

Statewide Interoperability Coordinators Newsletter

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A Note from Chris Essid

Nearly five years ago, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Office of Emergency Communications (OEC) was created to fix the communications challenges experienced on 9/11 and during Hurricane Katrina. Since then, we have made great strides in advancing emergency communications capabilities. Together, we focused our efforts on planning, coordination, and establishing governance. A significant part of addressing the governance issues that existed five years ago was the creation of Statewide Interoperability Coordinators (SWICs) like you to lead efforts to enhance interoperable communications within your States. With Statewide Coordinators established in all 56 States and territories, and each State equipped with a Statewide Communication Interoperability Plan (SCIP), we have seen significant progress in strengthening governance across the country.

Last week, the President signed bi-partisan legislation creating a Nationwide Public Safety Broadband Network (NPSBN). This legislation is the result of a collective effort to reallocate the D block, set aside funding, and create a governance structure for this new network. We're currently working with our Federal partners and the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to analyze the legislation and determine next steps.

While we are pleased to have some finality with legislation, there is much work to be done in the future to ensure this network is interoperable and meets the needs of public safety.

One thing we've learned from our work in advancing Land Mobile Radio (LMR) capabilities and planning for a future with broadband is that you

need good governance. If we're going to ensure full interoperability on a nationwide scale, it is essential for us to have a nationwide governance structure and planning at the State and local levels. Interoperability isn't just a technology problem. We can't build an effective nationwide network and only focus on technology. We must continue looking at all lanes of the Interoperability Continuum.

We are also continuing our work to support efforts with traditional LMR communications. It will take some time to build a new network, and even then we're not certain how soon this network could replace mission-critical voice. These questions will be answered in the coming years, but in the interim, we must continue funding LMR networks. It's important for you to educate your State and local officials about the progress being made in enhancing emergency communications in your area. This includes emphasizing that the investments in LMR need to continue in the near term until broadband technology is ready to meet the needs of its users. As you all know, there has been a significant reduction in grant funds. We appreciate the additional challenges placed upon you and your communities during these tough budgetary times, but we can't lose funding for LMR networks just because State and local officials don't understand the specifics of this new network.

The work you have done to improve governance at the State level for LMR communications can assist us as we take the next steps toward building a broadband network and I look forward to engaging you more on this issue. This is a critical time for public safety communications, and OEC will continue to support you in your efforts to build on the progress we've made together over the past five years. Please let us know if there are specific questions we can answer or issues you would like us to address in the future. ■



Note from the NCSWIC Chair

By Mike Varney,
Connecticut SWIC

Happy 2012, I hope that everyone's holiday season was safe and enjoyable.

It was great to be with everyone at our last National Council of Statewide Interoperability Coordinators (NCSWIC) meeting in Atlanta, and it was effective combining our meeting with the

SAFECOM Emergency Response Council (ERC); all I heard were very positive comments about the format and the networking between the two groups. As I was able to attend both SAFECOM and NCSWIC meetings that week, I can report that the SAFECOM members felt it was good to meet and network with our group, and found it of great value to understand our issues and the role that we play improving interoperable emergency communications within each of our States and territories. I know that my batteries were recharged because of the meetings; I hope

yours were as well. OEC plans to make the joint meeting format a regular event.

This past year was full of significant accomplishments by the States, such as completing the National Emergency Communications Plan (NECP) Goal 2 measurement projects which validated that our efforts paid off in the many large scale events and disasters faced around the country. These incidents were handled more efficiently and

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New York State's Grant Program

By **Robert Barbato**, New York State SWIC

In 2010, the State of New York created the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services, which consolidated operations for public safety, security, and emergency management. Included in this construct was a new office – the ***Office of Interoperable and Emergency Communications*** (OIEC). OIEC represents, for the first time at the State level, a single forum in which emergency communications issues can be discussed comprehensively, challenges identified collectively, and solutions developed collaboratively across jurisdictions, disciplines, and between levels of government.

Recognizing the successes already underway around the Nation and within parts of our State, we embarked upon an approach to support the growth of regional communications partnerships and consortiums as a model for cross-jurisdictional communication. Addressing matters at the county level through regional partnerships allows for more coordinated planning and distribution of resources, and collaborative approaches for operations among many jurisdictions (Federal, State, local, tribal) and disciplines (fire, EMS, law enforcement, and emergency management). This not only addresses the shared local and regional needs, but also develops the footprint of what ultimately will be a statewide solution for interoperability.

A key assumption of the State's plan is that assistance will be available to counties to close the gap in communications capabilities to help meet NECP goals and progress along the SAFECOM Interoperability Continuum. A primary vehicle to provide this support is a State-funded program—the Statewide Interoperable Communications Grant (SICG). This competitive grant seeks to establish best practices for interoperability within and between regions, provides for measurable outcomes and communications capability, and planning for long-range sustainability and compatibility with the broader public safety objectives.

2011 saw the first installment of the SICG program which had \$20 million to provide assistance to local governments. The initial Request for Application solicited proposals among three categories identified as key priorities by stakeholders including: programming of national interoperability channels and support for meeting the FCC narrowbanding mandate; consolidating public safety answering points and promoting cross-jurisdictional standard operating procedures; and expanding, consolidating, or developing regionally-focused radio systems.

In response, over 77 percent of New York State counties submitted proposals for consideration, comprising \$70 million dollars of requested funding for projects among the categories. This response indicates the high priority of resources needed to improve and expand upon public safety communications capability statewide.

The outcomes of the grant were announced in December 2011 making awards to 16 counties. The awards support progress in three main areas: technology: including portable/mobile equipment in more efficient digital equipment, installing base stations and microwave links for connections with command and control and system redundancy, and constructing additional towers/antennas to increase radio coverage and signal strength; governance: to expand public safety communications regional partnerships and consortiums; and usage: allowing multiple counties and regions access to radio channels and user equipment among agencies and across counties.

The next rounds for this program will encourage the continued build-out of larger-scale systems and infrastructure, incorporation of additional members into regional consortiums and partnerships, formalizing governance and operating procedures, and exploration of emerging technology for first responder communications and dispatching of emergency services. Individuals with questions regarding this grant program may email dhseioiec@dhses.ny.gov. ■

February 2012 NCSWIC Executive Committee (EC) Conference Call Highlights

- The EC agreed on NCSWIC activities within each of their strategic priority areas for 2012, including Broadband, Funding/Grants, Communications Unit COMU Recognition/Certification, and Statewide Governance.
- Members of the EC volunteered to serve on strategic priority working groups, as follows:
 1. Broadband Outreach: Jim Bogner and Steve Noel
 2. Grants: Mike Varney and Michael Manning
 3. COMU: Lisa Meyerson, Jodi Nestor, Mark Grubb, Mike Varney
 4. Statewide Governance: Penny Rubow, Bob Symons, Mark Grubb
- The EC will brief their regions on the 2012 activities and will solicit additional members for the working groups by March 1st. To move forward with the NCSWIC Expertise List, the regions will also provide feedback on the list of SWIC areas of interest.
- After working group membership is finalized, OEC will host kick off calls for each working group and will build out their respective action plans, including further defined roles and responsibilities and timelines for resource development.
- The National Public Safety Telecommunications Council (NPSTC) is looking for NCSWIC subject matter experts to review future public safety documents that it develops. The EC agreed that it is a good opportunity and planned to discuss it within their regions.
- OEC is working to reschedule the next Joint NCSWIC and SAFECOM ERC meeting for the week of June 11th due to conflicts with other events. OEC will communicate the meeting details as soon as possible. ■

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safer than they would have in the past due to your efforts. I can speak for Connecticut, this past year we had five disaster declarations, each of them were handled more successfully than they would have been in the past. The successes were not specifically because of the capacity and systems we had built over the years, but most importantly because of the intrastate and interstate relationships fostered through the process.

I am excited about the upcoming year; at the recent NCSWIC and SAFECOM meetings we discussed several strategic priorities:

- Creating a NCSWIC Expert Resource List to assist our members with specific information and networking needs
- Continuing our work on the public safety wireless broadband efforts
- Providing input to grant guidance and grant resource materials and the implementation of Presidential Policy Directive 8
- Working to develop and share Communication Unit (COMU) certification and recognition resources
- Updating Statewide Interoperability Governing Body criteria

We look forward to your help and expertise with these projects.

I am sure that you have all scheduled your SCIP Implementation Workshops for the upcoming year, taking advantage of the multiple formats available, to assist with your State and territory efforts. Within each Regional Interoperability Council, I am sure you find common challenges which you work together to address. In New England, we have forged a close group (I know that our region can fit in some of your States). Due to our compactness, we have different challenges. To address these, we will conduct a regional SCIP Implementation Workshop this spring to address interstate coordination issues, and discuss initiatives such as the creation of a regional field operations guide and continuing to work with state-to-state coordination of frequency use.

I continue to be excited to be part of the NCSWIC. That is what our council is about, creating relationships and sharing knowledge to improve emergency communications interoperability. Thank you all for your continued dedication and participation!

I hope to speak to you soon — be safe.

Mike ■

OEC kicked off its 2012 SCIP Implementation Workshops in January. The SCIP continues to be a critical tool to help States prioritize resources, establish or strengthen governance, and address interoperability gaps. As such, OEC offered five modules to ensure annual progress on communications planning efforts. States may select one of the five modules below.

Statewide Interoperability Governing Body Enhancement	Assists States by strengthening the effectiveness of their statewide governing bodies by creating a charter, organizing membership, and action planning
SCIP Planning for Wireless Broadband	Provides strategies on how to connect Federal, State, local, and tribal stakeholders to address wireless broadband issues and assists in defining broadband initiative(s) for inclusion in the SCIP
SCIP Strategic Planning	Streamlines the SCIP with a focus on lessons learned within the State and from other States, assists in developing a business case by defining gaps and aligning investment priorities for future improvements for State communications needs
SCIP Strength Testing	Assists States in updating SCIP initiatives based on real-world events (e.g., Disaster Review), helps to define investment priorities for future improvements for State communications needs based on identified gaps
Sustainable Funding Identification	Provides an analysis of how funding has been used, progress made, gaps, and funding needed to fill gaps within a State and provides lessons learned based on strategies from other States

The first workshop, conducted in Iowa, focused on Sustainable Funding Identification where participants developed an understanding of alternative funding streams beyond Federal grant programs and participated in discussions on how to fund the Iowa Statewide Interoperable Communications System Master Plan based on the funding strategies presented from other States. In February, OEC conducted a workshop in New Jersey focused on Statewide Interoperability Governing Body Enhancement. ■



OEC Grants Update

Release of FY 2012 SAFECOM Guidance

OEC is pleased to announce the release of the *FY 2012 SAFECOM Guidance on Emergency Communications Grants*. The Guidance includes emergency communications priorities for funding, eligible activities, and updates to interoperability standards. This year's *Guidance* has been restructured to help grantees plan and prioritize projects, identify grant funding, and access resources before applying.

The *SAFECOM Guidance* is posted at: <http://www.safecomprogram.gov/grant/Default.aspx>. For questions on SAFECOM, contact OEC at OEC@hq.dhs.gov.

Guidance to Expedite the Expenditure of Certain FEMA Grant Funds

On February 13, 2012, DHS issued "*Guidance to State Administrative Agencies to Expedite the Expenditure of Certain DHS/FEMA Grant Funding*," which outlines how grantees will be given additional flexibility to expend Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) grant funding awarded from FY 2007-2011.

The memo:

- Defines which grants are affected by this policy
- Allows grantees to reprioritize funds from certain FEMA grants for equipment, overtime, and backfill for first responders. Costs must support a "core capability" in the National Preparedness Goal, be shareable through the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC), and be **pre-approved by FEMA**.
- Allows written waiver requests for:
 - FY 2008 and 2009 Homeland Security Grant requirement to allocate 25 percent of funding toward counter improved explosive devices, planning, training, and exercises
 - 50 percent cap on personnel
 - Match requirements for FY 2008 and 2009 Port Security Grant, and all Nonprofit Security Grant, Interoperable Emergency Communications Grant (IECGP), and Regional Catastrophic Preparedness Grant funding
- Expands the policy on maintenance and operations (M&O)
 - Allows funds to be used for the support of equipment, training, and other resources purchased with Federal or other sources of funding
 - Requires M&O costs be tied to a "core capability" in the National Preparedness Goal, and shareable through the EMAC
- Provides guidance on period of performance, expiration dates, and extensions

OEC recommends stakeholders:

- Read this memo carefully and consult your FEMA Program Analyst for questions
- Secure written approval from FEMA before reprioritizing grant funds
- Be aware of expiration dates, and expend funds accordingly
- Work with the State Administering Agency (SAA) to identify unexpended funding for emergency communication priorities as defined in the *SAFECOM Guidance*

Release of FY 2012 Grant Guidance

On February 17, 2012, FEMA released the *FY 2012 Preparedness Grants Funding Opportunity Announcements (FOA)*. Grant applications are due on May 4, 2012.

OEC will be providing our stakeholders with additional analyses of these FOAs. In the meantime, stakeholders are encouraged to-

- Read FOAs carefully
- Leverage the *FY 2012 SAFECOM Guidance* when developing projects focused on or that incorporate emergency communications for funding
- Coordinate with SWICs to ensure projects support SCIPs
- Work with SAAs to identify funding for emergency communications priorities

For questions on FEMA Grant Guidance, contact your FEMA Program Analyst, ASKCSID@fema.gov, or (800) 368-6498.

DHS Releases FY 2012 Grants Vision

In February, DHS released the *FY 2013 National Preparedness Grant Program Vision Document*. The Vision outlines a significant shift in homeland security funding, including the streamlining of existing programs into a single program – the National Preparedness Grant Program – beginning in FY 2013. While a number of elements of this Vision will require Congressional approval, the document provides a detailed preview of upcoming debates on our nation's emergency preparedness grants policies. ■

Preparedness-Technology, Analysis, and Coordination Center and the STEP Test and Evaluation

The Preparedness-Technology, Analysis, and Coordination (P-TAC) Center is a critical resource available to the response community. Federal, State, local, non-governmental, and private sector entities have utilized the Center to help address the preparedness and technology needs of their organization. Products and services offered at the Center include:

- Simulation Cell Support
- IRIS – Free, downloadable resource inventory tool

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February 2012 SAFECOM EC Meeting Highlights

On February 8, 2012, the SAFECOM EC met to discuss critical and emerging issues affecting the emergency response community and to leverage the collective expertise to improve interoperable emergency communications nationwide. Highlights of the meeting included:

- SAFECOM agreed on strategic priorities for 2012 and established working groups for each strategic priority including Broadband Outreach, Next Generation 9-1-1, Funding/Grants, and Project 25.
- The National Security Telecommunications Advisory Committee is beginning work to develop policy recommendations to the President on the NPSBN.
- OEC and the DHS National Cyber Security Division are beginning an effort to assess potential cybersecurity risks to the NPSBN.
- OEC briefed the group on the narrowbanding status tracking tool hosted on the [public safety tools website](#), and members agreed to develop targeted messaging to improve awareness of the tool.
- The EC passed a motion encouraging NPSTC to leverage the FCC reply comment period to express concerns about the ability of public safety to meet the narrowbanding deadline.
- A common public land-mobile network identification (PLMN-ID) has been issued to public safety for the NPSBN. Additionally, Science Applications International Corporation has been selected as the numbering administrator (through a contract with OEC).

For more details on the outcomes from SAFECOM meetings, please contact the NCSWIC Chair Mark Grubb at mark.grubb@state.de.us. ■

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- Simulated EOC Environment
- STEP – Accredited Testing
- Training Venue/Facility
- Interoperability Demos and System Testing
- Operational Validation of Technologies
- Technology User Groups, Working Groups, etc.

The P-TAC Center is operated by FEMA National Preparedness Directorate, P-TAC Office and is located in Somerset, Kentucky. The Center includes an Emergency Operations Center (EOC) based environment, complete with supporting technologies, and a fully accredited laboratory¹ for technology evaluations.

Through the P-TAC Center's Supporting Technology Evaluation Project (STEP), test engineers and responder subject matter experts test and evaluate hardware and software technologies relating to incident management and response. Testing and evaluation activities verify interoperability of commercial and government software and hardware products and provide the response community with reports to support purchasing decisions. STEP uses an accredited testing laboratory for evaluation of:

- Incorporation of National Incident Management System (NIMS) concepts and principles
- Organization for the Advancement of Structured Information Standards (OASIS) Common Alerting Protocol (CAP) version 1.1 and 1.2 standards
- OASIS CAP version 1.2 USA Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS) Profile version 1.0 and ECIG CAP to EAS Implementation Guide
- OASIS Emergency Data Exchange Language – Distribution Element (EDXL-DE) 1.0 standard
- OASIS EDXL – Hospital Availability Exchange (EDXL-HAVE) 1.0 standard
- OASIS EDXL – Resource Messaging (EDXL-RM) 1.0 standard

The SAFECOM grant guidance recommends grantees procuring incident management and response technologies take advantage of STEP testing and look for products that have been independently evaluated by STEP. Reports from each evaluation are published on the Responder Knowledge Base (RKB) website www.rkb.us (key word NIMS STEP) and are available for anyone to download at no cost. Vendors wishing to apply for a technology evaluation may register on the www.ptaccenter.org website.

The Center's website contains a complete list of the products and services available to the response community. Federal, State, local, non-governmental, and private sector entities can contact the Center for support through the P-TAC Center website (www.ptaccenter.org), by sending a support request to support@ptaccenter.org, or by calling the Center at 502-517-PTAC (502-517-7822). ■

1. ISO/IEC accreditation from the American Association for Laboratory Accreditation (A2LA).

OEC HQ Spotlights



Malcolm Beckett

Telecommunications Specialist
Multi-Jurisdictional Communications Services

Malcolm joined OEC in 2011 and currently works as a Telecommunications Specialist in the Stakeholder Engagement and Outreach

Branch. He supports stakeholder engagement efforts related to the implementation of the Nationwide Public Safety Broadband Network.

His background includes public safety as well as telecommunications system design and implementation. His career began in law enforcement where he served as a patrol officer and in investigations in Fairfax County, Virginia. He also served as communications officer and Communications Unit Leader (COML) for the department where he supported many incidents and preplanned events. After 10 years in the public sector, he transitioned to the private sector where he worked for Motorola and supported Federal customers in systems integration, prior to joining OEC.

Malcolm earned a Bachelor of Science Degree from Bluefield College and a Master of Science Degree from Capitol College. In addition, he has taught and developed telecommunications and systems management coursework at both the undergraduate and graduate levels.

Malcolm can be reached at Malcolm.Beckett@hq.dhs.gov.



Ken Bradley

Program Analyst
Multi-Jurisdictional Communications Services

Ken Bradley is a Program Analyst in the Stakeholder Engagement and Outreach Branch of the Office of Emergency Communications.

Ken supports stakeholder engagement with SAFECOM and NCSWIC stakeholder groups and stakeholder planning through the annual SCIP Implementation Workshops.

Prior to this position, Ken served as an Infrastructure Analyst with the National Infrastructure Protection Plan Measurement and Reporting Office, Partnership and Outreach Division, Office of Infrastructure Protection, where he led the interagency effort on working with the 18 Critical Infrastructure and Key Recourses (CIKR) Sector Specific Agencies on their Sector Annual Reports. His branch managed the National CIKR Annual Report which measures the effectiveness and progress of critical infrastructure protection and resilience efforts by Federal, State, local, tribal, and territorial governments and the 18 sectors through a set of outcome statements and associated metrics.

Ken entered Federal service as an adjudicator for the Department of Homeland Security – U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Office of Investigations, Student and Exchange Visitor Program, where he certified schools in the United States to host students and exchange visitors.

Ken holds a Master of Public Administration degree from Old Dominion University and Bachelor of Arts degree in history from Hampden-Sydney College. Ken can be reached at Kenneth.Bradley@hq.dhs.gov.



Ken Born

Regional Coordinator

Ken Born is OEC's Regional Coordinator for Region VI, which includes the States of AR, LA, NM, OK, and TX. In this role, he supports efforts across all levels of government to build and improve capabilities, provide feedback and assessments for further development of OEC services, and advocate for key OEC initiatives, programs, and activities.

Ken previously worked as a Telecommunications Specialist within OEC's Multi-Jurisdictional Communications Services Division. In this capacity, he supported OEC's efforts to provide technical assistance to State and local agencies across the United States. Ken started his career as a software developer supporting law enforcement applications in the wired and wireless environment.

He worked for the Illinois State Police, Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority, Kentucky's Commonwealth Office of Technology, and Maryland's Office of Technology. Ken previously held the position of Kentucky's Wireless Initiatives Coordinator.

Ken has an MBA degree with an emphasis in Management Information Systems, a BS degree in Political Science, an Associate's degree in Police Science Administration, and is Project Management Professional certified. Ken was also an adjunct faculty member at the University of Illinois where he instructed undergraduate-level courses in the Computer Science and Management Information Systems departments. Ken can be reached at Kenneth.Born@hq.dhs.gov.



John MacLean

Regional Coordinator

John MacLean joined OEC in February 2011 as the Regional Coordinator for Region IV, which includes the States of AL, FL, GA, KY, MS, NC, SC and TN. He comes to OEC with 21 years of experience in Federal, State, local, and military Communications and Data systems as a communications/IT/electronics technician, supervisor and manager. Prior to joining OEC, John served as the FEMA Region III Regional Emergency Communication Coordinator as the project manager for the Disaster Emergency Communications program for the six States in Region III that includes the Nation's Capital.

John holds over 15 licenses and certifications in the areas of Radio Communications, IT Network Engineering and Administration and Electronics. He also holds Associate and Bachelor of Science Degrees in Information Technology, certificate in Technology Project Management, and is currently finishing his Masters of Arts in Homeland Security.

John is originally from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania but recently relocated his young family to Eastern Tennessee and can be reached at John.MacLean@hq.dhs.gov. ■

Meet the SWICs



Utah — Kevin Rose

Statewide Interoperability Coordinator
State of Utah, Department of Technology Services

Kevin Rose began his professional career in telecommunications at a very young age by pulling telecom cable and installing cable plants for small to large telephone systems at a local school

district. He then went on to become a telecommunications engineer where he provisioned and planned installations of enterprise scale telecommunication systems.

After several years in the telecom business Kevin decided he wanted to work in public safety. He started out as a 9-1-1 dispatcher where he was trained as a call taker, fire dispatcher, and police dispatcher. After several years working full time as a dispatcher, Kevin attended and graduated from Weber State University's Emergency Care and Rescue program, attaining his National Registry Paramedic certification.

Kevin was then hired by the Davis County UT Sheriff's Office as a Deputy Sheriff/Paramedic and attended the State of Utah POST basic training class and became certified as a Law Enforcement Officer. After working four years in patrol, he was transferred to the Executive division serving as the Office Training Coordinator. Over time, Kevin gradually became involved with the technical workings of the Sheriff's Office and was eventually transferred to a new position as the Office Data Manager.

As Data Manager, he was responsible for the computer aided dispatch and records management systems along with the emergency medical services medical reporting software and worked closely with the public safety answering point manager in maintaining the computer, telephone, and radio systems. During this time, Kevin was appointed by the governor to serve on the State 911 committee of which he is still a member.

In October 2011 Kevin became the Statewide Interoperability Coordinator for the State of Utah. He is a liaison to the State Interoperability Executive Committee and serves as the project manager for the IECGP and Public Safety Interoperable Communications grants. Currently, Kevin is working to organize the State COML program and create an end-user training curriculum for first responders and dispatchers on interoperable communications.



Nevada — Jeff Yeagley

Statewide Interoperability Coordinator
Nevada Department of Public Safety

Jeff became Nevada's SWIC in November 2011 and works within Nevada's Department of Public Safety, Division of Emergency Management. Jeff provides research, analysis, and coordination of all statewide

communications projects. Jeff is highly involved with the Military Affiliated Radio System, and the Amateur Radio Emergency Services/Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Services community. He has multiple FCC licenses and is the FCC's 700 MHz Regional Planning Chairman for Nevada. Jeff is also a certified "All Hazards" COML.

Jeff served 21 years in the United States Air Force as a Ground Radio Master Craftsman, maintaining high frequency communications sites for air-to-ground/ground-to-air Global Command and Control. For more than a decade, Jeff was instrumental in achieving interoperable communications for US forces, having developed network architecture for some of the very first digital local area networks and wide area networks outside the continental United States. Ultimately assigned to the Electronics Engineering Branch of the 45th Space Wing, Cape Canaveral in 1997, Jeff directed civilian engineers and military installers in the design and expansion of communications systems at the Cape.

Jeff has an Associate degree in Electronics Systems Technology and a Bachelor of Science degree in IT Project Management. He speaks five languages and entered the civilian world as a Senior Program Manager for P-COM, Inc. Jeff later became a project manager for The Boeing Company, delivering the X-37 alternative landing test vehicle designed to replace the aging space shuttle program. From 2007 to 2011, Jeff served as Manager of both Radio Systems Bureau and Fleet Operations Bureau for the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department. He managed the design and expansion of more than 40 mountain top and casino repeater sites, as well as a migration project consisting of thousands of mobile and portable radios. Jeff's objective is to exceed the goals outlined in the Nevada SCIP by building out an IP-based fiber backbone with 16 virtual talk groups linking all dispatchers and first responders in Nevada. He is also in the process of updating all three of Nevada's Regional Tactical Interoperable Communications Plans and the Nevada Interoperability Field Operations Guide. ■

About the SWIC Newsletter

The *SWIC Newsletter* is designed to be a source of information, news, and updates for SWICs and their staff. We hope that it will be a valuable resource as you lead your SCIP implementation efforts, future statewide planning, and alignment to the NECP.

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Calendar

FEBRUARY

29 PCO Western Regional Conference, Anchorage, AK

MARCH

1 AFCEA's 11th Annual Homeland Security Conference, Washington, D.C.

3-7 NACo Legislative Conference, Washington, D.C.

6-7 PSCR 700 MHz Public Safety Broadband Demonstration Network Stakeholders' Meeting, Boulder, CO

MARCH (continued)

19-20 Missouri APCO-NENA Conference, Osage Beach, MO

25 NENA's 9-1-1 Goes to Washington Conference, Washington, D.C.

26 Industry Council for Emergency Response Technologies (iCERT) Forum, Washington, D.C.

MAY

14-15 APCO Public Safety Broadband Summit & Expo 2012, Washington, D.C.

15-16 Alabama Emergency & Interoperable Communications Summit, Lake Guntersville, AL

CONTRIBUTE TO THE SWIC NEWSLETTER

If you would like to contribute articles for upcoming SWIC Newsletters to highlight innovative practices in your State or territory, please contact Adrienne Werner Adrienne.Werner@hq.dhs.gov.