

Statewide Interoperability Coordinators Newsletter

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Note from the Deputy Director

By: Chris Essid, Deputy Director, Office of Emergency Communications

It was wonderful seeing many of you last month at the Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials (APCO) Conference in

New Orleans, Louisiana. It has been an extremely busy summer for the Office of Emergency Communications (OEC), and we are excited with the progress we have made so far and look forward to accomplishing more before the end of the year.

One of our accomplishments has been updating the National Emergency Communications Plan (NECP)—the Nation’s overarching strategic plan for emergency communications. The NECP is currently undergoing review and we hope that it will be ready for signature and implementation in the near future. We plan to use the updated NECP to improve our Technical Assistance (TA) offerings and inform our Statewide Communications Interoperability Plan (SCIP) revision workshops. As we begin rolling out the new NECP, OEC will rely on our stakeholders to assist in the implementation of the plan’s strategic goals and benchmarks. Once finalized, the NECP, as well as various supporting documents that OEC has drafted, will be available on the Homeland Security Information Portal.

As you may be aware, the SCIP program is now a part of the TA Branch; however, requesting and implementing a SCIP Revision Workshop does not count against a State’s annual TA request limit. OEC is making significant progress toward completing workshops in all 56 States and territories by the end of the year. We recently conducted workshops in Massachusetts, Tennessee, and Washington. In addition to our revision workshops, OEC is now offering SCIP Focus Area Workshops to support SCIP implementation. These one-day workshops are designed to focus on specific topic areas identified by States and territories.

In addition to the SCIP workshops, OEC continues to offer a wide-range of TA courses and workshops, including our popular Broadband Support and Planning workshop. This workshop is an excellent opportunity for States and local jurisdictions to begin planning for the First Responder Network Authority’s (FirstNet) deployment of the Nationwide Public Safety Broadband Network (NPSBN), especially ahead of the State consultation meetings. FirstNet started its State consultation meetings in July with Maryland and will continue to hold planning meetings with all States and territories over the next year. OEC is working with FirstNet to ensure that our TA workshops provide the tools and resources States will need during FirstNet consultations.

In addition to our planning workshops, OEC recently completed the first draft of the Cyber and Physical Threat Analysis to Improve the NPSBN (CAPTAIN) Report for FirstNet. CAPTAIN builds on last year’s Cyber Infrastructure Risk Analysis by identifying, describing, and evaluating strategies to reduce the high-priority risks to the NPSBN. OEC plans to finalize this report in the coming weeks and begin working with States and local jurisdictions on strategies to mitigate cyber risks to their portions of the NPSBN.

OEC is dedicated to working with our stakeholders to ensure that their State’s or organization’s communications needs are met by providing programs and services that help them adapt to the evolving emergency communications landscape. We remain committed to improving emergency communications for public safety nationwide. On behalf of OEC, thank you all for your hard work and we look forward to continuing our partnership with you as we prepare for the future. ■

About the SWIC Newsletter

The *SWIC Newsletter* serves as 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 revision efforts, future Statewide planning, and alignment to the NECP.

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Note from the NCSWIC Vice Chair

By: Steve Noel, Oregon SWIC

It was great to see many of you at the APCO 2014 conference in New Orleans this August! I heard many productive discussions related to FirstNet, Next Generation 9-1-1, and land mobile radio (LMR) systems. For instance, Brad Stoddard, Michigan's Statewide Interoperability Coordinator (SWIC); Steve Devine, from Missouri; Brandon Abley, former Minnesota SWIC, and I were active participants in many of the discussions on FirstNet and LMR. Bill Schrier, Michael Britt, Steve Williams, and Del Smith also provided outstanding presentations at the conference. When giving a presentation, it is always refreshing to see familiar faces in the audience, and whenever there is a SWIC attending, I know that I have to be well-versed in my materials and ready for some good (and often tough!) questions.

Among all the great presentations and discussions, I was unable to attend OEC Deputy Director Chris Essid's presentation. However, I understand that he did an excellent job providing an overview of the NECP. It is my understanding that the APCO Conference had over 5,000 attendees, many of whom were interested in attending sessions covering FirstNet.

I would like to congratulate Ray Lehr, Maryland SWIC, and Lori Stone, Maryland SWIC alternate, for completing the initial FirstNet consultation for the State of Maryland. Thanks to both for compiling an outstanding after action review that will help many of us prepare for our State's FirstNet consultations. Maryland State's after action report is available [online](#).

OEC Director, Admiral Ron Hewitt, mentioned OEC's efforts to continue building strong relationships among members of the emergency communications community, most notably SWICs, State points-of-contacts, and State 911 coordinators. These partners are working in unison as new technologies, such as FirstNet, NG 9-1-1, and Emergency Services IP networks, are deployed. Mr. Hewitt noted that, "In the United States today, there are over 6,000 911 centers with roughly 300-400 actively testing NG 9-1-1."

I believe that State Chief Information Officers should also be included in this group to support a total team effort. Ideally, the level of collaboration that we, as SWICs, have built with OEC will eventually be recognized as a best practice in stakeholder collaboration and will be adopted by other groups coordinating across borders.

I commend SWICs and OEC on developing the SWIC Quarterly Newsletter; it is becoming a widely-used document that has helped SWICs and their champions share information on the programs and activities SWICs and OEC are developing to promote emergency communications nationwide. Additionally, the newsletter also identifies trouble areas where the public safety community needs continued support to improve gaps in interoperability and operability.

Mark and I look forward to seeing you at our next in-person conference in December. OEC has identified Oklahoma as a tentative location, but we will provide more information on the dates and location once they are available. ■

NCSWIC Executive Committee In-Person Meeting Highlights

Boulder, Colorado; September 17, 2014

- Mark Hall, Communications Officer for the Rocky Mountain Fire District, provided the keynote presentation—an overview of 2013 and 2014 Colorado floods and wildfires, including lessons learned, challenges, and successes from a communications perspective
- Chris Essid, OEC Deputy Director, provided an update on recent OEC activities, including a status update on the 2014 NECP implementation
- Steve Noel, NCSWIC Vice Chair and SAFECOM representative, provided an update on recent SAFECOM activities, and Michael Varney provided an update on recent Public Safety Advisory Committee (PSAC) and FirstNet activities
- The NCSWIC EC proposed valuable changes to the NCSWIC Charter and reviewed and provided edits to numerous work products
- EC Members discussed working group participation and the need for each region to have an assigned Regional Interoperability Council/NCSWIC EC alternate ■

FY 2015 Technical Assistance Process

On an annual basis, the OEC Interoperable Communications Technical Assistance Program (ICTAP) publishes a technical assistance (TA) Catalog with TA and SCIP workshop services for the upcoming fiscal year. The FY2015 TA/SCIP cycle began June 15, with release of version 4.1 of the TA/SCIP catalog. Within this version, both technical assistance and SCIP workshop offerings are now listed in one Catalog. TA and SCIP requests are also now combined on one TA/SCIP request form, which is available [online](#). Requests for a SCIP workshop and any of the SCIP-related focus areas do not count toward the State/territory allocated 5 TA requests. Beginning August 18, the OEC/ICTAP team, in collaboration with OEC Coordinators, began conducting “virtual” meetings to review individual requests against available resources and schedules.

Currently, the OEC TA Branch has received FY2015 TA/SCIP requests from 42 States/territories for 191 individual TA services and 19 SCIP workshops. At the completion of the first cycle of acceptances/deferrals, OEC will notify SWICs about those services OEC is able to accept during this first round. This notification will also include

guidance about a follow-up teleconference with the SWIC or point-of-contact to schedule and scope the OEC/ICTAP resources to deliver the services. OEC will begin delivery on October 1.

The two most requested topic areas related to the SCIP include: SCIP updates and broadband technology. The most requested TA services include:

TRG-COML	11	OP-SPEV	5
TRG-COMT	11	TRG-INCM	5
TRG-IDT	10	TRG-RADO	5
TRG-AUXCOMM	9	ENG-SYS	4
BB-BRBNLTE	8	OP-COMMDRILL	4
ENG-NG9-1-1 STRATPLAN	8	TIC-FOG	4
OP-COMMEX	5	TRG-COML TtT	4
OP-PSCC INTEROP	5		

For questions about SCIP Workshops and TA support, please contact OEC@hq.dhs.gov. ■

SCIP Revision Workshop Highlights

OEC continues to work with States and territories across the Nation to update their SCIPs to reflect the current emergency communications environment. Since the beginning of fiscal year 2013, OEC has worked with States to complete 46 workshops, including seven workshops completed since the last NCSWIC newsletter. OEC has already started planning workshops for the upcoming federal government fiscal year.

As part of the planning process, OEC collaborates with each State and territory to ensure that workshops achieve measurable successes to further interoperable communications. In July 2014, OEC supported SCIP revision efforts in Georgia, Missouri, and Washington. The following list provides additional details on each of the July 2014 SCIP workshops:

Georgia revises the SCIP every two years to meet State mandates. Nick Brown, the State’s SWIC, spoke to the group on the first day of the workshop about the need to expand training opportunities and outreach and information sharing with local stakeholders in order to facilitate usage, training, and situational awareness. During the workshop, stakeholders developed 18 goals across five sections of the Interoperability Continuum, and invited a group of State agency and research personnel to create a timeline for implementing these initiatives.

Missouri hosted a compressed SCIP Revision Workshop to accommodate stakeholders’ schedules and an already-planned radio upgrade. As part of the workshop, stakeholders learned about resources and support available at the State and Federal levels. Participants appreciated the level of discussion on key emergency communications topics, noting that the State would use this discussion as it is finalized in the SCIP to bring awareness to emergency communications officials on important topics in Missouri.

For the Washington workshop, OEC developed a modified approach to the traditional workshop structure that better suited the State’s emergency communications environment and objectives. Washington’s workshop served as a summit for stakeholders across the State to meet and discuss the latest developments in mission-critical voice and data planning. OEC and the State of Washington’s Office of the Chief Information Officer worked together to support information sharing and brainstorming sessions addressing Washington’s critical challenges and proposed goals. The workshop also served to help the State prepare for its initial consultation with FirstNet.

OEC continues to work with additional States to revise their SCIP. For additional information, please contact Jackita Bass, SCIP Program Manager, at jackita.bass@hq.dhs.gov. ■



Emergency Communications in Alabama

By: **Chuck Murph**, Alabama SWIC

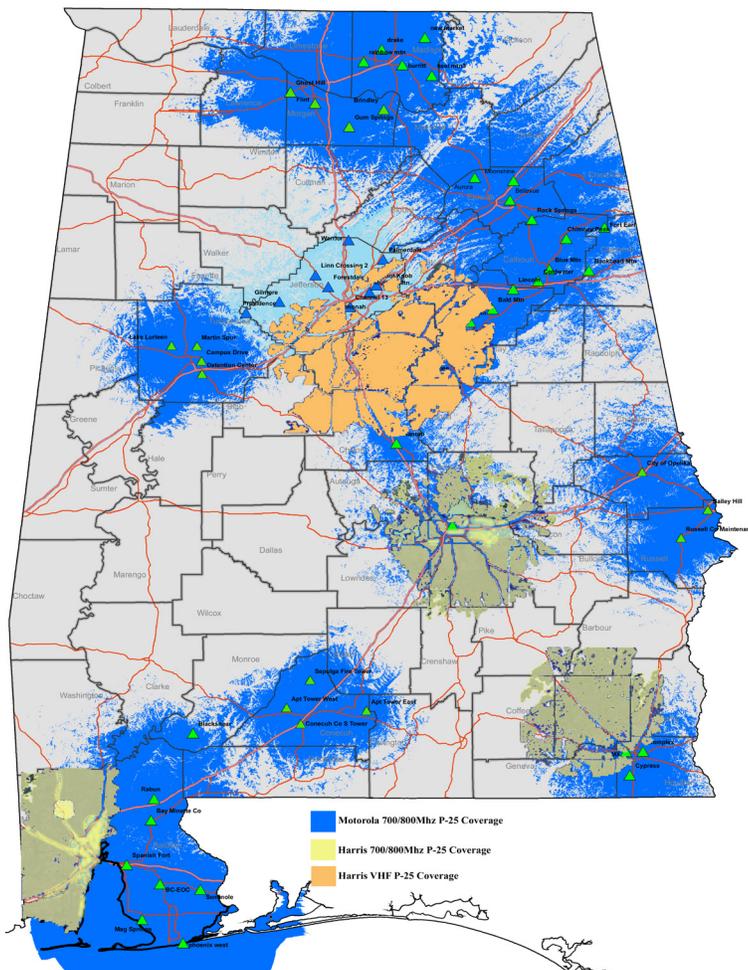
Greetings from the land of cotton, where college football is king and it's hotter than a firecracker lit on both ends! I wanted to give my colleagues an update on our efforts here in Alabama. We've been fortunate over the last three years to have an administration that "gets it," and has stressed the importance of emergency communications and interoperability among our first responders. This support has led to the establishment of a strong governance structure through both Executive Order and State Statute. In 2012, Governor Bentley created the Alabama First Responder Wireless Commission (AFRWC) through an Executive Order. In 2013, the Alabama Legislature codified the Governor's Executive Order and gave additional powers to the commission.

Before the creation of the AFRWC, everyone had their own "sandbox" filled with toys in which no one else had an invitation to play. The State suffered because few knew or cared about the capabilities each communication system offered. Today, the State operates four separate communication systems, none of which is capable of satisfying the needs of the whole.

Once the AFRWC began meeting, it spurred an unparalleled amount of collaboration among our local system administrators. These administrators began working through the commission to tie their systems together, and began offering neighboring jurisdictions connectivity to their cores to build out Project 25 (P25) coverage. This grassroots effort has led to serious discussions within the Legislature to possibly fund a "system-of-systems" to satisfy the needs of first responders. Just last month, Mission Critical Magazine highlighted our efforts to expand P25 coverage statewide. We're optimistic about the possibilities on the horizon and hope to one day foster interoperable communications among all Alabama first responders.

The AFRWC is also working toward our Initial Consultation with FirstNet. The Governor has appointed my boss, Secretary of Law Enforcement, Spencer Collier, as the SPOC. The AFRWC will work closely with FirstNet to ensure the plan that reaches Governor Bentley's desk is one that we've developed out of a close partnership. In order to help the AFRWC better meet the needs of our local first responders, we developed Divisional Advisory Committees (DACs) consisting of various professional first responder associations. The DAC chairperson's from each of Alabama's seven geographical divisions will form a workgroup under the AFRWC. Participation in these DACs will be the key to success in drafting a viable public safety broadband plan for NPSBN services.

In closing, Alabama continues to advocate both intra- and interstate partnerships. These partnerships foster enhanced services for our citizens and maximize the investment made by the tax-payer's dollar. We really see the benefit of these partnerships when our citizen's need us the most, whether it be during man-made or natural disasters. Here, along the Gulf Coast, we've been given numerous opportunities to get to know each other, maybe too many! ■



NCSWIC Working Group and SAFECOM Committee Updates—Summer 2014

Working Group/ Committee	Accomplishments to Date
Funding and Sustainment Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Published the Fiscal Year 2014 List of Federal Financial Assistance Programs Funding Emergency Communications ✓ Published the first edition of the SWIC Success Stories promotional brochure highlighting recent achievements among SWICs ✓ Developed a white paper highlighting unique funding mechanisms used by stakeholders
Outreach Working Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Drafting the SWIC Elevator Speech ✓ Drafting the Introduction to NCSWIC presentation ✓ Developed the T-Band Giveback fact sheet, currently under OEC review
Collaboration and Preparedness Working Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Developed the Project 25 Inter RF Subsystem Interface fact sheet, currently under OEC review
Governance Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Continued updates to the SAFECOM Governance Charter ✓ Developed the SAFECOM Strategic Plan which is scheduled to be published this fall ✓ Began updates to the 2008 Establishing Governance to Achieve Statewide Communications Interoperability guide ✓ Appointed Chief Gerald Reardon as the new SAFECOM EC Public Safety At-Large member and extended membership to the National Association of State 9-1-1 Administrators and the National Association of State Chief Information Officers
Education and Outreach Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Published the “Introduction to SAFECOM” presentation ✓ Worked with NPSTC to develop a SAFECOM promotional video ✓ Developed and published Monthly Bulletin ✓ Began developing a white paper comparing SAFECOM, NPSTC, PSAC, and NCSWIC ✓ Began developing a SAFECOM Quarterly Newsletter
Technology Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Published the Broadband 101 presentation, LMR Webinar and Fact Sheet, and P25 Position Paper ✓ Hosted a Next Generation 9-1-1 Webinar on September 11, 2014



Joint



NCSWIC Only



SAFECOM Only

SAFECOM EC Meeting Highlights

August 7, 2014

The SAFECOM EC met in New Orleans, Louisiana, following the APCO conference, on August 7, 2014 to discuss critical and emerging public safety issues, a proposed new organization structure, and strategic priorities moving forward. Meeting highlights included:

- A keynote panel discussion from representatives of the New Orleans Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness on lessons learned and recent system upgrades as a result of Hurricane Katrina
- Updates from the Governance, Funding and Sustainment, Education and Outreach, and Technology Policy Committees
- Updates from OEC and Federal partners regarding the NECP, Grants, and recent activities from the Office for Interoperability and Compatibility and the Public Safety Communications Research Program
- SAFECOM EC members voted for Chief Gerald Reardon, City of Cambridge, Massachusetts Fire Department to fill the SAFECOM EC Public Safety At-Large position and extended membership to the National Association of State Chief Information Officers and the National Association of State 9-1-1 Administrators

Please contact NCSWIC Vice Chair, [Steve Noel](#), for more information on SAFECOM. ■

Border Communications Updates

Southwest Border Communications Working Group



The Southwest Border Communications Working Group (SWBCWG) held its quarterly meeting on May 20, 2014, at the Bureau of Land Management Arizona State Office in Phoenix. The meeting was attended by emergency communications practitioners from all levels of government. It focused on: building and expanding partnerships among Federal, State, local, and tribal emergency communications practitioners in the Southwest Border Region, sharing communications best practices and lessons learned, identifying opportunities for collaboration on regional projects, and exchanging information on key regulatory issues that impact emergency communications along the international border.

Highlights from the meeting included the following:

- The Arizona Bureau of Land Management (BLM) presented an update on BLM border communications and its coordination with other Southwest Border stakeholders. Members were briefed on the installation of a MCC7500 radio console system at the Federal Law Enforcement Communications Center in Phoenix, which provides service to Department of the Interior (DOI) and United States Forest Service law enforcement officers in Arizona, New Mexico, Texas, Montana, and Utah, via LMR and mobile satellite radio systems
- Officials from FirstNet presented on the sequence of events associated with the NPSBN State consultation process. FirstNet is working with State single points-of-contact and SWICs to collect information on network coverage areas, assignment of priority to local users, and training needs of local users. A representative from the Texas Department of Public Safety (TxDPS) also provided a State perspective of the consultation process with FirstNet. TxDPS provided an update on Texas' public safety long-term evolution (LTE) network outreach and education program
- A representative from the Montana Public Safety Communications Bureau delivered a presentation on the Canada—U.S. Communications Interoperability VLA31 (Blue) Channel Project. The intent of the Montana Mutual Aid Channel is to provide statewide mobile mutual aid coordination of frequencies between disciplines used by law enforcement along the border. Members were also briefed on the Western Border Interoperable Working Group, which provides planning for radio interoperability issues and coordination among Northwestern United States and Canadian public safety agencies
- Customs and Border Protection provided an overview of the Cross Border Security Communications Network; all ten U.S. sites are operationally ready. Members were advised on the process for joining the network; the appendix governing standard operating procedures will be provided in the near future
- The New Mexico Department of Information Technology presented on the progress of New Mexico's BTOP. Members were provided an overview of the project's phases; the project is upgrading 69 existing Microwave sites to provide additional broadband capacity. The BTOP project also includes construction of a 700 MHz public safety LTE network along New Mexico's international border.
- OEC provided a progress report on Executive Order (E.O.) 13616: Accelerating Broadband Infrastructure Deployment on Federal Property Working Group, including initiatives that benefit members of the SWBCWG. The impetus of the E.O. is to assist State and local governments in expediting applications for broadband infrastructure permits on Federal property
- DOI provided an overview of the All Risk Management Zones initiative. The National Interagency Fire Center (NIFC) established zones along dispatch center areas of responsibility to better manage wildland firefighting. The zones are the basis for national-level spectrum support to NIFC for Type 1 and 2 Project and Complex Fires, and natural and manmade disasters
- The Arizona Department of Public Safety provided an update on the State's public safety communications, including the department's efforts to incorporate the previous responsibilities of the recently decommissioned AZ Public Safety Interoperable Communications Office. Members received an overview of the AZ 700 MHz Project 25 Statewide Trunking Network, developed through partnerships between Federal, State, and local agencies
- The Phoenix Fire Department provided an overview of the communications issues surrounding the Yarnell, Arizona, fire memorial services for the 19 Prescott City fire fighters and support of the Prescott, Arizona, community. Members were provided information regarding interoperability issues during the planning process as well as communications requirements for the convoy. The next in-person SWBCWG meeting is Wednesday, Sept 24, 2014. The meeting will be held at the State Records Center and Archives, 1205 Camino Carlos Rey, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87507 ■

Canada-United States Communications Interoperability Working Group

The Canada-United States Communications Interoperability Working Group (CANUS CIWG) held its bi-annual meeting on June 17-18, 2014, at the Royal Canadian Air Force Officer's Mess in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada. Attendees included federal government officials from Canada

and the United States, as well as representatives from the State of Montana and the Province of Saskatchewan. The meeting was focused on: discussing progress against Year 2 CANUS CIWG Work Plan activities and potential Year 3 efforts; sharing programmatic information regarding Federal, State, and local cross border initiatives and collaborative opportunities; and soliciting member feedback on how to enhance current cross-border efforts at all levels of government.

Highlights from the meeting included:

- Announcing the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Federal Emergency Management Agency and Canadian partners, allowing for the technical integration of the Integrated Public Alert and Warning System and Canada's Multi-Agency Situational Awareness System
- Briefing members on the update to the NECP, changes in the public safety communications ecosystem, and the evolution of LMR and public safety broadband
- Discussing plans for the Canada-U.S. Resiliency Experiment III, including four exercise scenarios testing the following aspects of communications:
 - Social Media in Emergency Management
 - Deployable Public Safety Broadband/Long Term Evolution
 - Mutual Aid
 - Alerts and Warnings
- Updating members on the Federal Communications Commission and Industry Canada efforts to clarify the Treaty Series 1952 No. 7: Operation of Certain Radio Equipment or Stations, also known as the 1952 Convention, to allow for the use and storage of hand-held radio units across the international border
- Sharing information on best practices and procedures for standing up a cross-border very high frequency interoperability channel, using the Montana VLOW 31 Channel as an example
- Coordinating with the National Public Safety Telecommunications Council and the Canadian Communications Interoperable Telecommunications Interest Group on current efforts and exploring ways that the Federal government could assist in these efforts
- Providing an update on Canadian and U.S. technical considerations for public safety broadband coordination
- Providing Federal members with an update on the Law Enforcement Communications Interoperability system, including lessons learned from early use of the pilot (e.g., Sumas shooting). The system is a Federal law enforcement communications radio-over-IP solution piloted by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and Customs and Border Protection
- Sharing results of OEC and Public Safety Canada Cross-border interoperability discussions with members, and conducted small breakout sessions to discuss and brainstorm potential next steps based on findings

For additional information or to find out how your organization can get involved with CANUS CIWG, please contact CANUSCIWG@hq.dhs.gov. ■



Meet the SWICs



Craig Allen
Iowa SWIC

The Iowa Statewide Interoperability Systems Board selected Craig Allen as Iowa's SWIC in April 2014, replacing former SWIC, Jim Bogner. Craig has an extensive communications, education, and public safety background. He recently retired from the Illinois State Police (ISP) as Lieutenant Colonel of Special Operations.

During his career with ISP, Craig actively participated in many public safety communications organizations at the State and Federal levels, including acting as the SPOC for 700 MHz interoperability channels; Acting Chair of the Illinois Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee; Chair of the Illinois State Police Emergency Radio Network Governing Board; board member of the Law Enforcement Agency

Data System; member of the Illinois 9-1-1 Wireless Advisory Board; Law Enforcement Chair for the Public Safety Advisory Committee; member of the Executive Council for the Public Safety Wireless Network; member of the SAFECOM Emergency Response Council (ERC); actively participating in Federal Partnership for Interoperable Communications, APCO, Project 25; and testifying before the FCC Commissioners on national interoperable communications matters. Craig remains active in several organizations including the Executive Board of the Illinois Associations of Chiefs of Police (ILACP); as Chair of ILACP Communications and Technology Committee; and as a member of the International Association of Chiefs of Police, Communications and Technology Committee.

In the early 1990's, he developed a concept for a Statewide voice radio system, and through collaborative efforts with a wide variety of stakeholders, gathered political support to fund such a system, developed an RFP and metrics for RFP evaluation, and negotiated the contract. In March 2008, the Statewide-leased radio system, known as STARCOM21, was launched, which is now utilized by more than 35,000 users.

Craig taught for Northwestern University, Center for Public Safety, School of Police Staff and Command for over 22 years, instructing over 125, one-week classes on a variety of police and government topics. Craig graduated from the University of Illinois-Springfield with a degree in Management, and from Northwestern University, Center for Public Safety with a certificate in their Police Administration Training Program.

Craig looks forward to seeing FirstNet's NPSBN become a reality and to Iowa achieving successful deployment of a Statewide voice radio system. ■

Craig can be reached at 515-418-1508 (mobile) or email callen@dps.state.ia.us.



Brandon Smith
Virginia SWIC

Before beginning his current position as the Virginia SWIC in the Governor's Office of Commonwealth Preparedness, Brandon served as the Virginia Information Sharing and Situational Awareness Program Director as well as one of the Virginia Homeland Security Project's Assistant Administrators. In this role, Brandon was responsible for maintaining and training personnel within the Commonwealth on the Automated Critical Asset Management System, a tool that is used to input and store assessments of critical infrastructure and key resources in Virginia.

Prior to his career with the State of Virginia, Brandon also served eight years in the United States Marine Corps at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, working as a Military Police Officer and Security Planner for five years and supporting the Chemical Biological Incident Response Force for an additional three years. ■

Brandon can be reached at 804-663-7766 or Brandon.Smith@governor.virginia.gov.

OEC Coordinator Spotlight



Pam Montanari

OEC Coordinator, Region IV (Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi)

OEC Regional Coordination Branch

Pam joined the Regional Coordinator Branch as the Region IV OEC Coordinator representing the States of Alabama, Florida, Georgia, and Mississippi. She 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. Pam previously served as a Subject Matter Expert in the OEC/ICTAP program and has over 24 years of experience in local and regional communications.

In her role as the Pinellas County, Florida, Radio and Data Systems Manager, she oversaw all operations of the countywide P25-700/800 MHz trunked radio and data systems, including responsibilities related to planning, managing grants, budgeting, and managing and directing local and regional public safety communications efforts. She served as the Chair of the Tampa Bay Interoperable Communications Committee and coordinated regional and statewide efforts, working with agencies to improve interoperability for daily operations and large-scale events.

In the past, Pam also represented the public safety community in several programs at the National and Federal level, and is a former SAFECOM ERC member. She served as the NPSTC Interoperability Vice-Chair, and Co-Chair for NPSTC's Radio Programming and LTE Console working groups. Pam holds a Bachelor's Degree in Business Management from Eckerd College, holds two Associate Degrees in Electronics Technology, and is a Certified Public Manager. ■

Pam can be reached at Pam.Montanari@hq.dhs.gov.

OEC Calendar

OCTOBER

2

SAFECOM EC Conference Call

14

NCSWIC EC Conference Call

NOVEMBER

6

SAFECOM EC Conference Call

DECEMBER

3-4

NCSWIC/SAFECOM Joint In-Person Meeting

CONTRIBUTE TO THE SWIC NEWSLETTER

If you would like to contribute articles for upcoming SWIC newsletters, highlighting innovative practices in your State or territory, please contact NCSWICGovernance@hq.dhs.gov.