



Homeland
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Coordination and Preparedness

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ICTAP Bulletin

Connecting First Responders, Keeping America Safe

ODP Interoperable Communications Technical Assistance Program (ICTAP) provides on-site, comprehensive interoperability technical assistance to ODP grant recipients.

January Highlights

The Interoperable Communications Technical Assistance Program (ICTAP) provides free technical assistance to enhance interoperable communications between local, State, and Federal emergency responders and public safety officials to cities and States that have received grants from the Department of Homeland Security, Office for Domestic Preparedness (ODP).

- New Orleans – ICTAP worked with the Louisiana Interoperability User Group and the UAWG Technical Committee to develop a functional description of requirements for COPS grant re-scoping and a long term strategic plan for interoperability.
- Honolulu – ICTAP completed the draft of the site survey assessment report. ICTAP also added two more sites to its original 20 sites.
- Tampa – ICTAP coordinated State effort with ONDCP CTAC effort and ACU-1000 installation.
- Denver – ICTAP completed the development for the tabletop exercise on February 9th.
- Oakland – ICTAP finalized the scenario for the February tabletop exercise and submitted a report laying out recommended short/mid/long-term goals.
- Idaho – ICTAP completed documentation of site survey tasking and provided 700 MHz feasibility study for SIEC consideration.
- Indiana - ICTAP completed documentation of site survey tasking and delivered the final product.
- Las Vegas and Cincinnati – These additional UASI sites prepare to come on board after requesting ICTAP assistance.

ICTAP and IWN Collaborate on Interoperable Communications

Developing interoperable communications is a challenging and complex task that requires the coordination of many partners, a great deal of planning, and a great deal of assistance, both technical and financial. ICTAP focuses on local and State first responder partners as it brings technical and policy expertise to a new site. IWN or the Integrated Wireless Network, a collaborative effort of the Departments of Justice (DOJ), Homeland Security, and the Treasury, focuses on the needs of Federal law enforcement agencies. In the cities of Honolulu and in San Francisco, ICTAP is coordinating local program development with IWN's efforts to bring consolidated wireless communications to its Federal agents and to appropriate State and local agencies.

ICTAP Helps San Francisco Connect FBI with City and Highway Patrol

In November 2004, the ICTAP policy and technical team arrived in San Francisco to meet with the California Office of Emergency Services and IWN representatives to tour the San Francisco Emergency Dispatch Center and discuss a technical/

engineering solution to improve communications among public safety agencies in the area. It was agreed that ICTAP would supply engineering support to meet IWN's Phase I goal—to provide an interoperability system to connect several Federal agencies using VHF and UHF to local agencies, which are using low band VHF, UHF T-Band, and 800 MHz.

Eventually, five repeaters will be monitored and controlled from two dispatch locations at the San Francisco Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and the FBI facility at the Federal Building in downtown San Francisco. This will allow the Federal agencies to communicate with the City of San Francisco, the California Highway Patrol, and other local agencies during an incident. ICTAP will participate in the design, procurement, and equipment implementation for one site during Phase I. In Phase II, the San Francisco Bay region will extend operations to the four remaining sites, which will connect with the initial site for a five-site simulcast system design.

Honolulu Completing Part One of Three-Part Interoperability Solution

In Honolulu, ICTAP and IWN are providing similar technical assistance in a three-part interoperability solution. The first part, a fixed solution, will provide

inter-agency communications via the implementation of free space optical (FSO) links between four agency buildings in downtown Honolulu. Communication links will be managed by an ACU-1000 audio switch. The second component is a mobile solution that will provide the Federal Bureau of Investigation with equipment to enable an existing vehicle-mounted ACU-1000 audio switch, while the third part is focused on developing operational policies and/or procedures to guide the use of the fixed and mobile solutions. The ICTAP team is providing engineering, installation, test and checkout services, procurement of the installation materials and equipment for the FSO project.



For more information, contact the ODP Centralized Scheduling and Information Desk (CSID):

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