



Note from the Deputy Director

By: Chris Essid,
OEC Deputy Director

Welcome to Volume II, Issue II of the SAFECOM/NCSWIC Quarterly Newsletter. After a busy summer, we have much to share in this

edition of the newsletter.

In the last newsletter, I told you about the launch of an exciting new partnership between OEC and the National Governor’s Association (NGA): the NGA Policy Academy on Enhancing Emergency Communications Interoperability. Through this partnership, NGA and OEC awarded five states – Alaska, Hawaii, Illinois, Utah, and West Virginia – the opportunity to participate in a workshop designed to help them develop or strengthen interoperability plans. At this point, each of the five participating states has completed its workshop. We uniquely tailored each workshop to the needs and challenges of each state, but collectively the workshops focused on identifying goals and tactics for strengthening public safety communications. The academy is now in the process of taking the experiences and lessons learned from the workshops and creating a strategic plan of recommendations that will be applicable to all 56 states and territories. These recommendations will be released in 2017.

Concurrently, OEC has established a Statewide Governance and Planning Integrated Project Team (IPT). The new effort will prepare OEC to revise its Technical Assistance offerings in line with the recommendations coming out of the NGA Policy Academy. The Statewide Governance and Planning IPT will also focus on improving governance across states, revitalizing the

emergency communications strategic planning process, and reestablishing interoperability grant funds.

As part of the Interoperable Communications Capabilities Analysis Program (ICCAP), OEC has been conducting interoperable communications pilot observations during planned events in urban areas. ICCAP builds on the groundwork laid in 2010 when OEC worked with public safety personnel to measure progress towards interoperability as defined in the 2014 National Emergency Communications Plan. ICCAP considers the full range of technologies and capabilities required to achieve interoperability in today’s emergency communications environment. This includes land mobile radio, cellular and broadband capabilities, social media, priority services, and other new and emerging technologies. We conducted our first pilot observation on September 1, 2016, at the Honolulu World Conservation Congress in Hawaii. Subsequent pilot observations have included the BMW Golf Championship in Carmel, Indiana, on September 9; the return of the Los Angeles Rams on September 18; the grand opening of the African American Museum in Washington, DC, on September 24; and the United States Grand Prix Formula One in Austin, Texas, on October 22.

Our goal is to conduct up to 60 observations, including the pilots, by June 2017. OEC will then release a national report summarizing the major findings and trends with no local attribution.

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About the Newsletter

The *NCSWIC-SAFECOM Quarterly Newsletter* is designed to be a source of information, news, and updates for SAFECOM, SWICs, their staff, and members of the stakeholder community. We hope that it will be a valuable resource as you lead future statewide planning efforts and implementation of the NECP.

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Also this summer, in accordance with the Homeland Security Act of 2002, OEC has been developing the 2016 Nationwide Communications Baseline Assessment (NCBA), an update to the 2006 Assessment, to evaluate the Nation's ability to communicate during emergencies. The purpose of the assessment is to improve understanding across all levels of government of the capabilities needed and in use by today's emergency response providers in order to establish and sustain communications operability, interoperability, and continuity.

The NCBA development process is stakeholder driven. OEC recruited various stakeholders who represent the emergency communications community (traditional first responder disciplines; other entities, such as public health, utilities companies, and transportation agencies, who need to communicate and share information during emergencies; and appointed and elected officials) to form the NCBA

Champions Working Group. This group, including NCSWIC and SAFECOM assists OEC in developing and administering a comprehensive survey of emergency communications capabilities and gaps nationwide. Information from the survey will assist government officials in making informed decisions on improvements to emergency communications capabilities, establishing priorities, and allocating resources more effectively. In addition, NCBA findings may influence congressional appropriations for grant funding, as well as federal programs and service offerings to state, local, tribal, and territorial agencies. OEC will continue coordinating with stakeholders to advance emergency communications capabilities and address gaps identified in the NCBA findings.

OEC looks forward to an even more productive fall and winter. From October 15-18, we joined our colleagues from the DHS Science and Technology Directorate to exhibit at the International Association of Chiefs of Police Annual Conference and Exposition in San Diego. For those of you on the east coast, we were in Savannah, Georgia, for the 64th Annual International Association of Emergency Managers Conference and EMEX from October 14-19. This November we traveled to Minneapolis for the NGA Policy Academy wrap up meeting, and in December we are excited to be participating in the All-Hazards Incident Management Teams Association (AHIMTA) 6th Annual Training and Education Symposium.

Thank you for your continued support. It was great to see you all in Norman, Oklahoma, for the SAFECOM and NCSWIC joint in-person meeting. From all of us at OEC, we would like to wish you a happy New Year. ■

Note from the SAFECOM Chair

By: Chief Gerald Reardon, SAFECOM At-Large



I would like to start by thanking everyone for their confidence in me to lead SAFECOM as its newest Chair. I would also like to congratulate the following people as they step into their new SAFECOM roles:

SAFECOM Vice Chairs

- Chief Douglas Aiken, National Public Safety Telecommunications Council (NPSTC) [One-Year Term]
- Mark Grubb, National Council of Statewide Interoperability Coordinators (NCSWIC) [Two-Year Term]

SAFECOM Executive Committee At-Large

- Anthony Catalanotto, SAFECOM At-Large (Fire Department New York) [Two-Year Term]
- Michael Murphy, SAFECOM At-Large (Baker, LA Police Department) [Two-Year Term]
- Jay Kopstein, SAFECOM At-Large (New York State Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Services) [One-Year Term]
- Charlie Sasser, National Association of State Technology Directors (NASTD) [One-Year Term]

Committee Leadership

- Governance Committee Chair: Don Bowers, SAFECOM At-Large (Fairfax County Fire and Rescue)
- Governance Committee Vice Chair: Sheriff Paul Fitzgerald, National Sheriffs' Association (NSA)

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- Technology Policy Committee Chair: Chief Gerald Reardon, SAFECOM At-Large (City of Cambridge Fire Department)
- Technology Policy Committee Vice Chair: Dan Wills, SAFECOM At-Large (Arizona State Forestry)

Over the course of this year, SAFECOM has been successful in working with the Office of Emergency Communications (OEC) to support committee collaboration on today's most pressing public safety issues. The Joint Funding and Sustainment Committee developed a number of documents this year on land mobile radio and P25 waiver requirements. The committee continues to work to update the System Life Cycle Guide. The Joint Technology Policy Committee has focused on T-Band and working with the Federal Partnership for Interoperable Communications (FPIC) on encryption initiatives. The Education and Outreach Committee has put an emphasis on increasing awareness of SAFECOM in the public safety community by coordinating SAFECOM information booths at conferences and developing materials to support members' own engagement efforts.

During the SAFECOM meeting, held in Norman, OK, members reviewed recent updates to the program's Charter, heard from subject matter experts on challenges related to information overload, and system lifecycle funding and received updates from federal partners on the 2017 SAFECOM Grant Guidance and Next Generation First Responder programs. On October 26, 2016, SAFECOM met jointly with NCSWIC to collaborate on a variety of topics including the upcoming Nationwide Communications Baseline Assessment, developing a nationwide Communications Unit Governance Structure, encryption and P25 standards, and the use of federal and non-federal interoperability channels. In addition, the SAFECOM and NCSWIC Executive Committees met to discuss strategic planning for 2017.

Finally, I would like to thank OEC for its continued efforts to increase the safety of our communities through its support of the SAFECOM mission. I hope everyone has a safe and happy holiday season. ■



New SAFECOM Leadership. From left to right: Vice Chair Doug Aiken, Chair Gerald Reardon, and Vice Chair Mark Grubb

Note from the NCSWIC Chair

By: Bob Symons, Wyoming SWIC



Over the last few months, we welcomed a number of new Statewide Interoperability Coordinators (SWIC): Angelo Riddick, USVI; Jeb Hargrove, Alabama; Tom Gagnon, Virginia; David Mulholland, District of Columbia; Gerald Risner, Tennessee; and, Michael Sprague, Connecticut. They join a great group of hard-working individuals who continually strive to improve operable and interoperable communications nationwide. I am happy to have had the chance to see you all at our joint National Council of Statewide Interoperability Coordinators (NCSWIC) and SAFECOM in-person meeting held the last week of October!

I am proud of the progress the NCSWIC Committees have made towards our strategic priorities so far this year. This past year, the NCSWIC Governance Committee developed and published a number of important documents aimed at promoting the role of the SWIC including the external Supporting and Leveraging your Statewide Interoperability Coordinator factsheet and the SWIC Vacancy Announcement Template and Best Practices for Hiring guide. I hope each of you utilize these documents within your state to showcase the importance and value of your role. The committee has also worked on updating the new SWIC On-Boarding Package, including the internal Roles and Responsibilities document and a newly developed checklist of important personnel.

Over the summer, the NCSWIC Planning, Training, and Exercises (PTE) Committee hosted a successful webinar by John Miller, New Jersey SWIC, highlighting the New Jersey Communications Unit (COMU) Accreditation Program. The Joint Funding and Sustainment Committee added a number of Land Mobile Radio (LMR) documents to its LMR packet including the LMR Brochure,

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LMR Presentation, and a LMR Action Memo; and the Joint Technology Policy Committee approved a number of encryption documents in conjunction with the Federal Partnership for Interoperable Communications (FPIC). The committees met in-person during the joint meeting in Norman, Oklahoma and brainstormed 2017 strategic initiatives. Additionally, SWICs received updates on the recent National Governors Association Policy Academies and OEC's Statewide Governance and Planning Integrated Project Team efforts. SWICs also heard from a panel of SWICs on funding models used in different phases of the system lifecycle, held a networking exercise, and heard from NCSWIC leadership on the recent suite of promotional materials developed by the NCSWIC Governance and Joint Funding and Sustainment Committees.

In addition to the products listed above, the committees have developed a number of other valuable documents that can be found on the NCSWIC Website. I encourage each of you to peruse the website and share it within your state. I look forward to our continued collaboration with OEC to advance emergency communications within the states, regions, and across the country. I hope everyone has a safe and healthy holiday season, and I will see you all in the new year! ■



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: Jessica Stolz

Vice Chair: John Stevens

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: Victoria Garcia

SAFECOM Education and Outreach Committee:

Chair: Chris Lombard

Vice Chair: Wes Rogers

SAFECOM Governance Committee:

Chair: Don Bowers

Vice Chair: Sheriff Paul Fitzgerald

SAFECOM and NCSWIC October EC Meetings

The SAFECOM EC met on Tuesday, October 25, 2016 in Norman, Oklahoma. Meeting highlights included:

- Received updates from each SAFECOM committee
- Discussion of the Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials-International, Incorporated's (APCO) proposed revisions to the 2010 Standard Occupation Classification

The NCSWIC EC met on Thursday, October 27, 2016 in Norman, Oklahoma. Meeting highlights included:

- Reviewed the NCSWIC Charter
- Discussed 2017 NCSWIC committee priorities
- Discussed issues SWICs are witnessing in their states

Please contact the [SAFECOM Inbox](#) for more information on SAFECOM activities, and [Bob Symons](#), NCSWIC Chair, for more information on NCSWIC activities. ■

Meet the Stakeholders



Martha Carter

SAFECOM, Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials International (APCO)

Martha Carter has worked in government and public safety communications for over 35 years. Prior to beginning her career with the Caddo Parish 9-1-1 District in 1988, she was employed by the City of Shreveport as an Information Services Aide in the Mayor's Office to handle citizens' questions and complaints regarding city services. In May 1981, she received her Bachelor of Arts Degree from Louisiana State University in Political Science. Shortly after, she was promoted, and her primary responsibility was the implementation of a new telephone system for all city agencies. In 1987, Martha assumed the position of an Assistant to the Mayor and functional job responsibilities as Telecommunications Manager for the City.

On November 16, 1988, Martha became the first woman in Louisiana to hold the title of 9-1-1 Administrator. She serves as the 9-1-1 Administrator for the Caddo Parish Communications District for the citizens of Caddo Parish in Shreveport, Louisiana. In this capacity, she is responsible for the overall management and administration of the 9-1-1 emergency communications center, which receives approximately 400,000 calls per year and coordinates the public safety communications operations with all of the various law enforcement, fire, and emergency medical services throughout the parish. The Caddo Parish 9-1-1 system serves approximately 254,887 citizens.

Martha manages an operating budget of over \$7.8 million, and under her leadership, the Caddo Parish 9-1-1 District has successfully funded and implemented a parish-wide 7-site, 15-channel 800 MHz simulcast trunked radio system with a microwave system, which supports over 85 public safety and local governmental entities with over 5,000 radio users; a parish-wide mobile data system with 800 units; a parish-wide alpha-numeric paging system; and a parish-wide CAD and RMS system for the parish's public safety agencies.

Martha is actively involved in public safety communications throughout the State of Louisiana and has assisted the drafting and successful passage of 9-1-1 legislation during the 1993-1996, 2008, 2010 and 2016 legislative sessions of the Louisiana Legislature.

In 1996, Martha was named as one of the top ten Young Business Leaders by the Shreveport Chamber of Commerce. Ms. Carter currently serves as First Vice President of the Association of Public Safety Communications Officials, International, Inc., (APCO), which is the world's largest public safety communications association, having approximately 26,000 members across the United States and abroad, dedicated to the enhancement of public safety communications. ■

Martha can be reached at mcarter@caddo911.com.



John M. Vallarelli

SAFECOM, Lieutenant—NYS Metropolitan Transportation Authority Police Department

John M. Vallarelli is a 26 year member of the MTA Police Department (MTAPD), and the predecessor of the MTA Metro-North Police Department. John is assigned to the Office of the Chief of Department. He works as the Integration and Spectrum Manager for the MTAPD's Metropolitan Regional Radio Systems Project, which is a 70 site digital trunked 700MHz system being designed to provide the MTAPD and its regional partners with both operable and interoperable communications and to connect the regional trunked system to the State of Connecticut's trunked system.

Lt. Vallarelli's career in public safety started as both a volunteer firefighter and EMT in his hometown, as well as a volunteer dispatcher for the Westchester County Fire Control (60 Control). After time away at college and running a family business, he returned as an Emergency Communications Operator for the Westchester County Fire Control and then the Westchester County Police before being hired by the MTA Metro-North Railroad as a Police Officer in 1991.

As a Police Officer with the MTA Metro-North Police, Lt. Vallarelli was assigned to the Patrol Division and Grand Central Terminal. He was promoted in 1995 to Detective (Specialist) and assigned to the Operations (Communications) Unit and developed plans and oversaw the build of a new dispatch center and represented the Metro-North Police at the Public Safety Wireless Advisory Committee (PSWAC). In 1997 the State of New York merged the Metro-North and sister LIRR Police Departments, creating the MTA Police Department. He was then assigned as the Communications Leader responsible for the consolidation of two dispatch units into a single dispatch center and led a team to develop policies, procedures, and civilianization of dispatch operations and created the Technology & Systems Development Unit to centralize the planning and deployment of advanced and evolving technologies to the department.

At the completion of his assignment Lt. Vallarelli was detailed to the Detective Division where he investigated crimes and provided executive protection to officials and dignitaries. After the events of 9/11, he performed additional duties in Counter-Terrorism in MTA facilities in Manhattan. In 2004, Lt. Vallarelli was promoted to Sergeant and assigned as the Project Manager of the MTAPD's full partnership in the (NY) Statewide Wireless Network project, and in 2007 was promoted to Lieutenant and continued leading that project through the design and negotiations phases until the state defaulted the SWN contract.

In 2009, Lt. Vallarelli served under the Chief of Communications, responsible for the final completion, commissioning and operational transfer to the new Command, Control and Communications Center (C3). After the commissioning, he became the Executive Officer of the newly named Division of Emergency Operations, responsible for the day-to-day operations of the C3, including dispatch, security monitoring operations and technical services (communications systems). In that position, he also developed a Continuity of Operations/Communications document, the first for any MTA agency. Prior to being assigned to the Radio Project, Lt. Vallarelli led the development of an Emergency Operations Policy & Procedures Manual and he continues to work on developing a Communications Plan and Field Operations Guide for the Department.

Lt Vallarelli attended North Dakota State University and is the agency representative to the New York City Interoperable Communications Committee, the Hudson Valley Interoperable Communications Committee and the NYS Agency User Group of the NYSWIC. ■

John can be reached at djvallarelli@optonline.net.



Dave Mulholland
NCSWIC, District of Columbia (D.C.) SWIC

Dave Mulholland was appointed as the District of Columbia (D.C.) Statewide Interoperability Coordinator in August 2016. The SWIC position operates within the DC Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency (HSEMA).

Dave served 27 years with the United States Park Police (USPP) rising to the rank of Major. During his last 12 years, he was the agency's CIO. His work in the area of public safety technology began during a fellowship with the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) in 1997. He subsequently contributed at various levels to technology projects and efforts at IACP, the Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials-International (APCO), the Integrated Justice Information Systems (IJIS) Institute, and the National Public Safety Telecommunications Council (NPSTC). He served as a senior advisor to the Law Enforcement Information Technology Standards Council and was involved in developing numerous standards and specifications for public safety technologies.

At the USPP, Dave provided key technology capabilities to support the multitude of large scale and high profile events that occur in downtown Washington D.C. and within the National Capital Region (NCR) each year. He was a tireless advocate for interoperability and information sharing across all disciplines, jurisdictions, and levels of government. During his tenure, the USPP was the first law enforcement agency to operate on a government owned broadband wireless network (2003-2009), the second law enforcement agency in the country to utilize datacasting as an interoperability tool, and was the first agency in the NCR to openly share law enforcement video systems across all disciplines. ■

Dave can be reached at david.mulholland@dc.gov.

Charlee Hess
Program Analyst, OEC Policy and Planning Branch



Charlee Hess has spent the past decade working to improve emergency preparedness and response. Prior to joining OEC's Policy and Planning Branch, Charlee was a contractor supporting the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) National Integration Center where her efforts were focused on developing and implementing preparedness policy including the National Incident Management System doctrine. She also spent several years supporting the DHS Science and Technology Directorate's First Responders Group and the Command, Control, and Interoperability Division where her work focused on stakeholder engagement activities and key interoperability and information sharing projects. Prior to supporting the Federal government, Charlee was the Associate Director of

Public Policy for COMCARE, a national nonprofit organization dedicated to improving emergency communications, where she successfully advocated for key legislative and policy changes to address emerging and advanced emergency communications capabilities.

Charlee holds a Master's of Public Administration from The George Washington University and a Bachelor's of Arts in Political Science from Binghamton University—State University of New York. ■

Charlee can be reached at Charlee.Hess@hq.dhs.gov.

New National Council of Statewide Interoperability Coordinators (NCSWIC) Program Manager: Cary Martin

The OEC Partnerships Branch is very excited to welcome Cary Martin as its newest team member. Cary will serve as the Program Manager overseeing the National Council of Statewide Interoperability Coordinators (NCSWIC) program.

SAFECOM Charter Updates and Elections

Over the past few months, the SAFECOM Governance Committee meticulously worked to establish a new SAFECOM Executive Committee (EC) governance structure, revise the SAFECOM Charter, and assist in holding SAFECOM leadership elections.

OEC and NCSWIC Partner to Develop a MOU to Improve Interoperability

The Office of Emergency Communications (OEC), in cooperation with several federal departments and agencies, developed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that will allow State, Local, Tribal, and Territorial public safety agencies to use federal Law Enforcement and Incident Response (LE/IR) channels to improve emergency communications interoperability.

FPIC Releases Encryption Documents

Encryption is a complex topic that has generated much discussion in the public safety community. While encryption is critical to certain public safety disciplines and missions, it can also increase the system cost, and impact interoperability and

public safety operations. Public safety agencies must determine what type of information should be encrypted and the method of encryption; recognizing that not all public safety communications need to be encrypted.

Project 25 Letter Sent to FEMA

On August 11, 2016, SAFECOM and the National Council of Interoperability Coordinators (NCSWIC) sent a letter to Brian E. Kamoie, Assistant Administrator for the Grant Programs Directorate (GPD) at the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), providing recommendations for strengthening grantee compliance with P25 standards.

SAFECOM Education and Outreach Committee Launches its First Outreach Activities

The SAFECOM Education and Outreach Committee has started executing a long-term strategic goal of both SAFECOM and the Office of Emergency Communications (OEC) - to implement and maintain an ongoing outreach effort across all public safety disciplines.

Supporting and Leveraging Your Statewide Interoperability Coordinator (SWIC)

Statewide Interoperability Coordinators (SWICs) collaborate with partners involved in responding to disasters at all levels of government, advance long-term emergency communications initiatives, and enhance the response capabilities of public safety responders.



OEC Calendar

DECEMBER 2016

- 5-6** SAFECOM Leadership Meeting
- 8** SAFECOM EC Conference Call
- 13** NCSWIC EC Conference Call

JANUARY 2016

- 10** NCSWIC Leadership Meeting
- 10** NCSWIC EC Conference Call
- 12** SAFECOM EC Conference Call

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.