# Public Safety Interoperable Communications (PSIC) Grant Program

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# Today's Agenda

- Legislative Overview

- Key Elements of PSIC

- PSIC Overview Report

- Investment Modifications

- Compliance with National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

- Audit Update

- Grantee Assistance (GA)

# Legislative Overview

- The Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 provided the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), in consultation with the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), the authority to establish a $1 billion grant program for public safety interoperability communications

- The Call Home Act of 2006 requires all funding to be awarded by September 30, 2007

- The Implementing Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act of 2007 expanded the allowable costs, established a strategic reserve fund, and requires the Department of Commerce (DoC)/Office of Inspector General (OIG) to audit 25 grantees and conduct a program audit annually
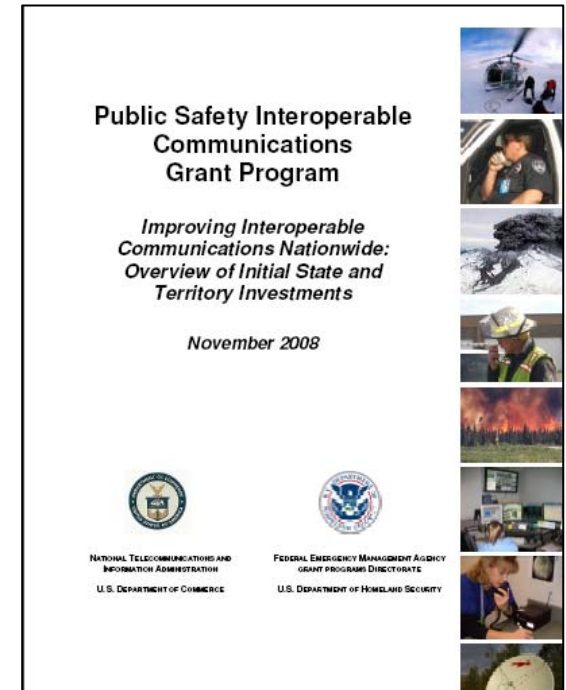
# Key Elements of PSIC

- **Purpose:** The PSIC Grant Program will assist public safety agencies in the planning and coordination with, acquisition of, deployment of, or training for the use of interoperable communications equipment, software and systems

- **Grants:** $968,385,000 was awarded to the 56 State and Territory Administrative Agencies (SAA)

- **Period of Performance**:  The project period begins on October 1, 2007 and ends on September 30, 2010. All funds must be expended by deadline

- **Matching Requirement:**  Applicants are required to provide, from non-federal sources, not less than 20 percent of the costs of acquiring and deploying the interoperable communications systems funded under this program, as well as management and administration of those approved projects

- **Strategic Technology Reserve (STR):**  States and Territories are required to establish and implement a STR to pre-position or secure interoperable communications in advance for immediate deployment in an emergency situation or major disaster

# PSIC Overview Report

- PSIC Overview Report was developed to analyze national trends observed in the approved PSIC Investments Justifications (IJ)

    - Based on review of 281 Investments from 51 States and Territories

    - Details distribution and use of PSIC funds

- State and Territory Investment Summaries outline the approved projects
  http://www.ntia.doc.gov/psic/awardsmap.html

- Copies of the Overview Report are available today for distribution

    - If you have questions regarding this document, please contact me or the PSIC email account (psic@dhs.gov)



Public Safety Interoperable Communications Grant Program

*Improving Interoperable Communications Nationwide: Overview of Initial State and Territory Investments*

*November 2008*

NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION ADMINISTRATION
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY GRANT PROGRAMS DIRECTORATE
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

# State Investment Summaries

- Approved State and Territory Investment Justifications profiled in Appendix B of PSIC Overview Report

- Summaries include information on State and Territory PSIC:

    - Federal award amount

    - Pass-through requirement

    - STR requirement

    - Investment budget

    - Investment narrative (interoperable communications need or challenge addressed)

# Investment Modification:  Budget and Scope

- To modify an approved Investment, a brief written justification must be submitted

  - Why is the change necessary?

  - What will change?

  - How does the Investment still meet programmatic goals (e.g., does the proposed solution fill the identified gap, etc.)?

  - What is the impact on budget (Federal and non-Federal) and matching funds?

- Only the SAA may request a modification to approved Investments

  - Modifications can fund unanticipated allowable expenses or make limited project changes

  - Sub-grantees must submit modification requests to SAAs

- SAAs must have written approval from NTIA and FEMA before modifications can take effect

  - Modifications enacted before approval may result in an audit finding

  - NTIA and FEMA will respond to modification requests within 45 days

# NEPA

- NEPA requires that potential impacts to environment from Federally-funded actions be assessed prior to project implementation

- DoC is handling the review of NEPA compliance for the program

    - FINAL Programmatic Environmental Assessment (PEA) was released in February 2009

    - FINAL Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) issued after 30-day public comment

- **States and Territories are required to provide a Statement of Work for all PSIC-funded projects**

# NEPA (cont'd)

- The majority of the proposed PSIC-funded projects will be covered under the Programmatic FONSI and will not require further evaluation under NEPA

- Some PSIC-funded projects will require further evaluation under NEPA in the form of a site-specific Environmental Assessment or Environmental Impact Statement. These may include:

    - Projects that require ground disturbance (e.g., new construction, grading)

    - Communication towers taller than 200 feet

    - Projects sited in sensitive areas (e.g., wetlands, critical habitat, traditional cultural properties)

    - Projects that harm a threatened or endangered species

# Audit Update

- Pursuant to Public Law 110-53, the DoC Office of Inspector General will conduct no fewer than 25 financial audits of PSIC grantees

- Grant documents that may be examined in audit may include, *but are not limited to:*

  - Grant Application

  - Award letter

  - Approved IJ

  - Financial Reports (e.g., Categorical Assistance Progress Report, SF-269a)

  - Drawdown requests

  - Performance reports (i.e., Biannual Strategy Implementation Report)

- **Document** and **demonstrate** match

# Potential Audit Areas

- Approved Investments

    - Budget/match
    - Proper procurement of items/ service

- Match

    - During period of performance

    - Eligible/allowable cost

- Reports (e.g., SF-269a, CAPR, and/or BSIR)

- Strategic Technology Reserve (STR)

    - Met minimum set aside amount (per grant guidance or initial waiver letter)

    - STR solution is pre-positioned, deployable, and capable of re-establishing communications

- Accomplished goals
- Properly accounting for Federal funds

- Non-supplanting

- Documented-demonstrated

# PSIC Grantee Assistance

- GA teams will reach out to each State and Territory over the coming months to identify what support is needed to ensure projects are successful

    - **Programmatic Assistance**:  Assistance to ensure that all programmatic and statutory requirements are met, including financial reporting, match, audits, project management, and documentation

    - **Technical Assistance**:  Assistance to ensure the successful implementation of PSIC Investments, including support with technical specifications, system optimization and integration, acceptance testing, standard operating procedures, training and exercises, etc.

    - **NEPA Assistance**:  Assistance to ensure that grantees meet NEPA requirements for all PSIC Investments including evaluation of whether approved projects are covered under PSIC PEA and assistance if projects are not

# Questions?