Office of Emergency Communications Update

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Office of Emergency Communications

OEC's Role in Emergency Communications

OEC's unique mission enables holistic approach to all aspects of emergency communications across all levels of government.

Emergency Communications in the NS/EP and Public Safety Community

Domains and Systems	**911, NG911, LMR, AUXCOM, Broadband, Alerts and Warnings,**
Jurisdictions	**Federal, State, Local, Territorial, Tribal and NGOs**
Users and Functions	**PSAPs, Law Enforcement, Fire, EMS, Emergency Management, Critical Infrastructure**

2016 NGA Policy Academy

- **Consistent themes heard during workshops**
  - Managing technology sustainability
  - Establishing strong governance structures to help with sustainability
  - Elevating issues to the highest level
  - Crafting the right message on the technological revolution

- **Sampling of best practices consistently reported include**
  - Early involvement of state legislature, mayors and other elected officials to build relationships
  - Messaging public safety communications sustainment as a life-saving, public safety issue

Border Activities

Southern Border

- Southwest Border Communications Working Group (SWBCWG) Ad Hoc Focus Group
  - Recently established to identify gaps and opportunities to improve federal, state, local, and tribal interoperable public safety communications within approximately 60 miles of the southwest border
  - Focus Group is intended to support the Administration's focus on border security
- SWBCWG Meeting: May 23-24, 2017, in Sacramento, CA

Northern Border

- CAUSE V Planning
- Canada – United Status Communications Interoperability Working Group (CANUS CIWG) Meeting: June 20-21, 2017, in Buffalo, NY
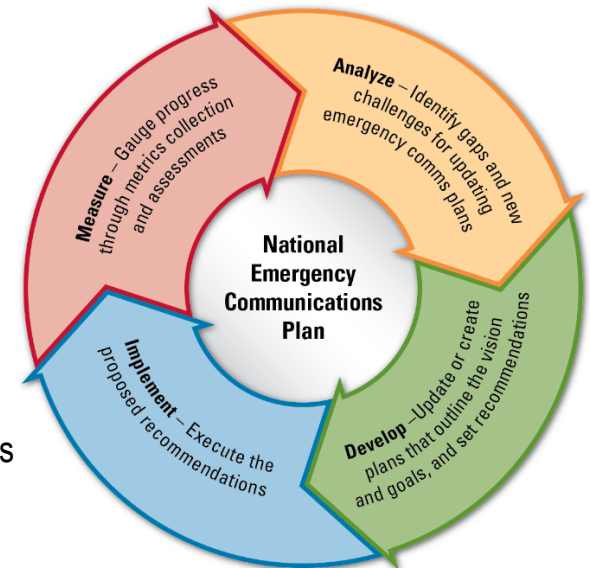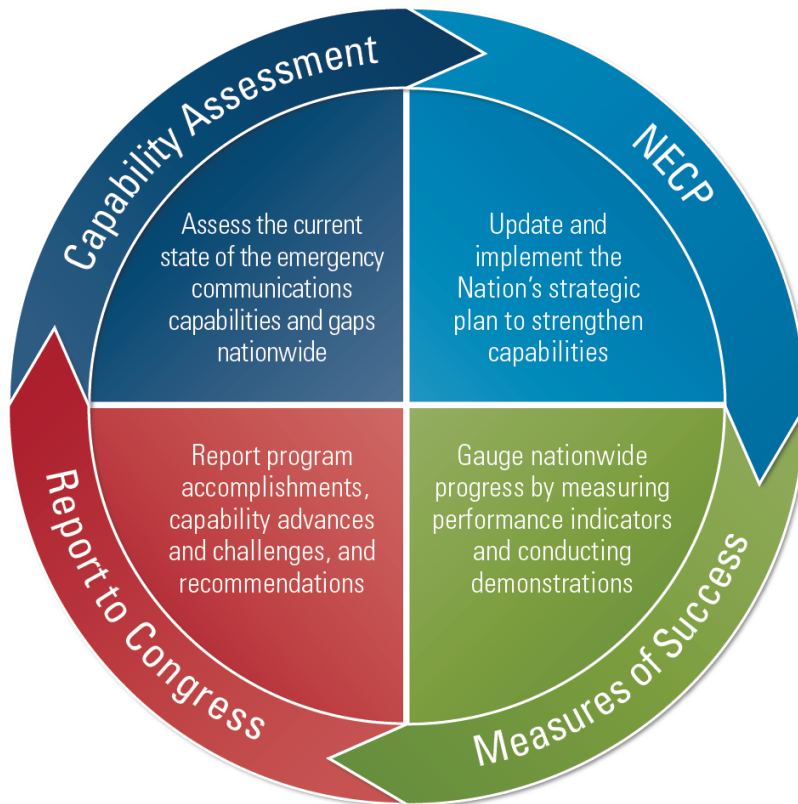
NCBA Goal and Objectives

Nationwide Communications Baseline Assessment (NCBA):

- **Goal:** Conduct a nationwide baseline assessment of the current ecosystem of communications capabilities needed and in use by emergency response providers

  - **Objectives:**

    o Address "*Title XVIII – Emergency Communications*" requirements:

      - Sec. 1803 (a) Baseline Assessment "…no less than every 5 years…"

      - Sec. 1803 (b) Progress Reports "…biennially submit to Congress"

    o Develop an improved assessment framework that allows OEC to determine the *available vs. needed* communications capabilities

    o Establish a consistent, repeatable, and effective baseline assessment process to help standardize OECs national planning lifecycle

    o Obtain reportable data to inform OEC programs and services:

      - Identifies gaps where OEC can target resources via TA, SCIPs, SAFECOM Guidance, etc

      - Helps establish agendas, and sets or re-confirms priorities

      - Defines capabilities central to helping stakeholders improve response capacity

Repeatable NECP Strategic Management Process

Measure – Gauge progress through metrics collection and assessments

Analyze – Identify gaps and new challenges for updating emergency comms plans

National Emergency Communications Plan

Develop –Update or create plans that outline the vision and goals, and set recommendations

Implement – Execute the proposed recommendations

Statutory Requirement

Title XVIII of the Homeland Security Act

"**(a)** "**Baseline Assessment**.— Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this section and not less than every 5 years thereafter, the Secretary, acting through the Director for Emergency Communications, shall:

(1) Conduct an assessment of Federal, State, local, and tribal governments that:

    (a) Defines the range of capabilities needed by emergency response providers and relevant government officials to continue to communicate in the event of natural disasters, acts of terrorism, and other man-made disasters;

    (b) Defines the range of interoperable emergency communications capabilities needed for specific events;

    (c) Assesses the current available capabilities to meet such communications needs;

    (d) Identifies the gap between such current capabilities and defined requirements; and…."

Overview

SAFECOM Nationwide Survey (SNS):

- Gathers the data needed to conduct the Nationwide Communications Baseline Assessment (NCBA)
- Questions focus on inquiring about the nation's current emergency communications capabilities and identifying gaps
- Target Audience: federal, state & territories, tribal & local jurisdictions
- Focus: Fire and Response, Law Enforcement, Emergency Medical Services, and Public Safety Answering Points
- Aiming for a fall release
- Survey will be open for 30 days

Why is the SNS important to you?

Stakeholder Benefits:

- Provides data to help decision makers at all levels of government make emergency communications policy and funding decisions
- The results could specifically be used to:
  - Complement the THIRA processes
  - Inform State/Local grant programs and guidance
  - Inform funding strategies
  - Support SWIC roles and responsibilities
- Aids organizations and jurisdictions in evaluating their own capabilities
- Prompts key emergency communications planning questions – who do you need to coordinate with, have you included cybersecurity in your planning, etc.

Your role in the SNS?

- Respond to the survey and encourage response to the survey

- Assist with outreach at all levels of government: include SNS information in your meetings, newsletters, calls, etc.

- If you have any questions, e-mail OECNECP@hq.dhs.gov