Office of Emergency Communications

Darcy Bingham
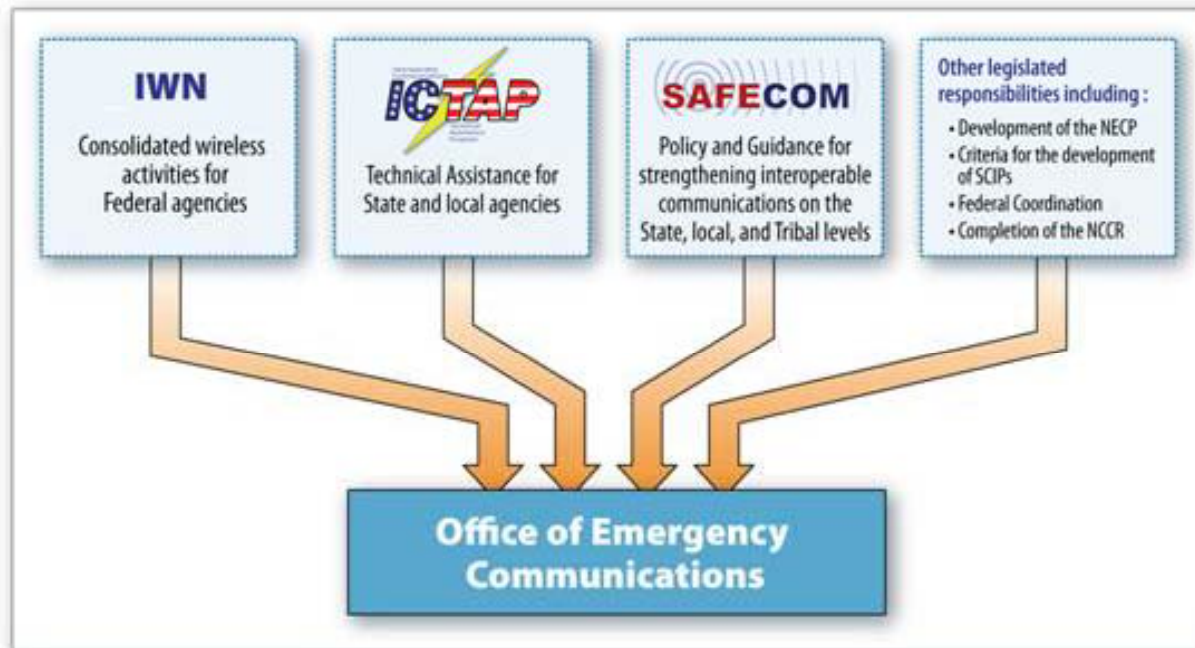**Office of Emergency Communications**
January 2008

Office of Emergency Communications

- Office of Emergency Communications (OEC) Overview
- Service Offerings Overview
- Initiatives
  - Statewide Communication Interoperability Plans (SCIPs)
  - National Emergency Communications Plan (NECP)
  - Interoperable Emergency Communications Grant Program (IECGP)
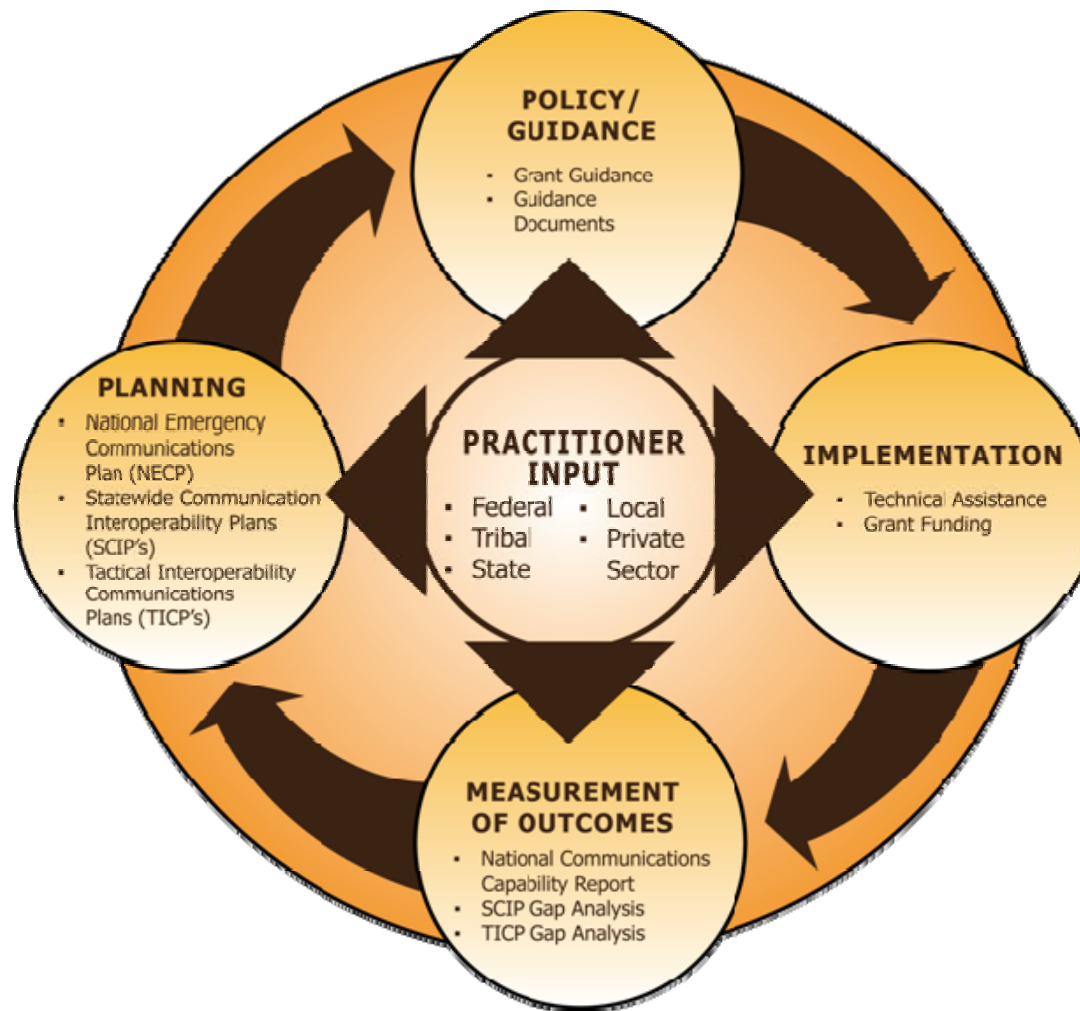- Technical Assistance

Overview

After Hurricane Katrina, Congress, through Title XVIII, established OEC as part of DHS' National Protection and Programs Directorate (NPPD). OEC began operations on April 1, 2007. Congressional legislation mandated OEC to coordinate emergency communications activities at the Federal, State, local, and tribal levels.
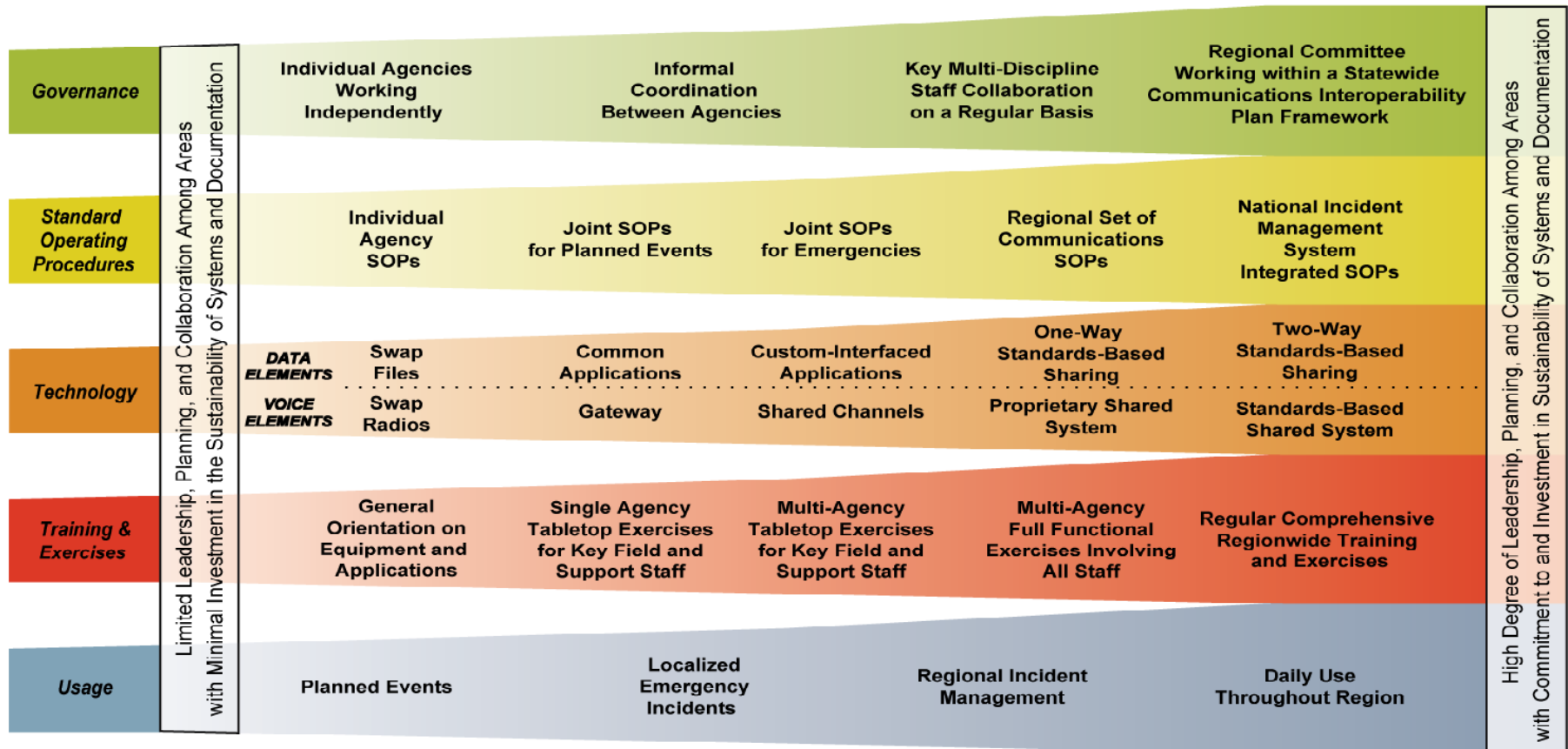
The Formation of the Office of Emergency Communications

IWN
Consolidated wireless activities for Federal agencies

ICTAP
Technical Assistance for State and local agencies

SAFECOM
Policy and Guidance for strengthening interoperable communications on the State, local, and Tribal levels

Other legislated responsibilities including :
- Development of the NECP
- Criteria for the development of SCIPs
- Federal Coordination
- Completion of the NCCR

Office of Emergency Communications

OEC is Practitioner-Driven

Interoperability Continuum

Limited Leadership, Planning, and Collaboration Among Areas with Minimal Investment in the Sustainability of Systems and Documentation

High Degree of Leadership, Planning, and Collaboration Among Areas with Commitment to and Investment in Sustainability of Systems and Documentation

Governance
- Individual Agencies Working Independently
- Informal Coordination Between Agencies
- Key Multi-Discipline Staff Collaboration on a Regular Basis
- Regional Committee Working within a Statewide Communications Interoperability Plan Framework

Standard Operating Procedures
- Individual Agency SOPs
- Joint SOPs for Planned Events
- Joint SOPs for Emergencies
- Regional Set of Communications SOPs
- National Incident Management System Integrated SOPs

Technology

DATA ELEMENTS
- Swap Files
- Common Applications
- Custom-Interfaced Applications
- One-Way Standards-Based Sharing
- Two-Way Standards-Based Sharing

VOICE ELEMENTS
- Swap Radios
- Gateway
- Shared Channels
- Proprietary Shared System
- Standards-Based Shared System

Training & Exercises
- General Orientation on Equipment and Applications
- Single Agency Tabletop Exercises for Key Field and Support Staff
- Multi-Agency Tabletop Exercises for Key Field and Support Staff
- Multi-Agency Full Functional Exercises Involving All Staff
- Regular Comprehensive Regionwide Training and Exercises

Usage
- Planned Events
- Localized Emergency Incidents
- Regional Incident Management
- Daily Use Throughout Region

Service Offerings

- **Policy and Planning:** National Emergency Communications Plan (NECP), Statewide Communication Interoperability Plans (SCIPs)

- **Coordination and Collaboration:** Federal, Regional, State, local, tribal, and private sector

- **Technical Assistance**: Guidance Documents, Communications Unit Leader (COML) Training

- **Grants**: Interoperable Emergency Communications Grant Program (IECGP), SAFECOM Grant Guidance

- **Demonstration Projects**: Shared Infrastructure, Border Interoperability Demonstration Project

Statewide Communication Interoperability Plans

- The SCIPs are locally-driven, multi-jurisdictional, and multi-disciplinary statewide plans to enhance emergency communications interoperability that address all lanes of the SAFECOM Interoperability Continuum

- As of April 18, 2008, all 56 SCIPs were approved

SCIP Implementation Support

- The primary objectives of these initiatives are to:
  - Support States in improving emergency communications
  - Help OEC align its resources and programs to best support each State's interoperability needs

- OEC is undertaking the following initiatives to support States' implementation of their SCIPs:
  - SCIP Implementation Reports
  - National Summary of SCIPs
  - SCIP Implementation Workshops
  - Technical Assistance

State Name

Statewide Communication Interoperability Plan (SCIP) Implementation Report

2008

Homeland Security
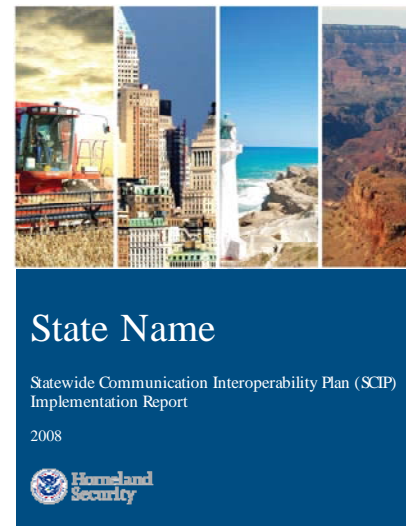
National Emergency Communications Plan

- Congress required OEC to develop the NECP to:

  - Support and promote the ability of 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

  - Ensure, accelerate, and attain interoperable emergency communications nationwide

- OEC developed the NECP in cooperation with:

  - Federal departments and agencies

  - State, local, and tribal governments

  - Emergency response providers

  - Private sector

- The NECP is a strategic plan that was delivered to Congress in July 2008

- The NECP sets national goals and objectives to improve interoperability, operability, and continuity of communications for Federal, State, local, and tribal emergency responders

- Title XVIII of the Homeland Security Act, as amended, requires:
  - Future Alignment with NECP Goals and Objectives: Future interoperability grant programs (IECGP) and State planning (SCIPs) are to align with the goals of the NECP
  - Federal and Regional Reporting: Federal (Emergency Communications Preparedness Center [ECPC]) and Regional (Regional Emergency Communications Coordination Working Group [RECCWG]) coordination bodies are to produce annual reports on their progress in advancing the goals of the NECP

NECP National Vision & Goals

- **Vision –** Emergency responders can communicate as needed, on demand, as authorized; at all levels of government; and across all disciplines

- **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

- **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

- **Goal 3 –** By 2013, 75 percent of all jurisdictions are able to demonstrate response-level emergency communications within three hours, in the event of a significant incident as outlined in national planning scenarios

NECP Objectives

1. Formal Governance Structures and Clear Leadership Roles
2. Coordinated Federal Activities
3. Common Planning and Operational Protocols
4. Standards and Emerging Communication Technologies
5. Emergency Responder Skills and Capabilities
6. System Life-Cycle Planning
7. Disaster Communication Capabilities

NECP Objective, Initiatives, and Milestones

Objective 1: Formal Governance Structures and Clear Leadership Roles

Formal decision-making structures and clearly defined leadership roles coordinate emergency communications capabilities.

Supporting Initiatives

Initiative 1 – Facilitate the development of effective governance groups and designated emergency communications leadership roles.

Initiative 2 – Develop standardized emergency communications performance objectives and link to DHS' overall system for assessing preparedness capabilities nationwide.

Initiative 3 – Integrate strategic and tactical emergency communications planning efforts across all levels of government.

Initiative 4 – Develop coordinated grant policies that promote Federal participation and coordination in communications planning processes, governance bodies, joint training and exercises, and infrastructure sharing.

Initiative 1 – Recommended National Milestones

*Within 12 months, DHS will establish a central repository of model formal agreements (i.e., MOA, MOU, and Mission Assignments) and information that will enhance interstate and intrastate coordination.

*Within 12 months, all States and territories should establish full-time statewide interoperability coordinators or equivalent positions.

*Within 12 months, DHS will conduct a National Emergency Communications workshop to provide an opportunity for RECCWG participants, statewide emergency communications coordinators, and other interested parties to collaborate with one another and with Federal representatives from the ECPC and FPIC.

Recommended State 2009 Actions to Align to NECP

- **7/31/09:** Establish a full-time statewide interoperability coordinator or equivalent position

- **7/31/09:** Incorporate the recommended membership into the Statewide Interoperability Governing Body (SIGB)

- **7/31/09:** Establish the SIGB via legislation or executive order

- **7/31/09:** Tactical planning among Federal, State, local, and tribal governments occurs at the regional interstate level

- **7/31/09:** Implement the Communications and Information Management section of the NIMS

Recommended State 2010 Actions to Align to NECP

- **1/31/10:** Program nationwide interoperability channels into all existing emergency responder radios

- **7/31/10:** Incorporate the use of existing nationwide interoperability channels into SOPs, training, and exercises

- **7/31/10:** Update SCIP to reflect plans to eliminate coded substitutions throughout the ICS

- **7/31/10:** Complete disaster communications training and exercises

- **7/31/10:** Define alternate/backup capabilities in emergency communications plans

IECGP Legislation and Appropriation

- New section 1809 of Title XVIII of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (2007) established the IECGP

- Legislation specifies that grants will be made to States and territories to "carry out initiatives to improve local, tribal, statewide, regional, national and, where appropriate, international interoperable emergency communications"

- Authorizes at least $1.6 billion from Fiscal Year (FY) 2008 – 2012
  - FY 2008: $50 million appropriated
  - FY 2009: $50 million appropriated
  - FY 2010 – 2012: Up to $400 million each fiscal year
  - Each subsequent FY: "Such sums as may be necessary"

IECGP Reporting Requirements

- ANNUAL REPORTS BY STATE GRANT RECIPIENTS — A State that receives a grant under this section **shall annually submit to the Director of Emergency Communications a report on the progress of the State in implementing that State's Statewide Interoperable Communications Plans** ... The Director shall make the reports publicly available.

- ANNUAL REPORTS TO CONGRESS — At least once each year, the Director of Emergency Communications shall submit to Congress a report on the use of grants awarded under this section and any progress in implementing Statewide Interoperable Communications Plans.

IECGP FY 2008 Update

Priority Group One	Priority Group Two
Leadership and Governance: Establish Formal Interoperable Emergency Communications Governance Structures	Common Planning and Operational Protocols/Emergency Responder Skills and Capabilities
Approximately 25% of funds	Approximately 75% of funds
7 States are using a portion of the FY 2008 IECGP allocation to hire or supplement the interoperability coordinator position	6 States are using a portion of the FY 2008 IECGP allocation to participate in a Communications Unit Leader (COML) training course

IECGP FY 2009 Update

- Grant guidance released on November 5, 2008

- Applications due January 13, 2009

- Funding priority groups:

Priority Group One	Priority Group Two
Gaps in Governance and Common Operational Planning and Protocols – Establishment of formal interoperable emergency communications governance structures – Establishment of common planning and operational protocols	Emergency Responder Skills and Capabilities – Enhancement of emergency responder skills and capabilities through training and exercises

Shared Infrastructure Projects

- OEC improves interoperability and operability assurance by working with the Federal Partnership for Interoperable Communications (FPIC) to coordinate the integration of Federal users onto statewide and regional systems

- OEC supports Shared Infrastructure assistance projects in:
  - Arizona
  - Florida
  - Nebraska
  - Oregon
  - Southern California
  - Tennessee
  - Texas
  - Virginia
  - Wyoming

Legend:
- Advisory Members to FPIC
- Federal Rep. on State Council
- Current OEC Initiatives
- Planned OEC Initiatives
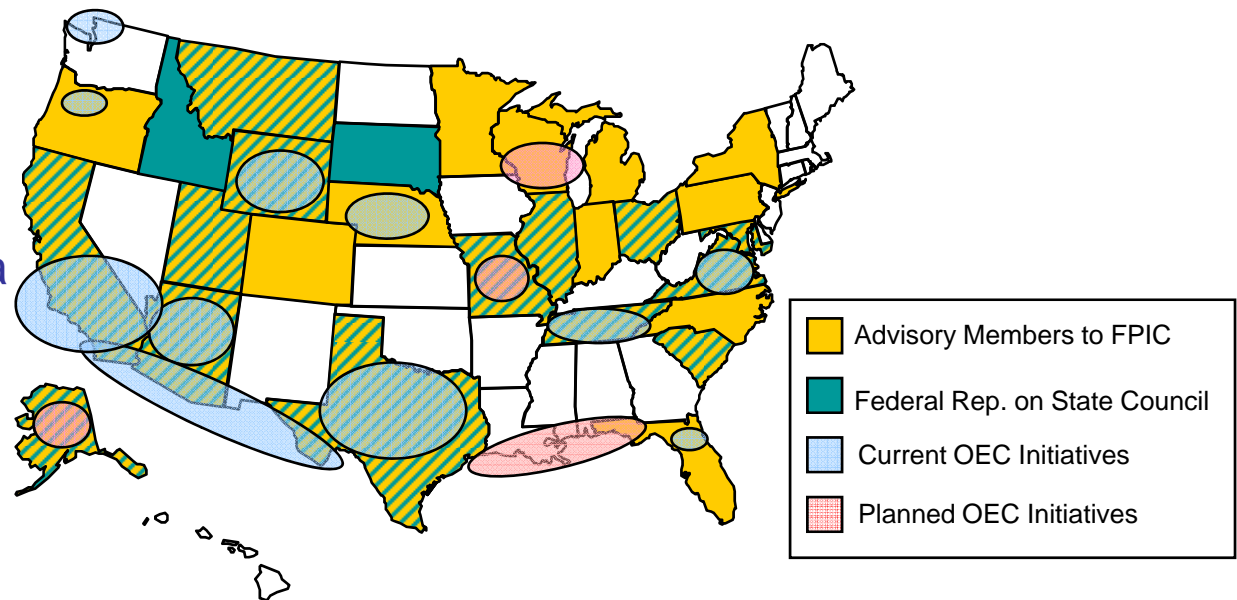
Shared Infrastructure Projects

- OEC supports interoperability assistance projects by identifying available spectrum, collecting requirements, procuring equipment, addressing policy issues, and collaborating agreements among Federal, State, and local agencies

- These projects will establish technical interoperability and operability models, adapt policy to better facilitate integrated communications, and allow Federal users access to statewide and regional systems

- Public safety agencies across all levels of government are recognizing the benefits of partnering to include:
  - Leveraging existing resources in a shared environment
  - Realizing built-in interoperability with participants
  - Choosing cost efficient solutions

Technical Assistance

Approach

1. State/Urban Area Priorities
   - States submit their prioritized TA requests to OEC
     - Ensure TA requests are aligned to the SCIP
   - OEC prioritizes State TA requests based on the impact in implementing the SCIPs and the NECP
   - OEC customizes approved TA deliveries in consultation with States

2. NECP Priorities
   - OEC provides TA offerings that promote NECP priorities
   - Courses are made available nationwide to qualified State and local personnel
   - No TA request form is required
   - <u>Example</u>: COML training currently being offered nationwide

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance Catalog
Office of Emergency Communications
TA-OEC-CATALOG-001-D0

July 2008
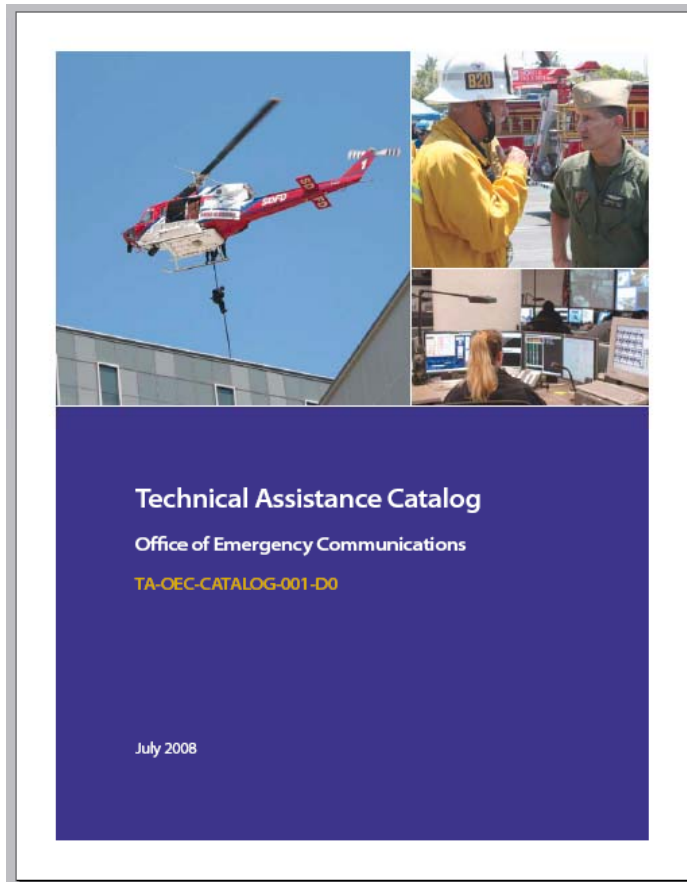
Types of services are categorized into six major topic areas in the Technical Assistance Catalog:

1. Governance and Standard Operating Procedure Support
2. Communications Unit Training and Support
3. Communications Operations Support
4. Communications Systems Engineering Support
5. Tactical Communications Enhancement Support
6. Communication Assets Survey and Mapping (CASM) Support

Nevada's TA Requests

State Priorities

1. **Statewide**: Conduct a SCIP review to update the plan.

2. **Statewide**: Form regional working groups, organized by public safety disciplines, to develop, test, and exercise TICPs and SOPs for operational and communications interoperability and NIMS capabilities.

3. **Statewide:** Train, certify, and deploy qualified and credentialed Communications Unit Leaders in all public safety disciplines.

4. **Regional:** Carry out regional interagency, cross-discipline interoperability exercises based on the DHS HSEEP guidelines on at least a biennial basis.

5. **Statewide:** Educate key policy makers at all levels of government regarding the current state of Nevada's public safety communications, as well as needs and benefits of continued investments to further interoperable communications.

Technical Assistance

COML Course

- The COML Working Group established standards for training, evaluating, and certifying those individuals responsible for managing emergency incident communications

- To date, OEC has supported the training of about 400 practitioners to serve as All Hazards Type III COMLs

- Practitioners may register for COMLs training by e-mailing their request to comltraining@hq.dhs.gov

- For information regarding prerequisites for becoming a student, class locations and dates, and FAQ's, please visit www.safecomprogram.gov

Tools and Methodologies

- Recently Published
  - Improving Interoperability through Shared Channels
  - Plain Language Guide
  - Interoperable Communications for Planned Events
  - National Interoperability Field Operations Guide
  - Interoperability Business Case: An Introduction to Ongoing Local Funding
- Tools in Development
  - Statewide Communications Interoperability Governance & SCIP Implementation Methodology
  - Capabilities Assessment Guide
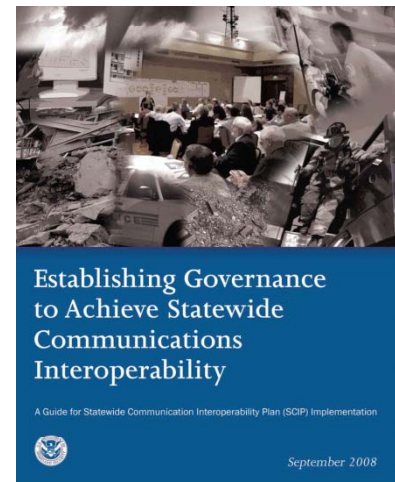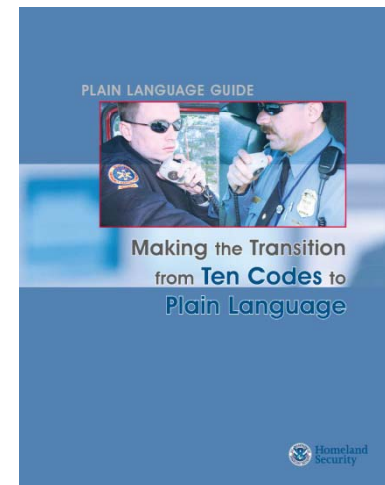
Moving Emergency Communications Forward

INPUTS	ASSESS & PLAN	IMPLEMENTATION	RESULTS
Tactical Interoperable Communications Plans (TICP)	**National Emergency Communications Plan (NECP)**	State, Local, and Tribal Gaps	TICP, SCIP, & NECP Alignment
Statewide Communication Interoperability Plans (SCIP)	• National Vision for Emergency Communications	**State, Local, and Tribal** • Grants • Tools • Technical Assistance • SAFECOM Executive Committee and Emergency Response Council (EC/ERC)	Federal, State, Local, & Tribal Coordination
National Communications Capabilities Report (NCCR)	• Assessment of Current State of the Nation's Emergency Communications	**Resources** **Federal** • FPIC • Emergency Communications Preparedness Center (ECPC) • Federal Communications Investments • FEMA Regional working groups	Improved Emergency Communications Nationwide
Public Safety Architecture Framework (PSAF)	• Identify Federal, State, Local, and Tribal Gaps	Federal Gaps	
Public Safety Statement of Requirements (SOR)	• Strategy to Address Gaps		

Input Vetted By: Federal, State, and Local Focus Groups

NECP Vetted By: Federal, State, and Local Focus Groups

• For the first time in history, 56 States and Territories have Statewide Plans • 75 Urban Area Tactical Plans • Comprehensive assessment data from Federal, State, Local, and Tribal agencies • Input from practitioners at all levels of government	• OEC was mandated to develop the NECP as part of Title XVIII of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 • NECP is due to Congress in July 2008 • The plan will set a national vision for emergency communications • The plan will identify gaps and align Federal, State, Local, and Tribal resources	• OEC will target its resources to address emergency communications gaps at all levels of government • Technical assistance, tools, grants, and grant guidance will be aligned to address gaps at the State, Local, and Tribal level • OEC will coordinate Federal resources and build partnerships necessary to address Federal gaps	Implementation of the NECP will lead to: • TICP, SCIP, and NECP Alignment • Ability to measure progress of the nation's emergency communications • Greater Federal, State, Local, and Tribal coordination • Improved Emergency Communications Nationwide

Questions?