

## Inside this Issue

COML Course	3
State Resources	3
2012 TA Catalog	4
CIO Receives Report	4
Nationwide EAS Test	4

## Upcoming Events

Nov. 9, 2011: Nationwide EAS Test
Nov. 10, 2011: Fall SIGB Meeting
Nov. 28-Dec. 1, 2011: All-Hazards COML Course
Dec. 6-8, 2011: NCSWIC Conference
Dec. 31, 2011: SCIP Update Due
Jan. 12, 2012: Winter SIGB Meeting

## Oklahoma Provides Inaugural COMT Course



*Left:*

*Students from Oklahoma's first All-Hazards COMT Course pose in front of Command-2. Also pictured are the two instructors, Command-2 subject matter expert and Office of Emergency Communications Region Six Coordinator.*

In an effort to enhance the Oklahoma Communications Unit Program, the State provided the first-ever All-Hazards Communications Technician (COMT) Course October 3-7, 2011. This course was offered via the Office of Emergency Communications/Interoperable Communications Technical Assistance Program (OEC/ICTAP) and was the fourth Technical Assistance Workshop provided this year. Multiple disciplines, jurisdictions and regions were represented. The instructors were Billy Freeman, Tennessee Task Force 1, and Patrick R. Kempker of OEC/ICTAP.

The five-day course was presented with facilitated lecture, student exercises and hands-on lab work through which the instructors explained processes used for the successful establishment and

operation of the technical communications resources supporting an incident or planned event. Discussion topics included Interoperable Communications, Radio Technology, the Incident Command System (ICS), Gateway Technology, Telephone Technology, Computer Technology, Satellite Technology, Safety Awareness, Mobilization/Demobilization and Resource Awareness.

Two Subject Matter Experts provided technical knowledge regarding specific resources a COMT could utilize during a public safety incident in Oklahoma. The first presentation was given by Aaron VanNort, of the Oklahoma City Police Department, regarding the Tactical Communications Bridge-4 (TCB-4).

*(Continued on page 2)*

## COMT (Continued from page 1)



*Above: Subject Matter Expert, Aaron VanNort of the Oklahoma City Police Department demonstrates the capabilities of a Tactical Communications Bridge-4 unit.*

The TCB-4 is a mobile gateway with the ability to connect multiple radio systems. There are several TCB-4 units in the state, and a few Oklahoma Regional Response System units are equipped with the gateways.

The second presentation was provided by David Treib, of the Department of Public Safety, regarding the mobile communications and command unit, Command-2. Command-2 is a state resource that may be deployed to any public safety incident in Oklahoma. Course participants were given an opportunity to tour the unit and Treib answered questions regarding its purpose and capabilities.

Hands-on exercises provided course participants with the opportunity to practice skills that could be used during public safety incidents. The exercises included

block-wiring telephone lines, assembling Ethernet cables and establishing a wireless network between two routers in the classroom.

“I found the COMT Course extremely beneficial in gaining a basic knowledge of the how’s and why’s of radio communications,” said David Richardson, Administration Major with the Midwest City Fire Department. “This will be invaluable during a

multi-jurisdictional or interoperability solution. I truly feel [that] every community would benefit by

sending at least one person to this course, not to become an expert, but to have the necessary understanding of emergency radio communications. And not to mention,



*Above: Students participate in a group exercise building and linking wireless networks inside the classroom.*

the contacts made were worth the course alone.”

The COMT position will remain an integral aspect of the Oklahoma Communications Unit Program as the program continues to expand. The COMT Course is one of several requirements for individuals who wish to be recognized as COMTs at the state-level. Additional COMT Courses will be provided during 2012.

To view course dates, along with additional information regarding the Oklahoma Communications Unit Program, visit [www.ioc.ok.gov](http://www.ioc.ok.gov).



*Above: David Treib, Department of Public Safety, provides information about the mobile communications and command unit, Command-2.*

## COML Course Offered in November

An All-Hazards Communications Unit Leader (COML) Course will be offered November 28-December 1, 2011, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. at the Public Works Training Center Building in Oklahoma City. This course will be taught by an Oklahoma Certified Instructor. It trains emergency responders to be COMLs during all-hazards emergency operations, significantly improving communications across the multiple disci-

plines and jurisdictions responding to an incident. The course is one of several requirements for individuals who seek to become Oklahoma state-certified COMLs. To register for this course, or to view the list of prerequisites, visit [www.home-landsecurity.ok.gov](http://www.home-landsecurity.ok.gov) and click on the Training and Exercise Link. For questions, contact Kathryn McCoy at (405) 425-2133. Registration closes November 14, 2011.

## OKFOG Requests

The Oklahoma Field Operations Guide (OKFOG) is a pocket-sized communications quick-reference booklet for first responders. All public safety agencies in Oklahoma may request copies of the OKFOG. Send requests to [IOC@dps.state.ok.us](mailto:IOC@dps.state.ok.us) and include your name, agency, amount needed and mailing address.

## New State Resources Available During Local Incidents

Recently, two communications units were completed and will be available as state resources. The two units include a communications Site on Wheels (SOW), known as STaR-1, and a mobile communications and command unit, known as Command-3. Both units were purchased using funds from the Public Safety Interoperable Communications (PSIC) Grant Program, and STaR-1 fulfilled the grant program requirement that each state implement a Strategic Technology Reserve.

STaR-1 is owned and operated by the City of Oklahoma City and is available for deployment statewide during a public safety incident. This unit includes multiple radio systems capable of operating anywhere within the state of Oklahoma, independent of, or in tandem with other radio systems. The

communications assets are housed within a shelter, together with a telescoping tower of approximately



*Above: The Communications Site on Wheels, STaR-1, sits outside of an Oklahoma City facility.*

110 ft., riding on a semi-trailer. The tower can be set up and deployed in standalone mode within approximately 30 minutes. In addition to the basic radio communications capabilities that STaR-1 provides, tactical support for data and voice communications are currently in

development.

Command-3 is owned and maintained by the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture and is available for deployment statewide during a public safety incident. This unit is a Chevrolet Silverado 3500HD 4WD pickup truck containing a large communications camper-style shell. Command-3 is equipped with multiple VHF, UHF and 800 MHz public safety radio systems, mobile repeaters, a mobile satellite communications system and telephone systems, among other capabilities. The design of Command-3 allows it to traverse rough terrain and operate in confined areas with a minimal amount of personnel.

For additional information and deployment procedures for STaR-1, Command-3 or the other units available as state resources, visit [www.ioc.ok.gov](http://www.ioc.ok.gov).



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

WEBSITE  
[www.ioc.ok.gov](http://www.ioc.ok.gov)

## Announcements

### SIGB to Review 2012 TA Catalog

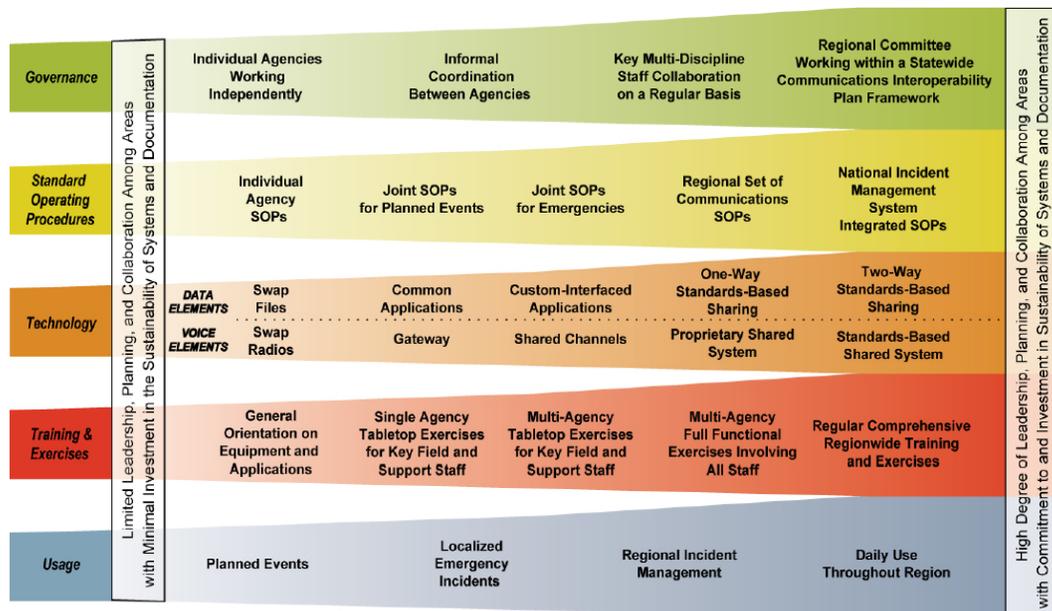
Members of the Statewide Interoperability Governing Body (SIGB) will review and select 2012 Technical Assistance (TA) offerings during the fall meeting on November 10. The selections will be based from the 2012 TA Catalog, and the official request will be made through the Statewide Interoperable Communications Planning Coordinator on behalf of the state.

### Nationwide EAS Test

There will be a nationwide test of the Emergency Alert System on November 9 at 1:00 p.m. (Central). This test will disrupt all television, radio and other types of media for about three minutes.

### CIO Receives First Draft of Report

The first draft of the Projected Sustainability Cost Development report has been sent to the Oklahoma Chief Information Officer (CIO) for review. Earlier this year, by request of the CIO, the Oklahoma Office of Homeland Security (OKOHS) contracted with L.R. Kimball to conduct a study to determine the best methods for consolidating and sustaining the radio systems in Oklahoma. The final report will be presented to the Oklahoma Legislature in 2012 as part of the CIO's assessment of the state's information technology as required by HB1304- the Information Technology Consolidation and Coordination Act.



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).