



August 2009 Edition

OIC Demonstrates Multi-Band Radio in the Pacific Northwest

On July 29-30, 2009, the Office for Interoperability and Compatibility (OIC) within the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) collaborated with the Blaine, Washington (WA) Police Department; U.S. Customs and Border Protection; U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement; British Columbia Ambulance Service; Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife; City of Bellingham (WA) Communications; Whatcom County (WA) Sheriff's Office; and North Whatcom (WA) Fire and Rescue to kick off a demonstration of the multi-band radio (MBR) technology. This demonstration was held in conjunction with the 2009 World Police and Fire Games (WPFPG) in British Columbia, which were held from July 31-August 9. The WPFPG provided a unique opportunity to test the capabilities in the area as practitioners prepare to host the 2010 Winter Olympics. The City of Blaine is located in Whatcom County on the Canadian border, which includes two large U.S. Customs Ports of Entry. As home to the third largest border crossing site in the Nation, Blaine was an ideal location to test the MBR's capabilities in cross-border communications.

OIC returned to Blaine at the completion of the MBR testing on August 20, 2009, to evaluate the capabilities of the technology and discuss how it improved interoperable communications in the area. Testing and evaluation results from the demonstration will be incorporated into the MBR project final report along with data from laboratory testing, other short-term demonstrations, and a series of upcoming pilot tests nationwide. The MBR project final report will be posted on the SAFECOM Web site in 2010.



DHS Highlights Project Initiatives at Summer Conferences

In celebration of its 75th anniversary, the Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials (APCO) held the APCO International Conference in Las Vegas, Nevada, from August 16-20, 2009. As APCO's signature event, this annual conference draws emergency response decision makers worldwide—including practitioners, industry representatives, and policy makers. The Conference provided OIC with the opportunity to showcase projects and initiatives that impact the emergency response community. During the Conference, OIC and the U.S. Department of Commerce's Public Safety Communications Research (PSCR) program were prominently featured in two videos that aired on APCOtv. The segments highlighted the joint work of the two agencies as well as OIC's MBR project.





Additionally, on August 25-29, 2009, the International Association of Fire Chiefs hosted the annual Fire-Rescue International Conference in Dallas, Texas. This event convened over 16,000 fire and emergency response leaders from around the world. It allowed for the Command, Control and Interoperability Division (CID) within DHS to highlight its five program areas—Cyber Security; Communication, Interoperability and Compatibility; Knowledge Management Tools; Basic/Futures Research; and Reconnaissance, Surveillance, and Investigative Technologies—and their activities and projects within the field of fire protection. This opportunity allowed CID to convey crucial information to key leaders in fire and emergency services regarding resources that enable seamless and secure interactions.

Save the Dates

- In partnership with the PSCR program, OIC will host the second Video Quality in Public Safety (VQiPS) Conference in Boulder, Colorado, from September 1-3, 2009. Through the VQiPS initiative, public safety practitioners, Federal partners, manufacturers, and representatives of standards making bodies are working together to improve the way in which video technologies serve the public safety community. The VQiPS Conference is a collaborative working session for these entities to coordinate efforts in establishing quality requirements for video use in public safety.
- On September 16-17, 2009, the Public Safety Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) Working Group is hosting a Roundtable discussion in Washington, D.C. The VoIP Working Group, led by OIC and the PSCR program, works to define and clarify expectations for VoIP in the public safety environment. At the Roundtable, Working Group members and practitioners from all disciplines will convene to review the new Bridging Systems Interface (BSI) Core 1.1 Profile and collect feedback on the BSI Best Practices document. Additionally, the Working Group will engage practitioners in a discussion regarding user needs in order to determine the Group's next steps. The Working Group is looking for additional practitioners with VoIP experience and an interest in the Group's mission to participate in the Roundtable. For more details on the VoIP Roundtable, please contact VoIP_Working_Group@sra.com or visit <http://www.safecomprogram.gov/SAFEKOM/currentprojects/voip/>.
- On October 3-7, 2009, the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) will host the 116th Annual IACP Conference and Exposition in Denver, Colorado. More than 14,000 law enforcement professionals will convene to participate in technical workshops and forums, hear from renowned keynote speakers, and engage in important networking opportunities. Additionally, participants will have the opportunity to visit the exhibit hall where they will learn about CID programs and initiatives that are pertinent to the law enforcement community. For more information, please visit <http://www.theiacpconference.org/>.



The U.S. Department of Homeland Security established the Office for Interoperability and Compatibility (OIC) in 2004 to strengthen and integrate interoperability and compatibility efforts in order to improve local, tribal, state, and Federal emergency preparedness and response. Managed by the Science and Technology Directorate's Command, Control and Interoperability Division, OIC is committed to developing technologies and tools—methodologies, templates, models, and educational materials—that effectively meet the critical needs of emergency responders in the field.

The Interoperability Bulletin provides updates about OIC-related initiatives, accomplishments, and opportunities. This Bulletin is distributed to stakeholders monthly.

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