance their governance goals including providing targeted technical assistance.

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 NECP.

inside this issue

- Established a State, Local, Tribal, and Territorial (SLTT) Working Group to update the *2015 Emergency Communications SLTT Governance Guide*, which provides recommendations for strengthening governance across the ecosystem. SAFECOM and NCSWIC members will play a key role in finalizing and distributing the 2018 Governance Guide to ensure widespread adoption.

- Updated the *Statewide Communications Interoperability Plan Guide* to reflect the entire public safety communications ecosystem.

National Incident Management System (NIMS) Communications Framework

As incidents become increasingly complex and more communications technologies are available to responders, a concerted effort to manage communications resources and assistance during emergencies is required. In FY18, OEC worked with SAFECOM and NCSWIC members to continue the modernization of the NIMS Communications Framework. Key accomplishments include conceptualizing and developing a new curriculum for the Information Technology Service Unit Leader (ITSL) position, implementing two ITSL beta test classes, and establishing the framework for a Communications Section within the NIMS Incident Command System. Additionally, the Incident Communications Advisory Council was established to drive efforts to update NIMS to reflect the current communications environment.

In FY19, OEC will deploy ITSL training while continuing to work with stakeholders to identify requirements and determine needs for potential new positions within the Communications Section. Specifically, OEC will conduct nine ITSL training sessions in states across the nation and one train-the-trainer session. SAFECOM and NCSWIC's continued support of this effort is critical to highlighting the upcoming ITSL training to association and organization members and continuing to participate in the Task Force's efforts on the framework.

Define Interoperability in an Internet Protocol Network Environment

As more communications capabilities become available to emergency responders, data interoperability remains one of the most pressing challenges facing the public safety community.

In FY19, OEC will partner with SAFECOM and NCSWIC to identify and document best practices to implement technical and operational standards enabling interoperable and secure information to seamlessly flow between emergency communications systems in an Internet Protocol-connected environment. This will be accomplished by incorporating public safety stakeholder requirements into functional and operational requirements, test strategy, and test cases to ensure products and services are tested and vetted by the public safety community.

Best practices, guidance, and operational frameworks can be derived from this work to help public safety best optimize data and information interoperability, and identify and drive which standards can be updated to support public safety requirements in the future.

Field Next Generation Network-Priority Services

Priority Telecommunications Services (PTS) ensures public safety and the national security and emergency preparedness communities have access to telecommunications and restoration services to communicate under all circumstances. You are likely familiar with PTS programs such as the Government Emergency Telecommunications Service (GETS) for landline calls and the Wireless Priority Service (WPS) for cellular calls. In FY19, OEC will continue to provide PTS services and manage the Next Generation Network-Priority Services (NGN-PS) program, designed to ensure priority capabilities as legacy systems transition to IP-based networks. Concurrently, SAFECOM and NCSWIC can play a critical role in increasing PTS user adoption by raising awareness of the program within your organizations and associations.

We are experiencing historic advances in technology, which hold the promise to greatly increase responder capabilities. I am confident SAFECOM, NCSWIC, and OEC will be able to ensure the emergency communications ecosystem is interoperable because of our strong partnership and shared commitment to the mission. As we plan for the year ahead, I would like to thank SAFECOM and NCSWIC members for your time, dedication, and contributions to the critically important task of ensuring the seamless flow of voice and data information to save lives and protect property. Thank you again and I look forward to seeing many of you at the Joint SAFECOM and NCSWIC In-Person Meetings in December! ■

Note from the SAFECOM Chair

By: Chief Gerald Reardon, SAFECOM At-Large

It has been another productive summer for SAFECOM! Since our Biannual SAFECOM Meeting in May, many SAFECOM committees and working groups have conducted in-person meetings and conference calls. I appreciate your participation in these meetings and the ongoing effort to strengthen SAFECOM. We are already preparing for the next Biannual SAFECOM Meeting in Norman, Oklahoma, on December 3-7, 2018. Please be on the lookout for additional information as the meeting dates approach.

The SAFECOM Executive Committee (EC) recently approved several products as a result of your hard work and additional products are currently in development. The SAFECOM EC approved two Technology Policy Committee-submitted products: the *Public Safety Communications Network Resiliency Self-Assessment Guidebook* developed by the Advanced Technology Group and the *Cyber Risks to Next Generation 9-1-1* document developed by the Next Generation 911 (NG911) Working Group. The Education and Outreach Committee is wrapping up the updated *Public Safety Communications Evolution Brochure* and developing a new *SAFECOM School and New Member Orientation*.

As we prepare for the December meeting, SAFECOM will be welcoming 13 new at-large members. The SAFECOM Governance Committee and Membership Working Group reviewed all the applications received and conducted interviews before extending membership offers. The new members are:

- **Darryl Anderson**, Major/Interoperable Communications Specialist; Stark County Sheriff's Office (Ohio)
- **Chris Carney**, Communications System Specialist; Orange County Department of Emergency Services (New York)
- **D. Jeremy DeMar**, Director; Springfield Emergency Communications Department (Massachusetts)
- **Sean Fensterwald**, Master Technician/Deputy Program Manager-Operations; Fairfax County Fire & Rescue (Virginia)
- **Ashley Gonzalez**, Training Coordinator; City of Houston-Public Safety Radio (Texas)
- **Mark Hogan**, Director of Asset Management; City of Tulsa (Oklahoma)
- **Walt Magnussen**, Director of Technology Evaluation Center; Texas A&M University (Texas)
- **Rodney Mendes**, Chief of Fire & Office of Emergency Services; Hoopa Valley Tribe (California)
- **J.M. Rowe**, ESF-2 Liaison/Volunteer Communications Coordinator; Arkansas Department of Emergency Management (Arkansas)
- **Steve Staffier**, Communications/Interoperability Manager; Massachusetts Port Authority (Massachusetts)
- **Chad Steffen**, Patrol Officer, Communications Unit Leader (COML)/Communications Technician (COMT) Administrator; City of Red Wing Police Department/Lower Sioux Indian Community (Minnesota)
- **John Stevens**, SWIC/Single Point of Contact (SPOC); New Hampshire Department of Safety (New Hampshire)
- **Keith Victor**, Communications System Manager; Town of West Hartford (Connecticut)

Please join me in welcoming these new members. We look forward to working with and getting to know each of you!

Finally, SAFECOM's 2018 elections kicked off in September for the Chair and Vice Chair of the Governance and Technology Policy committees. The results of those elections are below:

- **Governance Committee**: George Perera
- **Governance Committee Vice Chair**: Sheriff Paul Fitzgerald
- **Technology Policy Committee Chair**: Chief Gerald Reardon
- **Technology Policy Committee Vice Chair**: Chief Jonathan Lewin

Thank you to everyone on the Governance and Technology Policy committees who participated in the voting process.

In October, we held a nomination and voting process for two SAFECOM EC At-Large positions, each for a two-year term. The results of those elections are below:

- **At-Large EC Member**: Michael Murphy
- **At-Large EC Member**: Anthony Catalanotto

Thank you to all the SAFECOM members who participated in the voting process. I extend my appreciation to our At-Large EC members for their continued willingness to serve in these positions.

In November, we will kick off the nomination process for the SAFECOM Chair and one SAFECOM Vice Chair position, which will conclude with an in-person vote at the December in-person SAFECOM Meeting in Norman, Oklahoma. All SAFECOM members are eligible to nominate any willing member of the SAFECOM EC. In addition to the primary EC association members, EC membership also includes committee chairs and four At-Large EC positions. Following the nomination period, the candidates will be announced and their qualifications provided prior to in-person voting at the December 2018 SAFECOM Meeting. All primary SAFECOM members are eligible to vote, however only one vote may be cast by an association. SAFECOM members who are unable to attend the in-person SAFECOM meeting will have the opportunity to designate a proxy to vote in their place. More information about proxy designation will be forthcoming.

I am looking forward to another exciting Biannual SAFECOM In-Person Meeting and hope to see you all in Norman. In the meantime, I know many of you have faced the unique challenges of hurricanes and other incidents. Several SAFECOM members, including Chris Lombard and Sean Fensterwald, have been deployed to assist in emergency response and I thank them for their work. If you have participated in other deployments for major response and recovery efforts, please let us know at SAFECOMGovernance@hq.dhs.gov. Our thoughts and best wishes are also with Greg Hauser (North Carolina SWIC), Robert Steadman (South Carolina SWIC), and Thomas Crabbs (Virginia SWIC) as they continue to recover from Hurricane Florence. Stay safe! ∎

Note from the NCSWIC Chair

By: Nikki Cassingham, Oklahoma SWIC

What a productive 2018 we have had so far!

The NCSWIC Governance Committee had an in-person meeting on August 28, 2018, in Jacksonville, Florida, to develop a gubernatorial transition template and conduct strategic planning for the future of NCSWIC and the SWIC role. The Planning, Training, and Exercise Committee also held an in-person meeting on August 28-29, 2018, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, to discuss all supporting documentation and templates for the *Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) Best Practices* document and how to improve the communications aspect in large-scale exercises. I appreciate those of you who were able to travel and participate in these meetings!

As you all know, the Regional Interoperability Coordinator (RIC) Chairs in even regions were up for election this year. NCSWIC conducted the election process in September 2018 and the results are below:

Region	Chair	Vice Chair
II	John Miller, New Jersey	Felix Garcia, Puerto Rico
IV	Derek Nesselrode, Kentucky	Vicki Helfrich, Mississippi
VI	Penny Rubow, Arkansas	Todd Early, Texas
VIII	Jeffrey Pierce, South Dakota	Gordy Coles, Utah
X	David Soloos, Oregon	Brent Larson, Idaho

The new even region RIC Chairs officially began their positions on October 1, 2018, and I would like to congratulate them on their election. I would also like to recognize our outgoing RIC Chairs for their exemplary leadership. Additionally, the NCSWIC Vice-Chair position is up for election this year and information on the election process will be disseminated soon.

The next NCSWIC In-Person Meeting will be December 3-6, 2018, in Norman, Oklahoma. As always, I'm looking forward to collaborating with you at these meetings so we can continue to move NCSWIC forward. Our most recent meetings have been incredibly productive and I hope to keep our momentum in Norman. Thank you all for your hard work and continuing commitment to NCSWIC! ∎

Training Videos for DHS PTS Now Available

OEC has posted a series of technical how-to training videos covering many aspects of GETS, WPS, and Telecommunications Service Priority (TSP), as well as a half-hour video webinar on all three programs. The how-to videos run approximately 3 to 4 minutes each and cover:

- How to Enroll in GETS, WPS, and TSP
- How to Make a GETS Call
- How to Make a WPS Call
- What to Do When the GETS Access Number Doesn't Work
- Programming GETS/WPS into Your Phone Contacts List
- How to Request Provisioning or Restoration Once Enrolled in TSP

The videos and webinar are available at **www.dhs.gov/pts-videos**. ∎

2018 Committee Schedule

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

Upcoming SAFECOM and NCSWIC Meetings

Month	Day	Meeting
November	7	NCSWIC EC In-Person Meeting; Arlington, Virginia
December	3–7	SAFECOM/NCSWIC In-Person Meetings; Norman, Oklahoma

2018 SAFECOM & NCSWIC Committee Leadership

NCSWIC Governance Committee:
Chair: Brad Stoddard
Vice Chair: Vacant

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: Joe Galvin
SAFECOM Vice Chair: Eddie Reyes
NCSWIC Vice Chair: Vacant

Joint Funding and Sustainment Committee:
SAFECOM Chair: Mel Maier
NCSWIC Chair: David Soloos
SAFECOM Vice Chair: Lloyd Mitchell
NCSWIC Vice Chair: Penny Rubow

Communications Section Task Force:
Chair: Chris Lombard
Vice Chair: Don Bowers

SAFECOM and NCSWIC EC Meetings

The SAFECOM EC met on August 9, 2018:

- Received updates on DHS OEC's recent activities, including: 2019 NECP; Communications Section Task Force; OEC's border programs and other Branch updates; and the National Governors Association (NGA) Workshops to enhance public safety interoperability governance

- Welcomed and introduced OEC Deputy Director Vince DeLaurentis

- Received and approved recommendations for new SAFECOM membership, including 13 new at-large members

The NCSWIC EC held a conference call on August 14, 2018:

- Received updates on OEC's recent activities, including updates on the Communications Section Task Force; continued efforts to review the NECP; and continued efforts to support the NGA Workshops to enhance public safety interoperability governance

- NCSWIC Committee Chairs provided updates on the recent activity of each committee and working group

- NCSWIC EC will meet in-person on November 7, 2018, in Arlington, Virginia

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SAFECOM and NCSWIC Committee Highlights

NCSWIC Governance

- Welcomed new members Michael Nix, Georgia SWIC, and Thomas Crabbs, Virginia SWIC, to NCSWIC

- Held an in-person meeting on August 28, 2018, in Jacksonville, Florida, to develop a gubernatorial transition template, conduct updates to the SWIC internal and external fact sheets, and begin 2019 strategic planning

- Continued discussions on current work products and discussed agenda topics for the upcoming December in-person committee meeting

NCSWIC Planning, Training, and Exercise Committee

■ Held in-person meeting in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on August 28-29, 2018

■ Reviewed and finalized the EMAC Best Practices document

■ Updated and discussed the EMAC Mission Ready Package (MRP) models for states to utilize when responding to EMAC requests

■ Discussed a nationwide exercise portal to host best practices, calendar of events, templates, and resource links as the next committee product

SAFECOM Education and Outreach Committee

■ Held in-person meeting on September 13, 2018, in Denver, Colorado

■ Began developing *SAFECOM School and New Member Orientation*

■ Continued developing *SAFECOM Public Safety Communications Succession Planning Tool*, marketing materials for the *Public Safety Communications Evolution Brochure*, and the *SAFECOM Interoperability Video*

SAFECOM Governance Committee

■ Completed SAFECOM membership update efforts begun in November 2017: conducted individual interviews for 29 qualified candidates and approved 13 At-Large members for SAFECOM membership, including two individuals with tribal experience, addressing concerns raised by the Government Accountability Office's (GAO) audit on SAFECOM membership (GAO-18-173R)

■ Launched 2018 SAFECOM Elections for the Chair and Vice Chair of the Governance and Technology Policy committees; two SAFECOM EC At-Large positions; and will conclude with the SAFECOM Chair and Vice Chair positions at the December 2018 SAFECOM Meeting

Joint Funding and Sustainment Committee

■ Continued developing marketing materials for the *2018 Emergency Communications System Lifecycle Planning Guide Compendium*

■ Continued developing the *Value Analysis Guide*

■ Began discussing potential future work products

Joint Technology Policy Committee

■ Continued efforts to develop components of the *RFP Best Practices for LMR Subscriber Units Toolkit* which will include:

– The *RFP Best Practices for LMR Subscriber Units* guidance document— also referred to as the "Do's and Don'ts" document (completed and published)
– The *RFP Roles and Responsibilities* document, which provides a basic overview of the individuals and influencers who could be involved in the RFP development process and the activities associated with each role (completed and published)
– The *RFP and RFI Recommended Timeline Development for LMR Subscriber Units Procurement* document which provides a general overview of the RFP and RFI process and the factors, constraints, and decisions impacting this process (in final stages of development)
– The *RFP and RFI Sample Language and Resources for LMR Subscriber Units* document which will recommend best practices, sample RFP language, and technical references to assist with RFP development (in development)

■ During committee conference calls in July, August, and September, key topics of discussion included:

– Review and approval of the *Inter RF Subsystem Interface (ISSI) Primer* document developed in conjunction with the Federal Partnership for Interoperable Communications (FPIC)
– Review and approval of the *Public Safety Communication Network Resiliency Self-Assessment Guidebook* developed by the NG911 Working Group

- Review and approval of the *Public Safety Communications Resiliency Self-Assessment Guidebook*, which is a companion document to the *Ten Keys to Network Resiliency* (Ten Keys) document, both of which were developed by the OEC Advanced Technology Group
- Updates to proposed legislation concerning T-Band frequencies
- The need to support development of the FPIC-developed ISSI/CSSI Focus Group document, *Planning and Implementing Project 25 ISSI and CSSI: Enhancing Public Safety Communications through Interconnecting Land Mobile Radio Systems* (ISSI/CSSI White Paper)

ICAM Working Group

- Developed five value proposition papers to discuss the challenges of secure information sharing and the benefits of ICAM
- Proposed security controls and protocols to incorporate in a technical guidance document

NG 911 Working Group

- Continued working to modify the *Self-Assessment Matrix*—a resource developed by the Federal Communications Commission Task Force on Optimal Public Safety Answering Point Architecture (TFOPA) to help organizations assess their readiness to transition to NG911—to create a more user-friendly version with editable fields, cross-referenced content, specific instructions, and a simpler format
- Producing an updated *Cyber Risks to Next Generation 9-1-1* document (in final review and approval)

Communications Section Task Force

- Met on September 10, 2018, to hear updates on OEC's outreach efforts to inform the incident management community and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) about the task force's efforts to update NIMS. The next task force conference call is scheduled for November 12, 2018
- A newly-established Incident Communications Advisory Council, which met in late September, will continue to drive the task force's efforts to support updates to NIMS to reflect the current communications environment

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

Meet the Stakeholders

Troy Babbitt
***NCSWIC**, Wyoming SWIC*

Troy Babbitt has been the Wyoming Department of Transportation (WYDOT) Telecommunications Program Manager since December 1, 2016. This position oversees the WYDOT phone system, the statewide public safety communications system (WYOLINK), radio, and microwave networks as well as statewide field technicians. Duties also include serving as the SWIC. Prior to joining WYDOT, Babbitt was the Office of the Chief Information Officer's Broadband Enterprise Architect with the Wyoming Department of Enterprise Services, assisting with the expansion of broadband connectivity across the state with Internet Service Providers. Projects included:

- Broadband for the Wyoming Unified Network (WUN)
- FirstNet and an appointment by Governor Matt Mead as the State's SPOC for the National Public Safety Broadband Network
- Assisting WYDOT and service providers with new fiber access routes in the Interstate Right-Of-Way corridors

- Assisting with Governor Mead's annual Broadband Summits
- Numerous speaking engagements to educate statewide leaders and the public about broadband importance, status, and future opportunities

Prior to this position, Babbitt was with the Department of Administration and Information as a Communications Systems Senior Specialist, a position he held for twelve years.

He is a fourth generation Wyoming native who was born and raised in Laramie, Wyoming. He received a Bachelor of Science in Finance from the University of Wyoming and served as an Aviation Electricians Mate with the US Navy's Patrol Squadron 26 in Brunswick, Maine. Troy also shoots professional sports photography for USA Today and the University of Wyoming. He enjoys spending time with his wife, Heather, and two daughters.

Troy can be reached at troy.babbitt@wyo.gov. ■

Sheriff Paul H. Fitzgerald
SAFECOM, *National Sheriffs' Association (NSA)*

Paul H. Fitzgerald was elected Story County Sheriff in November 1992, taking office on January 1, 1993. Prior to being elected Sheriff, he served as a member of the Waterloo, Iowa, Police Department (WPD) for fifteen years in a variety of positions including Patrol Officer, Detective, Field Training Officer, Tactical Team Member, Firearms Instructor, Patrol Supervisor, Public Relations Officer and Public Information Officer. During his years of service with the WPD, he also taught for eleven years in the Police Science Program at the Hawkeye Institute of Technology, now known as Hawkeye Community College in Waterloo, Iowa.

Sheriff Fitzgerald earned his Master's Degree in Criminal Justice from St. Ambrose University in Davenport, Iowa; a Bachelor's Degree in Law Enforcement from Wartburg College in Waverly, Iowa; and an Associate of Applied Science Degree in Police Science from Hawkeye Institute of Technology in Waterloo, Iowa. He was the first Iowa sheriff to hold a Master's Degree. He is a graduate of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) National Academy, 198th Session.

At the national level, Sheriff Fitzgerald served as the National Sheriffs' Association (NSA) President from 2011 to 2012. He currently represents the NSA with several Department of Homeland Security programs: SAFECOM, Chairman of the Emergency Services Sector Coordinating Council, the Science & Technology Committee, and the First Responders Resource Group. Sheriff Fitzgerald also represents the NSA on the National Public Safety Telecommunications Council. Sheriff Fitzgerald is a member of the Law Enforcement Immigration Task Force and the Brennan Center Initiative: Law Enforcement Leaders to Reduce Crime and Incarceration. Sheriff Fitzgerald served as an inaugural member of the First Responders Network Authority, known as FirstNet. He has also served on the Board of Directors for the Public Safety Spectrum Trust and the NSA Executive Committee.

Sheriff Fitzgerald's memberships include: NSA; the Iowa State Sheriffs' and Deputies' Association; the FBI National Academy Association; the National Association of Counties; the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People; the Iowa State Policemen's Association; the Iowa Association of Chiefs and Police Officers Incorporated; the American Jail Association; the Waterloo Police Protective Association; the Story County Human Services Council; and St. Mary's Catholic Church in Colo, Iowa.

Sheriff Fitzgerald has four adult children.

Sheriff Fitzgerald can be reached at pfitzgerald@storycountyiowa.gov. ■

Steve Cassano
SAFECOM, *National Association of Regional Councils (NARC)*

Connecticut State Senator Steve Cassano is Co-Chairman of Connecticut's Planning & Development Committee, which is responsible for all matters relating to local governments; housing; urban renewal; fire, sewer, and metropolitan districts; home rule, planning, and zoning; regional planning and development activities and the State Plan of Conservation and Development; and economic development programs impacting local governments.

Senator Cassano is Vice-Chairman of the Public Safety & Security Committee, which is responsible for all matters relating to the Connecticut Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection, civil preparedness and homeland security, the state police, the state-wide organized crime investigative task force, municipal police training, fire marshals, the fire safety code, the state building code, and legalized gambling.

Senator Cassano is also Vice-Chairman of the Transportation Committee, which is responsible for oversight of the Connecticut Department of Transportation (including highways and bridges, navigation, aeronautics, mass transit and railroads), the State Traffic Commission, and the Connecticut Department of Motor Vehicles.

Senator Cassano is past president of the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities and of the National Association of Regional Councils, and he is the former chairman of the Capitol Region Council of Governments. Senator Cassano has served on multiple national and statewide task forces and boards which address critical, everyday issues such as transportation, energy, education, homeland security, and the environment.

Currently on SAFECOM, Senator Cassano serves as a member of the Education and Outreach Committee.

Steve Cassano can be reached at stevec1109@aol.com. ■

OEC Releases New Studies on Border Communications

OEC's Border Interoperability Demonstration Project (BIDP) was a one time $25.5 million grant program that focused on identifying innovative solutions to interoperability along the northern and southern U.S. borders. While the grant program has closed, OEC remains focused on transferring BIDP information and knowledge to all border communities and other interested parties. In addition to a closeout report and the BIDP Study on Implementing Interoperability Channels along and across the United States Canadian Border, as well as the BIDP Study on Rural and Urban Area Interoperability Solutions along and across International Borders, OEC published two additional studies:

- BIDP Study on Environmental Planning and Historic Preservation (EHP) Compliance along the Border identifies domestic and international EHP requirements that may be applicable in border areas
- BIDP Study on Implementing Advanced and Emerging Technologies along and across International Borders examines San Diego, California's project to add capacity and capabilities to its regional communications network

To learn more about BIDP or to download the closeout report, studies, and other documents, visit the BIDP website at https://www.dhs.gov/border interoperability demonstration project. Please direct any questions or comments to BIDP@hq.dhs.gov.

OEC Reestablishes the Rural Emergency Medical Communications Demonstration Project

OEC is reestablishing the Rural Emergency Medical Communications Demonstration Project (REMCDP) grant opportunity to work with a public health or medical facility to examine communications barriers and identify solutions that enhance existing emergency communications infrastructure. Specifically, applicants must demonstrate their ability to leverage existing technologies and engage non medical professionals to help establish or sustain statewide medical communications systems and utilize existing infrastructures to improve the delivery of rural medical care. Eligible applicants may apply for up to $2,000,000 for a two year period of performance, October 1, 2018 – September 30, 2020. REMCDP funding will be awarded in September 2018 through a competitive review process. Additional information about the current REMCDP recipient's First Hands Program and the new grant opportunity can be found on www.dhs.gov/remcdp.

2019 NECP National Development Webinars

On July 18 and July 31, OEC conducted webinars seeking knowledge on issues affecting public safety communications to inform updates to the 2019 NECP. The NECP is a forward-thinking, strategic document, driven by stakeholder feedback, which aims to guide the nation now and into the future toward improved operability and interoperability. Stakeholder input will inform NECP development phases for publication in 2019. If you have questions, please email the OEC NECP Inbox at OECNECP@hq.dhs.gov.

OEC at 2018 APCO

OEC exhibited and spoke at the 2018 Association of Public Safety Communications Officials (APCO) Conference. This year OEC partnered with the Department of Homeland Security Office of Science and Technology at Exhibit Hall Booth #1149 and participated in many panel discussions with our public safety partners.

SLTT Governance Guide Working Group Meetings 5-9

OEC and the SLTT Officials Governance Guide Working Group members are updating the Emergency Communications Governance Guide for State, Local, Tribal, and Territorial Officials (the Governance Guide). This document was last revised and published in 2015. During meetings occurring on June 12, July 12, August 2, August 30, and September 11, Working Group members conducted an in-depth review and revision process for the 2018 version of the Governance Guide. Although we are nearing the end of the data gathering process, if you would like to share successes or challenges regarding emergency communications governance to benefit others, and for possible inclusion in the 2018 Governance Guide, please email us at slttgovguide@hq.dhs.gov.

SNSurvey Results Now Available

OEC has posted results and findings from this year's SNS. The data captured by the survey is vital to understanding our nation's current emergency communications capabilities and gaps, as well as how to progress emergency communications capabilities forward. The results and findings are posted as a briefing, which provides national-level results for local-level organizations from across all of the topics covered by the survey. The results can be found here: https://www.dhs.gov/safecom/sns. This briefing is only OEC's initial publication related to the survey results. Be sure to revisit the SAFECOM website in the coming months for information about the Nationwide Communications Baseline Assessment, which will rely heavily on the data obtained from the SNS. Questions? E-mail the SNS Inbox at sns@hq.dhs.gov.

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DHS Announces the 2018 REMCDP Grant Recipient

Following a merit review process, DHS awarded $2,000,000 to the University of Mississippi Medical Center (UMMC) for a 2 year period of performance beginning October 2018. UMMC will use REMCDP funds to continue its *First Hands* training program, which combines medical and Land Mobile Radio (LMR) communications education and exercises to empower first providers giving medical aid. Planned deliverables include the development of a just in time training and operational platform, a refresher program for graduates of the *First Hands* program, and a companion course for public safety communicators entitled *First Voice*. REMCDP lessons learned will be shared with other communities to serve as a repeatable model for addressing rural population healthcare needs. Additional information about REMCDP can be found on www.dhs.gov/remcdp.

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 SAFECOMGovernance@hq.dhs.gov or NCSWICGovernance@hq.dhs.gov.