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.

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
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