



Note from the Director

By: Ron Hewitt, OEC Director

Welcome to Volume IV, Issue II, of the SAFECOM-National Council of Statewide Interoperability

Coordinators (NCSWIC) Quarterly Newsletter. It was great to see so many SAFECOM and NCSWIC members at the biannual SAFECOM and NCSWIC meetings in Portland, Oregon, this past May. We discussed many important opportunities and challenges impacting the public safety community, including the role of cybersecurity and considerations for securing our public safety networks as technology advances. I appreciated hearing your perspectives as we continue to work together to ensure systems can integrate and information can flow securely and seamlessly as technology evolves.

In addition, I am pleased to introduce you to Mr. Vincent DeLaurentis, who assumed the duties of the Deputy Director for the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Office of Emergency Communications (OEC) on April 30, 2018. Having served 30 years in the United States Coast Guard in a wide range of leadership positions, Mr. DeLaurentis has an extensive background in national emergency operations and incident management. He brings an operator’s perspective to drive and promote communications for emergency responders and government officials to keep America safe, secure, and resilient. He commanded multiple Coast Guard cutters and planned, coordinated, and executed missions involving national security and emergency preparedness, and response and recovery missions. Please join me in welcoming Mr. DeLaurentis to OEC.

The third National Governors Association (NGA) Regional Workshop took place in Portland, Oregon, from May 16-17, 2018. This was the highest attended workshop thus far, convening eleven states: Arizona, California, Hawaii, Idaho, Louisiana, North Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming. There was full participation by Statewide Interoperability Coordinators (SWICs) and increased participation of 911 representatives,



Director for NGA Future Timothy Blute; NCSWIC Chair Nikki Cassingham; and OEC Director Ron Hewitt discuss the importance of strong governance to support public safety communications across all existing and emerging technologies.

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About the Newsletter

The SAFECOM-NCSWIC Quarterly Newsletter is designed to be a source of information, news, and updates for SAFECOM, Statewide Interoperability Coordinators (SWICs), their staff, and members of the stakeholder community. We hope it will be a valuable resource as you lead future statewide planning efforts and implementation of the National Emergency Communications Plan (NECP).

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Chief Information Office staff, and Single Points of Contact (SPOCs) to ensure holistic planning for statewide governance. States developed action plans, including identification of long-term funding for SWICs, SPOCs, Statewide Interoperability Governing Bodies (SIGBs); increased Next Generation 911 (NG911) planning; and identification of funding for land mobile radio (LMR). Participants valued the opportunity to network, share best practices and lessons learned, and spend focused time with their individual state teams to discuss how to enhance public safety communications governance.

As we prepare for the Northeast Workshops, I would like to share a few of the many outcomes realized thus far:

- During the Southeast Regional Workshop, Kansas developed legislation passed by both the House and the Senate. Governor Colyer signed the legislation on May 10, 2018, and it is being implemented by the SWIC.
- Missouri developed and began implementing a comprehensive action plan during the Southeast Regional Workshop.
- During the Northwest Regional Workshop, the Idaho State Representative recognized the value of having a fulltime SWIC to oversee emergency communications statewide.

In addition, some of the key themes and lessons learned include the need for better coordination with local public safety organizations, enhanced legislative support, increased SIGB participation across the full ecosystem, and the need to maintain momentum through changing administrations.

Twenty-six states have participated in the first three regional workshops, and we anticipate increasing the total number significantly with twenty-three states and territories participating in the upcoming Northeast Workshops in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, from July 25-27, 2018.

For more information on the NGA Regional Workshops, please contact Mark Grubb (Mark.Grubb@hq.dhs.gov).

Lastly, with the enactment of the FY18 budget, OEC is able to increase its support to the stakeholder community in several exciting ways, including:

- Nine new OEC Coordinators to increase capacity to provide technical assistance and regional support for our state, local, tribal, and territorial stakeholders;
- Additional resources for Communications Unit (COMU) trainers;
- Increased funding for technical assistance; and
- Resources for a second competitive round of Rural Emergency Medical Communications Demonstration Project grant funding

Now more than ever, it is critical we continue to build partnerships to prepare for evolving changes in emergency communications. As technology advances, so do the expectations of the public. Alerts and warnings, NG911, social media, and other technology developments allow communities to interact with public safety officials and receive information in new ways. While these emergency communication enhancements are critical to enabling public safety operations, integrating new capabilities with existing systems can lead to interoperability challenges.

To prepare for these advancements, we must continue to work together, share best practices, promote strengthened governance structures, and continue to expand our training capabilities among all relevant disciplines across the emergency communications ecosystem. This is achieved through collaboration among SAFECOM, NCSWIC, and OEC and I am proud of all of the great work you have accomplished thus far. I am excited to continue to work together to engage in forward-looking dialogue which advances interoperability and operability both now and for the future.

Keep up the great work and I look forward to seeing many of you in Philadelphia! ■



Note from the SAFECOM Chair

By: Chief Gerald Reardon, SAFECOM At-Large

2018 continues to keep SAFECOM busy as we continue to make great progress in achieving the goals set forth in the [2018 SAFECOM Strategic Plan!](#) Key among SAFECOM's priorities remain the assessment and growth of SAFECOM's membership; emphasizing the value of optimal governance structures to enhance interoperability; supporting lifecycle funding guidance; communicating guidance and challenges associated with new and emerging technologies; providing guidance and best practices to sustain and support LMR; supporting the transition to NG911; supporting the integration of information technology and communications in the National Incident Management System (NIMS); and the ongoing work to protect the T-Band frequencies.

My thanks to all who participated in and presented at our last biannual SAFECOM meeting, held in Portland, Oregon, in May. The Portland session was four meetings almost running concurrently at times. We know this was a challenge for several of our members who wear multiple hats. I wish to thank you for making all these sessions a success and promise we shall avoid, to the best of our collective abilities, overlapping meeting formats in the future. Members participated in many engaging sessions including emerging 5G technologies, the DHS Science and Technology Directorate projects, NGA Workshops accomplishments, and how modern cybersecurity threats have affected nearly every major industry. Members also received updates on the development efforts for the 2019 NECP and 2018 *State, Local, Tribal, and Territorial (SLTT) Governance Guide*. The SAFECOM Executive Committee (EC) also approved the following products:

- [2018 Emergency Communications System Lifecycle Planning Guide](#)
- [Request for Information \(RFI\) and Request for Proposal \(RFP\) for LMR Subscriber Units Roles and Responsibilities](#)
- [Inter-RF Subsystem Interface \(ISSI\) Fact Sheet](#)

Each of the SAFECOM committees highlighted exciting work currently in development or planned for the coming year, and I thank you for your hard work and determination.

I would like to personally thank Ms. Jeanette Manfra, Assistant Secretary for the DHS Office of Cybersecurity and Communications, who delivered a keynote presentation focused on reducing cyber risk through increased coordination among stakeholders and decision makers. Ms. Manfra emphasized her support and acknowledgement of SAFECOM's role in guiding the country toward secure, interoperable solutions by working across multiple sectors, such as information technology, energy, financial, and transportation. The Assistant Secretary also encouraged SAFECOM to consider the vast amounts of data being exchanged and the need for more sophisticated thinking when it comes to how responders use and manage information; the increased connectivity of our devices, apps, and systems; and the unique threats we face due to data and interconnectivity. SAFECOM and our partners can and must continue to guide the community to success by adjusting programs and training, identifying alternate funding sources, developing new Standard Operating Procedure (SOP)-based lessons learned from real-world experiences, integrating technology, and supporting robust yet flexible governance structures.

We have made great strides in many of these areas already and will remain dedicated to implementing a national vision of interoperability for the public safety community. This summer, please consider submitting your ideas for OEC's *SAFECOM Summer Speaker Series*. The series aims to increase the efficiency and exchange of key public safety topics and provides a great opportunity for you and your association members to provide insight on your major initiatives or concerns. If you have a topic you would like to hear more about, or are interested in being a speaker, please scan the QR code to the right.



Keep up the amazing work over the summer, and I look forward to our next opportunity to further our collaboration. Remember, please provide your input and suggestions. This is your SAFECOM and we want to hear from you. Stay safe and enjoy the summer months. ■



Note from the NCSWIC Vice Chair

By: **Joe Galvin**, Illinois SWIC

Thank you to everyone who attended the informative and productive NCSWIC meetings in Portland, Oregon. I found the collaborative presentations and discussions constructive for enhancing the SWIC role and improving public safety communications. Key topics from the meeting included:

- The evolving nature of the SWIC position as a coordination point for all public safety communication systems with federal, state, local, regional, tribal, and territorial levels
- Outcomes from the first two NGA Regional Workshops
- Cybersecurity and Emergency Communications Integration
- Updates from the Communications Section Task Force, including how the NIMS/ICS changes will impact SWICs
- Project 25 (P25) topics affecting the states as well as updates to the SWIC-Federal MOU and Federal Communications Commission procedures for licensing the Federal Interoperability Channels

The NCSWIC EC met in Portland, Oregon, to discuss and review the status of 2018 work products and activities from each committee. EC members discussed the current EC roster and reviewed the remaining vacancies. During the meeting, the NCSWIC EC approved the following NCSWIC Governance Committee, Joint Technology Policy Committee, and Joint Funding and Sustainment Committee work products:

- [Statewide Interoperability Coordinator \(SWIC\) Executive Briefing](#)
- [Request for Information \(RFI\) and Request for Proposal \(RFP\) for LMR Subscriber Units Roles and Responsibilities](#)
- [2018 Emergency Communications System Lifecycle Planning Guide](#)

Later this summer, there will be several opportunities to build upon NCSWIC’s work and I encourage members to actively engage with our committees and working groups. The NCSWIC EC and NCSWIC Governance Committee are in the process of scheduling in-person meetings. I look forward to hearing about the discussions and outcomes from these meetings!

It is encouraging to see the great accomplishments NCSWIC has already made in 2018. We are fortunate to hold positions allowing us to take such active roles in bettering the public safety community and protecting the citizens we serve. I look forward to the continued progress we will make this year! ■

2018 Committee Schedule

	Committee	Meeting Dates
SAFECOM	Education and Outreach	Last Wednesday of every month at 2pm ET
	Governance	Second Wednesday of every month at 2pm ET
Joint	Technology Policy	Third Tuesday of every month at 3pm ET
	Funding and Sustainment	Third Wednesday of every month at 3pm ET
NCSWIC	Governance	Fourth Thursday of every month at 1:30pm ET
	Planning, Training, and Exercise	Fourth Tuesday of every month at 3pm ET

Upcoming SAFECOM and NCSWIC Meetings

Month	Day	Meeting
July	9-13	Joint Communications Section Task Force ITSL Beta Course; Houston, Texas
August	9	SAFECOM EC Conference Call
	14	NCSWIC EC Conference Call
	28	NCSWIC Governance Committee In-Person; Jacksonville, Florida
	28-29	PTE Committee In-Person Meeting; Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
September	10	Joint Communications Section Task Force Conference Call
	10-12	SLTT Governance Guide Working Group In-Person Meeting; Shawnee, Oklahoma
	13	SAFECOM Education and Outreach Committee In-Person Meeting; Denver Colorado
	19	NCSWIC EC In-Person Meeting; Arlington, Virginia (TENTATIVE)

2018 SAFECOM & NCSWIC Committee Leadership

NCSWIC Governance Committee:

Chair: Brad Stoddard

Vice Chair: Vacant

NCSWIC Planning, Training, and Exercise Committee:

Chair: John Miller

Vice Chair: Sue Krogman

SAFECOM Governance Committee:

Chair: Don Bowers

Vice Chair: Sheriff Paul Fitzgerald

SAFECOM Education and Outreach Committee:

Chair: Chris Lombard

Vice Chair: Mike Murphy

Joint Technology Policy Committee:

SAFECOM Chair: Chief Gerald Reardon

NCSWIC Chair: Joe Galvin

SAFECOM Vice Chair: Eddie Reyes

NCSWIC Vice Chair: Vacant

Joint Funding and Sustainment Committee:

SAFECOM Chair: Mel Maier

SAFECOM Vice Chair: Lloyd Mitchell

NCSWIC Chair: David Soloos

NCSWIC Vice Chair: Penny Rubow

Communications Section Task Force:

Chair: Chris Lombard

Vice Chair: Don Bowers

SAFECOM and NCSWIC EC Meetings

The SAFECOM EC held a conference call on April 12, 2018:

- Received updates on OEC's recent activities, including continued efforts to support the NGA workshops to enhance public safety interoperability governance, development of the 2018 SLTT Governance Guide, and technical assistance support
- Approved Governance Committee recommendations to update the membership status of two current SAFECOM members from association representatives to at-large members
- Received updates from the federal community, including the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) and the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Public Safety Communication Research Division (PSCR)

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The NCSWIC EC met in-person on May 15, 2018:

- Discussed and approved committee products, including:
 - [Statewide Interoperability Coordinator \(SWIC\) Executive Briefing](#)
 - *2018 Emergency Communications System Lifecycle Planning Guide*
 - [RFI and RFP for LMR Subscriber Units Roles and Responsibilities](#)
 - Reviewed the *ISSI Fact Sheet* at the Portland in-person meeting and subsequently approved via email
- Received an update from the Communications Section Task Force and approved the group's path forward
- Discussed the current EC roster and reviewed remaining vacancies

The SAFECOM EC met in-person on May 17, 2018:

- Discussed and approved committee products, including
 - *2018 Emergency Communications System Lifecycle Planning Guide*
 - [RFI and RFP for LMR Subscriber Units Roles and Responsibilities](#)
 - [ISSI Fact Sheet](#)
- Received an update from Communications Section Task Force and approved the group's path forward
- Discussed future SAFECOM-P25 collaboration, and approved the potential addition of task forces to address topics of the User Needs Subcommittee and the Compliance Assessment Program Advisory Panel

The NCSWIC EC held a conference call on June 12, 2018:

- Received updates on OEC's recent activities, including: May 2018 NCSWIC meeting outcomes; continued efforts to review the NECP; grant guidance; border work; and continued efforts to support the NGA Regional Workshops to enhance public safety interoperability governance
- NCSWIC Committee Chairs provided updates on the recent activity of each committee and working group

The SAFECOM EC held a conference call on June 14, 2018:

- Received updates on OEC's recent activities, including May 2018 SAFECOM meeting outcomes; continued efforts to review the NECP; grant guidance; border work; and continued efforts to support the NGA workshops to enhance public safety interoperability governance
- SAFECOM Committee Chairs provided updates on the recent activity of each committee

SAFECOM and NCSWIC Committee Highlights

NCSWIC Governance

- Published the [Statewide Interoperability Coordinator \(SWIC\) Executive Briefing](#)
- The SWIC Handbook Table of Contents was approved by the NCSWIC EC
- Discussed topics including readdressing the comprehensiveness of the SWIC definition and how to inform gubernatorial transitions

NCSWIC Planning, Training, and Exercise Committee

- Continued developing the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) Package
- Developed and reviewed the EMAC Best Practices document

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- Began discussions to develop a library of nationwide exercises
- Planning an upcoming in-person meeting

SAFECOM Education and Outreach Committee

- Continued revising the *Public Safety Communications Evolution Brochure* and *Public Safety Communications Evolution Timeline Graphic*
- Began scoping *SAFECOM Public Safety Succession Planning Tool*
- Began planning for in-person committee meeting on September 13th, 2018, in Denver, Colorado

SAFECOM Governance Committee

- Successfully resolved all associations previously “at-risk” for terminating their membership, in coordination with OEC, and added new association representation
- Adjudicated candidates for SAFECOM membership; completed individual candidate interviews in April
- Continued Working Group discussions of potential new member recommendations for the EC’s consideration
- Updating and streamlining the [*SAFECOM Governance Charter*](#), outlining the missions, goals, objectives, membership, and operating procedures of SAFECOM

Joint Technology Policy Committee

- Continued efforts to develop components of the RFP Best Practices for LMR Subscriber Units Toolkit
- During recent committee conference call, key topics included the need to support development of an *ISSI Primer* document in conjunction with the Federal Partnership for Interoperable Communications (FPIC)
- During the in-person meeting held in Portland, Oregon, on May 16th, key topics of discussion included:
 - The *ISSI Fact Sheet*, which was reviewed and approved for both SAFECOM and NCSWIC EC consideration
 - An FPIC Position Paper supporting continued interoperability testing for ISSI/CSSI as a part of the Compliance Assessment Program and the use of certified field testing, for which the committee provided informal acceptance and support
- The next in-person meeting will be held in December 2018 in Norman, Oklahoma

ICAM Working Group

- Established ICAM Sub-Working Group in April to bring subject matter experts together to develop ICAM outreach materials, best practices, and technical guidance for the public safety community
- Held an in-person meeting in Atlanta, Georgia, on May 29-30 to discuss the current ICAM landscape and proposed working products
- Agreed on seven deliverables to develop over the next year to include: a value proposition paper; implementer guidance; *Technical Guidance and Best Practices: ICAM Network Protocols*; *Technical Guidance and Best Practices: Identity Assurance and Credentials*; *Technical Guidance; Best Practice: ICAM Attributes Assurance*; *Technical Guidance and Best Practices: Security and Privacy Baseline*; and *Interoperability Test Harness*
- Coordination underway to establish a forum to develop seven proposed ICAM deliverables

NG 911 Working Group

- Held an in-person meeting in Portland, Oregon, on May 16th
- Discussed and provided feedback on the latest version of the *Cyber Risks to Next Generation 911 (Cybersecurity Primer)* document
- Reviewed the restructured *Task Force on Optimal Public Safety Answering Point Architecture Scorecard*
- Mr. Steve Verbil, Emergency Telecommunications Manager, Connecticut Division of Statewide Emergency Telecommunication, was nominated and elected as the new vice chair

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Joint Funding and Sustainment Committee

- Held open session on May 16th during SAFECOM/NCSWIC in-person meetings in Portland, Oregon
- Reviewed draft blog post to promote the *Emergency Communications System Lifecycle Planning Guide*
- Updated the cover image for the *Emergency Communications System Lifecycle Planning Guide*
- Continued scoping ideas for the development of *Value Analysis Guidance Products*

Communications Section Task Force

- Continued efforts to define performance metrics
- Finalized the Communications Section Task Force Outreach Package and began conducting outreach with key partners to gain support for the creation of a Communications Section
- Hosted the Information Technology Service Unit Leader (ITSL) Alpha Course on June 4-8, 2018, in Arlington, Virginia. The ITSL Beta Course will be held July 9-13, 2018, in Houston, Texas
- Revised the 2018 Work Plan and began outlining the 2019 Work Plan

Please contact the [SAFECOM Inbox](#) for more information on SAFECOM activities, and the [NCSWIC Inbox](#) for more information on NCSWIC activities. ■



Meet the Stakeholders

Greg Hauser

NCSWIC, North Carolina Statewide Interoperability Coordinator (SWIC)

Greg Hauser was hired by the North Carolina Division of Emergency Management (NCEM) on April 9, 2018, to serve as the state's SWIC. Greg is also the state's Communications Branch Manager and the point person for Emergency Support Function (ESF)-2 (ESF2) activities, alerts and warnings, and tactical communications team training, readiness, and mobilization. Prior to joining NCEM, Greg spent 17 years with the Charlotte Fire Department's Communications Division, beginning as a telecommunicator and eventually serving as the Superintendent of the

Communications Division. Greg proposed and created the division's tactical communications team comprised of four vehicles and multiple division personnel, which deploys with the North Carolina Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) assets and as a resource to local jurisdictions. With the Charlotte Fire Department, Greg served as the Charlotte Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) Tactical Interoperable Communications Planning (TICP) manager, Chairman of the Regional Communications Council, Chairman of the North Carolina Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee (SIEC), and, most recently, a member of the North Carolina 911 Board representing the North Carolina State Firefighters' Association.

Greg has been a part of numerous large-scale incidents and events, including the Communications Unit Leader (COML) assignment for the 2012 Democratic National Convention, Hurricane Irene, and Hurricane Matthew. In his part-time career, Greg served as a subject matter expert for the Interoperable Communications Technical Assistance Program (ICTAP) and assisted states with large event communications planning, exercise design and facilitation, and other duties.

Greg is originally from Becket, Massachusetts, and attended the University of New Haven in Connecticut where he earned Bachelor's Degrees in both Fire Investigation and Fire Administration. Greg and his wife of 11 years, Meghan, live in Durham, North Carolina. Their bucket list includes visiting all 50 State Capitol buildings. ■

Greg can be reached at greg.hauser@ncdps.gov.

2018 SLTT Governance Guide Meetings

On [March 29](#), [April 12](#), [May 3](#), and [May 24](#), OEC hosted meetings with the SLTT Governance Guide Working Group in preparation for updating the SLTT Governance Guide. The working group is comprised of stakeholders from SAFECOM, NCSWIC, and tribal entities. During the meetings, working group members appointed a Chair and Vice Chair to help guide future efforts and began the process of conducting an in depth review and revision process. We are currently seeking to expand our working group membership. If you, or a representative from your agency, would like to participate in the working group, please email slttgovguide@hq.dhs.gov.

OEC Expanding Understanding of Tribal Public Safety Communications and Governance

OEC coordinated with the NCAI to support a tribal emergency communications panel discussion at the Joint SAFECOM NCSWIC meeting held in Norman, Oklahoma, on November 7, 2017. This was the first joint SAFECOM NCSWIC tribal-focused panel and it provided an opportunity for members to learn about key tribal communications activities and challenges. OEC is also continuing efforts to establish and build collaborative relationships with federally recognized tribes through the Tribal Emergency Communications Governance Profile effort. This effort is building OEC's understanding of tribal emergency communications operations, resources, and interoperable emergency challenges, which helps OEC to identify opportunities to assist tribes with assessing and improving their unique operable and interoperable communications capabilities.

Resources on Broadband Deployment in Rural Communities

In an effort to consolidate information regarding broadband deployment across the United States into a consolidated, one-stop information sharing website, the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) has implemented the [BroadbandUSA program](#). This program promotes innovation and economic growth by supporting efforts to expand broadband connectivity and meaningful use across America.

Release of FY 2018 SAFECOM Guidance on Emergency Communications Grants

OEC announced the *Fiscal Year 2018 SAFECOM Guidance on Emergency Communications Grants* (SAFECOM Guidance). This document is updated annually to provide current information on emergency communications policies, eligible costs, best practices, and technical standards for state, local, tribal, and territorial grantees investing federal funds in emergency communications projects.

List of Federal Financial Assistance Programs for Emergency Communications Funding

Following the release of the FY 2018 Consolidated Appropriations Act, DHS OEC and the Emergency Communications Preparedness Center (ECPC) Grants Focus Group worked with federal granting agencies to update the [FY 2018 List of Federal Financial Assistance Programs Funding for Emergency Communications Federal Funding Opportunities](#). This list includes program descriptions, available funding amounts, application deadlines, and links to federal agency websites for additional information.



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If you would like to contribute articles for future newsletters highlighting innovative practices in your state, territory, or represented association, please contact SAFECOMGovernance@hq.dhs.gov or NCSWICGovernance@hq.dhs.gov.