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Upcoming Events:

- February 10<sup>th</sup>: SCIP Implementation Workshop
- March 8-12: IWCE in Las Vegas, NV
- April 8: SIGB Meeting
- April 19: NECP Goal 1 Demonstration
- April 28: Technical Assistance Workshop

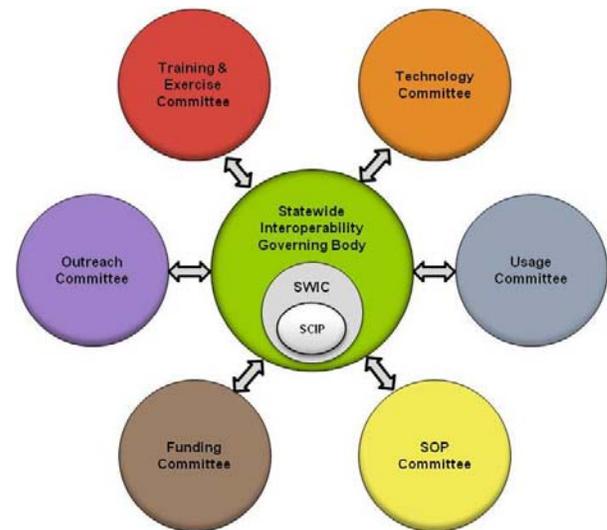
## Statewide Interoperability Governing Body Formalized

In order to address the status of interoperability in the state of Oklahoma and comply with national standards, the Oklahoma Office of Homeland Security (OKOHS) originally established the Oklahoma Interoperable Executive Committee (OIEC) and the Governance Working Group (GWG) in 2007.

OKOHS quickly realized that this governance structure was too hierarchical in nature and that a governance structure where each component was at the same level of authority would lead to more valued participation in the state of Oklahoma.

In May 2009, Oklahoma held a Technical Assistance Workshop to examine the governance structure. Per recommendations from the Workshop, the governance structure was revised to adopt the standards set by the Office of Emergency Communications (OEC).

OKOHS essentially combined the OIEC and



the GWG into a single body, and the new governance structure is referred to as the Statewide Interoperability Governing Body (SIGB). It was also recommended that a Funding Committee and a Usage Committee be added to the governance structure to support Oklahoma's specific needs.

The SIGB now includes six subcommittees: Training and Exercise, Outreach, Funding, Standard Operating Procedures, Usage and Technology. Each subcommittee is aligned

to SAFECOM's Interoperability Continuum, allowing for equal focus to be given to each area in the effort to reach the optimal level of each lane of the Continuum.

Each component of the new governance structure is now at the same level, allowing for equal participation and authority from all members. The SCIP remains in the center of the SIGB, as it is the basis for all communications interoperability planning in the state.

see "SIGB" page 4

## Minimum Standards for Communication Equipment Purchases: Phase 1 Implemented

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*Equipment or infrastructure purchases made by state agencies after November 1, 2009 must comply with the Phase 1 standards.*

In 2009, the Oklahoma Legislature passed Senate Bill 1153 giving the Oklahoma Office of Homeland Security (OKOHS) the authority to create and impose standards on communications interoperability equipment or infrastructure purchased by state agencies. The goal of these standards is to eliminate redundancy and ensure the compatibility of new purchases with existing technology.

In order to create the most efficient standards, OKOHS established the Interoperable Communications State Standards (IOCSS) Working Group. The ICSS is composed of representatives from multiple state agencies to make recommendations on the development and implementation of the

standards.

After initial meetings with the IOCSS Working Group, it was determined that a phased approach would be the best method to implement the standards. Therefore, the standards will be implemented in the following phases:

- Subscriber Equipment (Includes Mobile and Portable Radios)
- Repeater Equipment (Best Practices)
- Infrastructure (Tower Sites)
- Tactical Communications Equipment (Gateways)
- Data Connectivity

On November 1, 2009 the first phase of the standards went into effect. This means that

equipment or infrastructure purchases made by state agencies after November 1, 2009 *must* comply with the Phase 1 standards. Public safety agencies at the local, county and tribal levels, as well as non-governmental organizations are also encouraged to comply with the standards, but it is not required.

The IOCSS Working Group will continue to meet on a regular basis, and work on the implementation of Phases 2-5.

For additional information on the standards, visit the OKOHS Website. ■

## SIGB to receive SCIP Implementation Training

Later this month, the Statewide Interoperability Governing Body (SIGB) will participate in a training workshop conducted by the Office of Emergency Communications (OEC) on the implementation of the Statewide

Communications Interoperability Plan (SCIP).

This training workshop will provide guidance to the SIGB on Interoperable Communications Outreach and meeting the requirements of the

National Emergency Communication Plan (NECP) Goal 2.

The workshop will take place on February 10<sup>th</sup> at the Oklahoma History Center. For additional information contact Nikki Cassingham. ■

## Task Force Addresses Regional Response System

In September 2009, the Tactical Communications Task Force (TCTF) was established to identify and recommend the proper procedures and tools needed to communicate efficiently during any incident or event involving multiple jurisdictions or when Regional Response units are involved in the response.

The TCTF will provide recommendations to the Regional Response System Oversight Board and to the Statewide Interoperability Governing Body (SIGB).

Membership includes representatives of local public safety agencies from across the state.

Initial priorities of the TCTF include audits of the current templates and hardware contained within each Regional Response Unit, tactical communications training, incorporation of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) into the Statewide Communications Interoperability Plan (SCIP), and Strategic Technology Reserve (STR) planning.

The TCTF will continue to

meet on a regular basis to discuss ways to enhance tactical communications and the Regional Response System. The next meeting will take place later this month.

Visit the OKOHS Website for additional information or contact Nikki Cassingham. ■

### Future Topics

- Capabilities Assessment Completion
- Oklahoma Field Operations Guide Progress
- Narrowbanding Information
- Rebanding Updates
- ...and more!

## OKC to Demonstrate Response Capability on 15-Year Bombing Anniversary

On April 19, 2010 the Central Oklahoma Urban Area Security Initiative (COUASI) will demonstrate a communications response capability that will fulfill Goal 1 of the National Emergency Communications Plan (NECP).

The NECP is a strategic plan developed by the 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.

The NECP provides recommendations, including milestones, to help emergency response providers and relevant government officials make measurable improvements in emergency communications over the next three years.

Through OEC, the United States Department of Homeland Security (DHS) defined a series of goals establishing a minimum level of interoperable communications and a

deadline for local, state, tribal and federal agencies to achieve that minimum level. The goals provide an initial set of operational targets that will be further defined by the OEC through a process that engages federal, state and local governments; the private sector; and emergency responders. The initial goals are:

**Goal 1:** By 2010, 90 percent of all high-risk Urban Areas designated within the Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI)

see "NECP" page 5

## 2009 SCIP Update Complete

The Statewide Communications Interoperability Plan (SCIP) was updated and submitted to the Office of Emergency Communications (OEC) on December 29, 2009.

plan, and its purpose is to serve as a central point of reference for stakeholders dedicated to public safety communications interoperability in the state.

interoperability and the goals and objectives required to see the fulfillment of that vision.

To view the 2009 SCIP, visit the OKOHS Website. ■

Each state is required to submit a SCIP annually. It is a locally-driven, multi-jurisdictional statewide

The SCIP outlines Oklahoma's vision and mission for statewide communications

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*Implementation of the SCIP will be a main focus in 2010.*

## Technical Assistance Workshops Offered in 2010

Beginning April 28<sup>th</sup>, a series of Technical Assistance Workshops will be held for members of the Statewide Interoperability Governing Body (SIGB).

These workshops will focus on matters such as Project 25 familiarization,

development of the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and Communications Unit Leader (COML) training.

The first workshop will focus on Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) development. This workshop is scheduled for

April 28<sup>th</sup> at the Oklahoma History Center.

For questions regarding the Technical Assistance Workshops contact Nikki Cassingham or visit the OKOHS Website. ■

### "SIGB" from page 1

The SIGB represents a diverse group of various public safety officials from different levels of government across the state and creates a foundation for allowing each of Oklahoma's eight homeland security regions to identify their unique needs and contribute to statewide solutions.

Local government members of the SIGB— not state employees—

have agreed to be the chairs of the six subcommittees.

Recently, a charter was passed making the formalization of the SIGB official, and it became effective on January 1<sup>st</sup> of this year.

SIGB meetings for the remainder of 2010 will take place on April 8<sup>th</sup>, July 8<sup>th</sup> and October 14<sup>th</sup>.

For additional information

about the SIGB, or to view the Charter, please visit the OKOHS Website. ■

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*The SIGB Charter became effective on January 1<sup>st</sup> of this year.*

## Interoperability Field Guide Planning Underway

On January 19<sup>th</sup>, the Oklahoma Office of Homeland Security (OKOHS) held preliminary discussions with L. Robert Kimball & Associates (Kimball) on the development of the Oklahoma Interoperability Field Operations Guide (Guide).

Kimball has been selected as the contractor to develop the guide, which is to be modeled after the National Interoperability Field Operations Guide (NIFOG).

The purpose of the Guide will be to serve as a quick reference guide for responders in the field. It will include Standard Operating Procedures

(SOPs) by OKOHS Region and by county. The Guide will include frequency information for any responder to use statewide during a public safety event, regardless of what radio system is being operated.

“The Guide will serve to better equip our first responders with a practical knowledge of how to operate more effectively and efficiently during an emergency response situation involving multiple agencies and disparate radio systems, said Kerry Pettingill, Oklahoma Homeland Security Director. The inability of responders to

communicate with each other has been a hindrance in the past. Having this guide at their immediate disposal during an emergency will help to ensure that communications among agencies and responders will flow more seamlessly, improving the overall capacity of our state’s public safety agencies to respond to wide spread disaster. ”

see “**Guide**” page 6

### “NECP” from page 3

are able to demonstrate response-level emergency communications within one hour for routine events involving multiple jurisdictions and agencies.

**Goal 2:** By 2011, 75 percent of non-UASI jurisdictions are able to demonstrate response-level emergency communications within one hour for routine events involving multiple jurisdictions and agencies.

**Goal 3:** By 2013, 75 percent of all jurisdictions are able to demonstrate response-level emergency

communications within three hours of a significant event as outlined in national planning scenarios

The COUASI demonstration will take place during the events marking the 15-year anniversary of the Oklahoma City Bombing.

Personnel from OEC will be in the area to monitor the multi-jurisdiction demonstration and see that the requirements have been fulfilled.

For additional information

on this demonstration or the NECP Goals, visit the OKOHS Website. Further details on the event will be published on the IOC Webpage as the information becomes available. ■

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*The NECP Goal 1 demonstration will take place on April 19, 2010.*

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### "Guide" from page 5

It will be in the format of a flip-book and tabbed by OKOHS Region for quick reference in an emergency situation.

It is the intent of OKOHS that every emergency vehicle will be equipped with a Guide.

The Guide will also be compliant with the

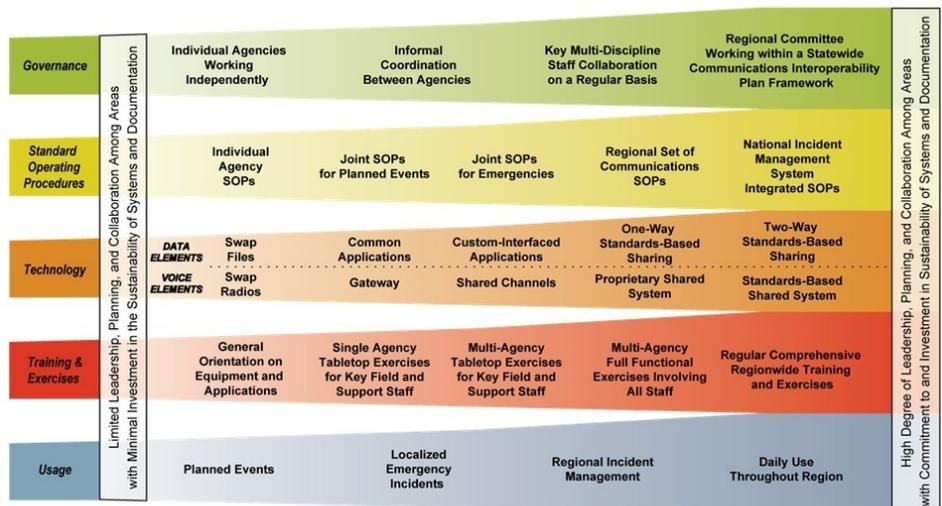
National Incident Management System (NIMS) and the Incident Command System (ICS).

The Statewide Interoperability Governing Body (SIGB) SOP Committee will also be engaged in the creation of the Guide. They will meet with OKOHS and Kimball

beginning in February to make recommendations on SOP development. ■



## 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](mailto:ncassing@dps.state.ok.us) or Chelsea Grogan at [cgrogan@dps.state.ok.us](mailto:cgrogan@dps.state.ok.us).