



Interoperability Committee

Project Review

John Powell, Chair
Pam Montanari, Vice Chair

June 11, 2009

NPSTC is a federation of organizations whose mission is to improve public safety communications and interoperability through collaborative leadership.

Committee General Business



- **Monitoring Topics**

- Project 25
 - Compliance Assessment Program (CAP) update
 - Andy Thiessen
 - General P25 Standards Update
 - John Powell, P25 Steering Committee
- Project Mesa

Committee General Business



- **Monitoring Topics (continued)**
 - Communications Unit Leader Training (Mike Dame, OEC)
 - All Hazard Type III COML Course approved by FEMA on 04/08, DHS-RESP-114
 - Nearly 1,000 students have successfully completed the COML class since Aug 2008 with 39 classes to date
 - 20 more classes scheduled through Nov 2009
 - 9 Train-the-Trainer classes also being scheduled for Jul to Nov
 - Students receive an OEC Certificate of Completion following the course, with a copy sent to their SAA
 - Position-specific Task Book must be completed by students after the class before they are considered “qualified”
 - States should start contemplating a certifying process within their own state. How each state manages COMLs after completion of the class and Task Book is up to them.

Committee General Business



- **Monitoring Topics (continued)**
 - Communications Unit Awareness Course review completed by COML Working Group on 5/22 and ready for forwarding to FEMA for on-line development.
 - Development of COMT curriculum underway by OEC
 - SMEs identified for course development
 - Initial SME meeting week of June 15 after SAFECOM EC/ERC meetings
 - OEC Technical Assistance (ICTAP)
 - 239 Individual TA requests received to date for FY08-09 from 54 states and territories
 - Governance – 45 requests (19%)
 - Standard Operating Procedures – 69 requests (29%)
 - Training & Exercises – 66 requests (28%)
 - Remaining 59 requests (24%) related to Engineering & Technical

Border Issues Working Group



- **Cross Border Interoperable Communications Workshop Update – Terry LaValley**

Channel Naming Working Group



- **Federal Interagency (IR) and Law Enforcement (LE) Interoperability Channels**
 - Chris Algieri, Department of Homeland Security (DHS)
 - Chris Lewis, Department of Interior (DOI)
- **Update on APCO's ANSI Accreditation process**
 - Don Root (IO-0055D 20090601 2009 Draft Channel Naming Spreadsheet)
 - Updates made to address changes since initial release
 - Delete VTAC18/19 pairs per FCC R&O 08-208
 - Deletion of channel numbers (document now only shows freqs)
 - Modified language in notes to reflect 2009
 - Modified VPCA to VPCSA per 90.20(g)
 - Update of Fed I/O channels per NIFOG v1.3
 - Once approved by NPSTC, these documents will go to APCO to complete ANSI standardization process
 - Minimum 45 day comment period to complete ANSI process

Emergency Support Function (ESF2) Working Group



- **Discussion Topics**
 - Update on ESF-2 activities with FEMA
 - FEMA RECC/RECCWG update

Software Defined Radio Working Group



- **Cognitive (CR) and Software Defined Radio (SDR)**
 - Unable to attend SDR Forum Meetings due to funding limitations
 - John Powell still serves as Secretary to the SDRF Board of Directors, participating in meetings via telephone
 - SDRF Public Safety Special Interest Group (PS SIG) remains active under the chairmanship of Fred Frantz
 - Fred continues to be funded by DOJ
 - TIA is examining reactivation of its SDR Task Group/TR Group under the direction of Fred Frantz

Committee General Business



- **Office of Emergency Communications (OEC)
National Emergency Plan (NECP)**
 - Plain Language Discussion – Pam Montanari
 - NECP Requirement Discussion – John Powell
 - NECP Compliance Assessment – Pam Montanari
 - Self-assessment/evaluation discussion and update

Plain Language Project Update



- December 2006, NIMS alert requiring Plain Language use for multi-jurisdictional, multi-agency, multi-discipline response
- June 2007 ERC meeting, the ERC establishes “within 24 months, the standard for public safety radio communications shall be plain language and common terminology.”
- March 2008, EC meeting in Washington, DC the EC endorsed the following phrase related to plain language:
 - “We support radio practices that minimize or eliminate coded substitutions for English.”
- July 2008, Plain Language Guide published outlining an approach for emergency response agencies, localities, and States to replace coded language radio transmissions with plain language
- 2008-2009, (Many) Statewide Communications Interoperability Plans (SCIP) and the National Emergency Communications Plan (NECP) outline goals/milestones for plain language use
- **April 2009, Plain Language Working Group launched by OEC to identify lessons learned and smart practices (40+ members/participants)**
 - **May 2009, Plain Language Community established on the National Interoperability Information Exchange (NIIX)**
 - **July 2009, Plain Language Working Group lessons learned/proven practices document complete**

Plain Language Project Update



- Purpose
 - To address the issue of inconsistent 10-code use and support increased adoption and use of plain language protocols throughout the nation’s public safety agencies.
- Goals
 - Identify and promote lessons learned and best practices
 - Address implementation challenges
 - Provide increased guidance
- NECP Alignment (Initiative 3.1)
 - “Develops Plain-language guidance ...to address the unique needs of agencies/regions and disciplines...” (6 months)
 - “National Integration Center’s Incident Management Systems Integration Division promotes plain-language standards and associated guidance.” (9 months)
 - “Grant policies...provide incentives for States to include plans to eliminate coded substitutions throughout the ICS.” (12 months)
 - “SCIPs reflect plans to eliminate coded substitutions throughout the ICS...” (24 months)

Plain Language Project Update



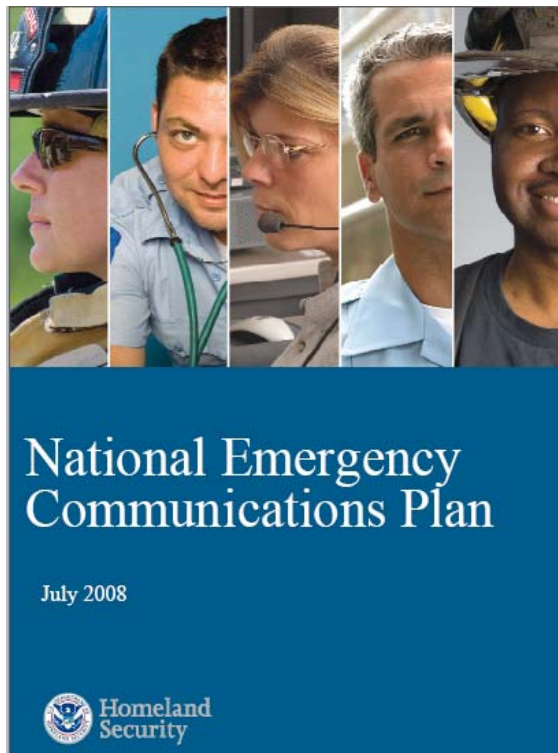
- **Implementation Questions and Answers with examples as available**
 - **Guide is Currently in Development**
- **The draft guide is currently in development and is organized into four phases. Phase includes implementation steps and implementation questions and answers.**
 - **Assess – What plain language is, how to get buy in, affects on communications, resistance to plain language, legal implications, successful implementations of plain language, etc.**
 - **Plan – what are the options, do you retain some of the codes, factors to be considered, resources required, implementation plan (phased), length of time to implement, etc.**
 - **Equip – How does plain language affect the CAD Systems and other systems**
 - **Train – Training impact, cultural impact, incentives/penalties.**
- **Collection of Plain Language Artifacts on the NIIX website**
 - **The plan includes examples from agencies across the County, and input from the diverse membership of the working group**

Plain Language Project Update



- **Recommended next steps**
 - Outreach and support from various organizations
 - NPSTC can help by supporting the guide and helping get the word out at conferences or other forums that are hosted by the organizations
 - The draft guide is expected to be reviewed by the working group with comments provided back by the end of June and a draft of the guide available in early July.

NECP Goals: What is Measured



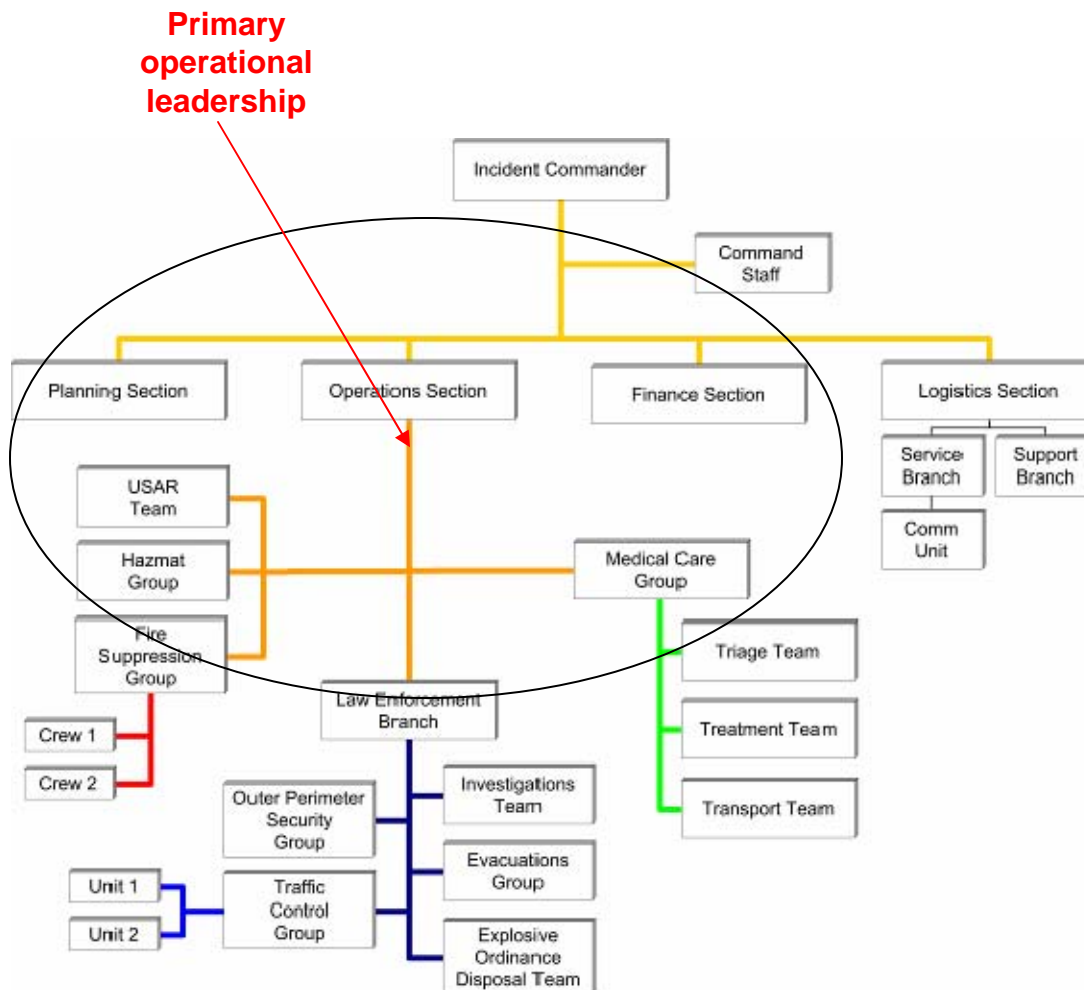
NECP Goal 1

By 2010, 90 percent of all high risk urban areas designated within the Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) are able to **demonstrate response-level emergency communications** within one hour for routine events involving **multiple jurisdictions and agencies** (UASIs as of July 31, 2008)

NECP 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**

Response-Level Communications



Response-Level Emergency Communications

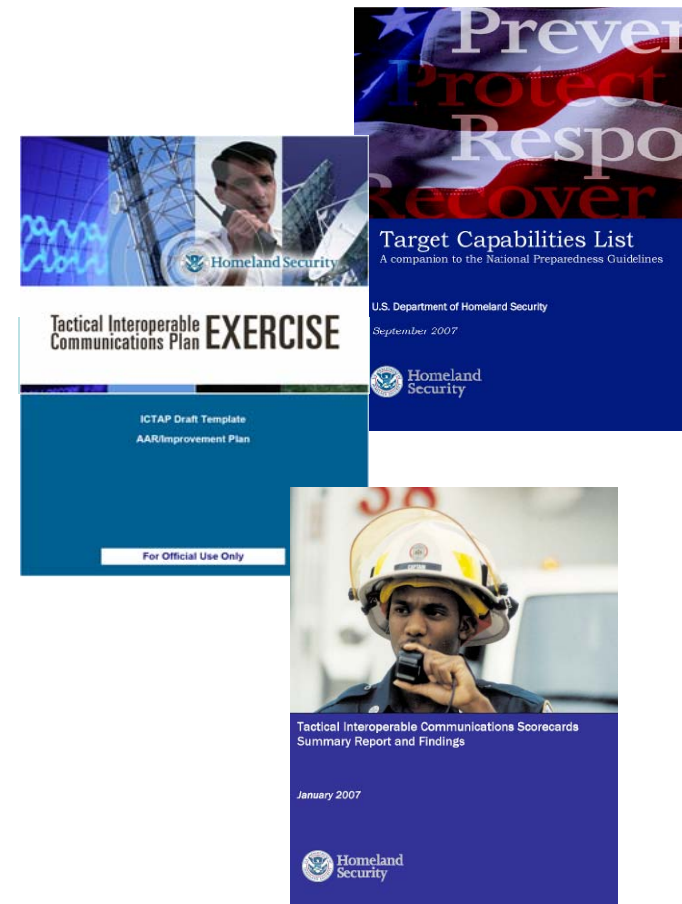
*“Capacity of individuals with **primary operational leadership** responsibility to manage resources and make timely decisions during an incident involving multiple agencies, without technical or procedural communications impediments”*

Stakeholder and Policy Inputs



Bodies of Work Reviewed for Criteria

- SAFECOM Executive Committee & Emergency Response Council**
 - December 3-4, 2008, Orlando, FL
- Statewide Interoperability Coordinators (SWIC) Council**
 - December 3-4, 2008 Orlando, FL
- Metropolitan Area Working Group**
 - January 29, 2009 teleconference
- NECP Working Group**
 - February 26-27, 2009 Washington, DC



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Preliminary Incident Selection



Incident Selection Categories Include:

- 1) NECP Goal Timeframe
- 2) Incident Scope and Scale
- 3) Incident Management
- 4) Response Level Communications
- 5) Independent Validation & Verification

Incident Selection Guidelines	Yes	No
	✓	✓
<i>NECP Goal Timeframe</i>		
Did the incident occur in calendar years 2008-2010? (2009-2011 for Goal 2)	Yes	No
<i>Incident Scope and Scale</i>		
Did the incident involve multiple political jurisdictions?	Yes	No
If not, did the incident involve multiple agencies?	Yes	No
Did the incident involve multiple emergency response disciplines?	Yes	No
Are incidents of this sort routinely managed by the involved agencies?	Yes	No
If so, was response to the incident typical?	Yes	No

Preliminary Incident Evaluation Criteria

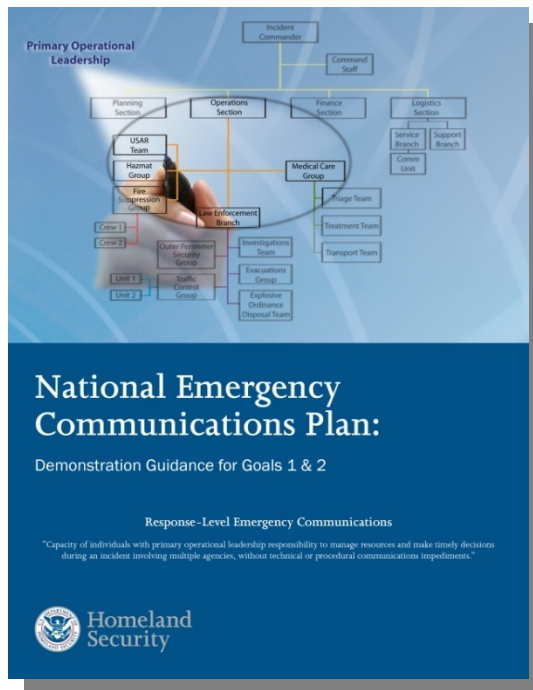


Incident Evaluation Criteria	0	1	2	3	4
Evaluation Criterion #11 Communications Unit Leader (COML) roles and responsibilities were carried out by the IC/UC or designee. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Necessary communications resources were effectively ordered using documented procedures. A communication plan was established by procedure or developed early in the incident. 					
Was the ICS Communications Unit Leader (COML) position specifically filled during the incident?	No	-	-	-	Yes
Were COML roles and responsibilities carried out, either by the Incident Commander (or Unified Command), the COML, or another designee?	None were	-	Some were	Most were	All were
Who by position or function carried out the responsibilities?					
Were necessary communications resources effectively ordered?	None were	Some were	Most were	All were (or N/A – None needed)	-
Were they ordered using documented procedures?	None were	Some were	Most were	All were (or N/A – None needed)	-
Was a communication plan established by procedure or developed early in the incident?	No	-	-	-	Yes
Analysis: Discuss Success Factors & Challenges					

Preliminary Incident Evaluation Criteria



Web-based After-Incident Reporting Tool



EC 1: Interagency communications policies and procedures were common or consistent amongst all responding agencies

- EC 1.1: Did policies and procedures exist for interagency communications between the involved jurisdictions?

None existed
 In some cases
 In most cases
 In all needed cases
- EC 1.2: Were they written?

Yes No
- EC 1.3: Did policies and procedures exist for interagency communications between the involved agencies?

None existed
 In some cases
 In most cases
 In all needed cases
- EC 1.4: Were they written?

Yes No
- EC 1.5: Did policies and procedures exist for interagency communications between the involved disciplines?

None existed
 In some cases
 In most cases
 In all needed cases
- EC 1.6: Were they written?

Yes No