

Interoperability Newsletter

Inside This Issue:

Narrowbanding 101 2
 P25 Workshop 2
 OKFOG Progress 3
 NECP Goal 1 4
 COML Training 4
 Oklahoma CIO 4

Upcoming Events:

- June 29, 2010: P25 Technical Assistance Workshop
- August 17, 2010: COML Train the Trainer

State Officials Meet to Improve Interoperable Emergency Communications Capabilities

The state of Oklahoma continues to make progress toward improving its emergency communications capabilities. On February 10, 2010 the Oklahoma Office of Homeland Security (OKOHS) held a workshop that brought together more than fifteen state and local public safety officials from across Oklahoma. The purpose of the workshop was to further implement the statewide strategic plan known as the Statewide Communication Interoperability Plan (SCIP) and improve statewide interoperable communications capabilities. Emergency communications interoperability refers to the ability of emergency responders — police officers, fire personnel, and emergency medical services — to share vital voice and data information across disciplines and jurisdictions during emergency incidents.

With support from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Office of Emergency



Members of the Statewide Interoperability Governing Body (SIGB) listen to a presentation on the importance of Interoperable Communications Outreach.

Communications (OEC), meeting participants discussed communications interoperability gaps and proposed statewide initiatives that would address those gaps. Participants also used the meeting as an opportunity to discuss the state's strategic path forward. State and local public safety officials will continue to work together in the future to address the following initiatives:

- Interoperable Communications Outreach
- National Emergency Communications Plan

(NECP) Goals

These initiatives are included in the state's SCIP, which aligns with OEC's National Emergency Communications Plan — a national strategic plan for improving emergency communications capabilities. This alignment ensures that Oklahoma is tackling interoperable communications in a strategic way that is consistent with national policies.

see SCIP Workshop page 3

Narrowbanding 101

Overview

“Narrowbanding” refers to a requirement by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) that — on or before January 1, 2013 — all existing licensees on the VHF and UHF Spectrum implement equipment designed to operate on channel bandwidths of 12.5 kHz or less or that meet a specific efficiency standard. Licensees will need to convert or replace their existing VHF and UHF wideband (25 kHz) systems.

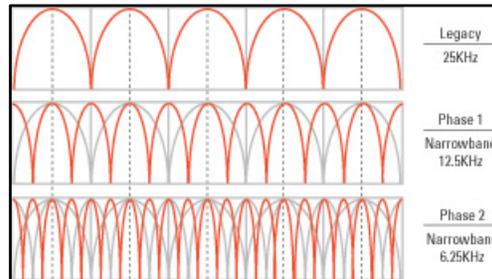
The FCC’s purpose for narrowbanding is to promote more efficient use of the VHF and UHF land mobile bands by opening up additional channels within the same spectrum space. Ultimately, equipment will need to operate on bandwidths of 6.25 kHz or less. (Currently no deadline is set for this

second phase of narrowbanding.)

It is important to note that agencies that do not meet the deadline may face the loss of communications capabilities.

Agencies should inventory their radio assets and determine what equipment needs to be converted and what will have to be replaced completely.

Although the FCC deadline of January 1, 2013 may seem distant, there are only a few budget



Source: National Institute of Justice

Planning for Conversion

Planning for the move from wideband to narrowband should start immediately within your agency, and awareness is the first step. Many agencies are not fully aware of the FCC mandate. Narrowbanding should be discussed at board meetings, fire and police chief gatherings, and city and company staff meetings.

cycles remaining; therefore, funding should be identified as soon as possible.

see Narrowbanding page 5

Project 25 Technical Assistance Workshop

Date: June 29, 2010
Time: 9:00 am - 4:30 pm
Location: Tulsa Public Safety Response Center
Address: 3411 North Columbia, Tulsa, OK 74110

On June 29, 2010 a Technical Assistance Workshop will be held in Tulsa.

System owners from Oklahoma City, Broken Arrow and the Oklahoma Wireless Information Network (OKWIN) will be

in attendance.

This workshop will cover Project 25 Planning and will be facilitated by a contractor with DHS’s Office of Emergency Communications.

As soon as materials

become available, additional information will be posted to www.ioc.ok.gov.

For questions regarding the Technical Assistance Workshop contact Nikki Cassingham or visit the Webpage. ■

Oklahoma Field Operations Guide Progress

Development of the Oklahoma Field Operations Guide (OKFOG) continues to make progress.

The purpose of the OKFOG will be to serve as a quick reference for responders in the field. It will include Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) by Oklahoma Homeland Security Region and by county.

The OKFOG will also include frequency information for any responder to use statewide during a public safety event, regardless of what radio system is

utilized.

The Oklahoma Office of Homeland Security (OKOHS) has contracted L. Robert Kimball & Associates (Kimball) to develop the guide, which is to be modeled after the National Interoperability Field Operations Guide (NIFOG).

The SIGB SOP Committee has been working closely with Kimball and OKOHS to provide recommendations for the development of the OKFOG.

During the week of March 21-26, Kimball held

interviews with members of the SOP Committee as well as key stakeholders committed to the development of OKFOG.

Kimball has released an initial draft of the OKFOG, and it is currently in the process of being reviewed by the SOP committee and by OKOHS.

Conference calls between Kimball, the SOP Committee and OKOHS are held biweekly and face-to-face meetings take place once per month.

The OKFOG is scheduled to be released in early 2011. ■

Future Topics

- Tactical Communications Task Force Update
- Kimball Local Assessment
- Digital Controller Update
- OKFOG Update
- Narrowbanding Updates
- ...and more!

“SCIP Workshop” continued from page 1

“The Implementation Workshop was a great chance to start to put plans into actions. We all know the need for interoperability exists but developing that into plans that are distributed and used by all is a real challenge. Working together to develop plans to reach out to the various groups within Oklahoma that have a stake in Interoperable Communications was a very important first step,” said James Mullins, Technology Analyst for Emergency Medical Service Authority (EMSA).

During an emergency response incident, voice and data communications are essential to the success of an operation. Through continued efforts such as these, the state is improving its ability to respond to incidents of all varieties.

OKOHS will review the outcomes of the workshop in order to create a statewide Interoperability Outreach Program.

For more information about the state’s interoperability efforts, please visit www.ioc.ok.gov. ■



The SCIP Implementation Workshop was held on February 10th and included the topics of Interoperable Communications Outreach and the NECP Goals.

NECP Goal 1 Demonstration

On April 19, 2010, representatives of the United States Department of Homeland Security (DHS) were in Oklahoma City to observe the communications response capability that will fulfill Goal 1 of the National Emergency Communications Plan (NECP).

The observers monitored communications channels during the 15th Anniversary Ceremony of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building Bombing.

The NECP is a strategic plan developed by DHS's Office of Emergency Communications (OEC) that sets goals and

identifies key national priorities to enhance governance, planning, technology, training and exercises and disaster communications capabilities. It provides recommendations, including milestones, to help emergency response providers and

see NECP Goal 1 page 5

COML Train the Trainer to be Held in August

To improve communications interoperability in the state of Oklahoma, OKOHS has scheduled an All-Hazards Communications Unit Leader Train the Trainer (COML TtT) Course for August.

DHS's Office of
Emergency
Communications

Interoperable Communications Technical Assistance Program (OEC/ICTAP) is providing the training to ensure that every state and territory has trained instructors capable of instructing the COML Course. Having qualified instructors within the state will create a self

sustaining process for trained COMLs to manage and coordinate on-scene communications during multi-jurisdictional responses and planned events.

see COML page 6

Date: August 17, 2010
Time: 8:00 am - 5:00 pm
Location: Edmond Fire Department Training Center
Address: 5300 E. Covell Road
Edmond, OK 73034

Governor Henry Appoints First Oklahoma CIO

After much anticipation, Governor Brad Henry has selected Alex Pettit of Denton, Texas as the first Oklahoma Chief Information Officer (CIO).

Pettit was formerly a technology consultant in Texas, and a project manager for Brown University.

Last year, HB 1170 was passed by the Oklahoma

legislature creating the CIO position in the state.

Among Pettit's initial duties will be to complete a 12-month assessment of telecommunications and information technology of all state agencies in Oklahoma. He will then submit a plan of action to the Governor.

Advocates of HB 1170 estimate that the CIO

could save the state approximately \$52 million during his first two years. ■

“Narrowbanding” continued from page 2

Frequency Coordination is another aspect of this process that must be addressed. To move to narrowband operations, agencies must apply for new frequencies or modify existing licenses.

Key Points for Consideration

- 1. Narrowbanding affects every VHF and UHF user.
- 2. Agencies need to start planning now for the conversion by assessing their current radio equipment and applying for new or modified licenses.

- 3. The FCC may terminate your license or issue monetary fines if your agency is not in compliance with the narrowbanding requirement.
- 4. Time is short, especially when measured in budget cycles.

Deadlines

- January 1, 2013: Final date for wideband operation.
- January 1, 2011: Final date to: License wideband operations; modify existing wideband systems to expand coverage; and

manufacture and import 25 kHz capable equipment.

For more information on this subject, please visit www.ioc.ok.gov. ■

Note: The FCC may terminate your license or issue monetary fines if your agency is not in compliance with the narrowbanding requirement.

“NECP Goal 1” continued from page 2

relevant government officials make measurable improvements in emergency communications over the next three years.

A final report, including the results of the demonstration, is expected to be released within two months. Once the final report is received, the results will be incorporated into the Statewide Communications Interoperability Plan (SCIP) and the Central Oklahoma Urban Area Security Initiative’s (COUASI)

Tactical Interoperability Communications Plan (TIC-P).

The SCIP is updated annually by the Oklahoma Office of Homeland Security. The TIC-P has been under review for the last few months with the Interoperable Communications sub-committee of the COUASI.

Planning for the NECP Goal 2, which has a milestone date of 2011, is currently underway. ■



An observer from the United States Department of Homeland Security discusses interoperability with two members of the Oklahoma City Fire Service.

Oklahoma Office of Homeland Security

PO Box 11415
Oklahoma City, OK 73136

PHONE:
(405) 425-7296

FAX:
(405) 425-7295

E-MAIL:
OKOHS@dps.state.ok.us



We're on the Web!

See us at:
www.ioc.ok.gov

"COML" continued from page 4

The course is targeted for all local, regional, state and federal cross disciplinary emergency response professionals and coordination/support personnel with a communications background.

The COML TtT Course will be offered on August 17, 2010 at the Edmond

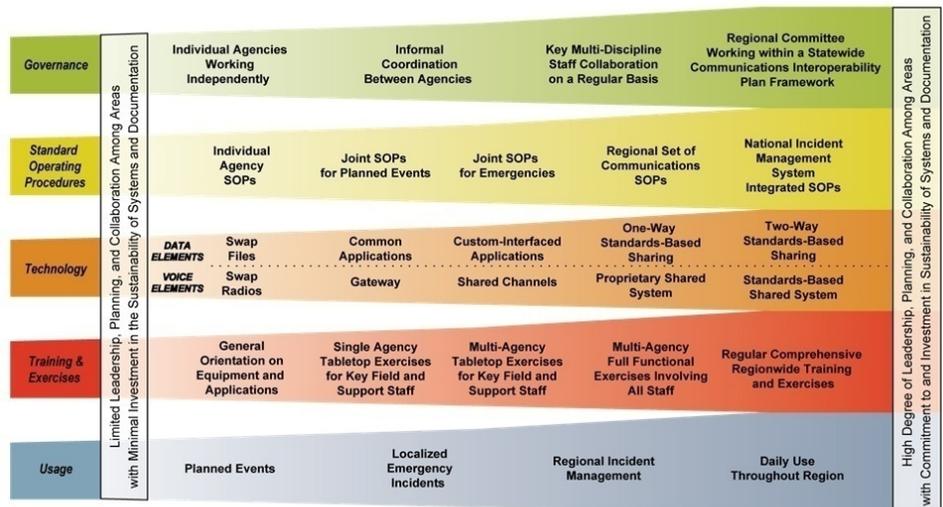
Fire Department Training Center. Please visit the OKOHS Training and Exercise Webpage for more information and the list of prerequisites.

To register for the course, please visit homelandsecurity.ok.gov, and then search for the course. Click on the name for the course then on

'Register for the Course.' If you have any questions, contact Kathryn McCoy at kmccoy@dps.state.ok.us or (405)-425-7296. ■



Interoperability Continuum



Oklahoma has adopted the SAFECOM Interoperability Continuum as a guide and directional goal to gain seamless communications interoperability across the state.

About the Oklahoma Interoperability Newsletter

The *Oklahoma Interoperability Newsletter* is designed to be a source of information, news and updates for stakeholders committed to public safety communications interoperability in the state of Oklahoma. We hope that it will serve as a valuable resource for you. If you would like to contribute to the newsletter, or for comments or suggestions, please contact Nikki Cassingham at ncassing@dps.state.ok.us or Chelsea Grogan at cgrogan@dps.state.ok.us.