



Homeland
Security

Office of State and Local Government
Coordination and Preparedness

FY 2005

ICTAP Bulletin

Connecting First Responders, Keeping America Safe

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



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

(SLGCP)

May Highlights

- A comprehensive survey of Project 25 (P25) equipment was prepared for Kentucky's Office of Homeland Security and Wireless Interoperability Executive Committee. (See reverse side for more information).
- San Francisco has spearheaded the effort to formulate a tri-city urban area alliance for interoperability, hosting a "kick off" meeting this month. The initiative was well received by the three Bay Area UASI sites (San Francisco, San Jose and Oakland) with a working group meeting scheduled every other month.
- Denver and Fresno held highly successful tabletops, with Denver attendees numbering over 140 and representing over 20 agencies, and Fresno with over 180 attendees.
- New Orleans is nearing completion of a draft Tactical Interoperability Communications Plan (TICP) which includes a strong regional focus. They are scheduled to hold a tabletop exercise in June.
- A final After Action Report outlining the findings from the TOPOFF 3 exercise held with New Jersey was delivered to State officials.
- Tactical Interoperability Communications Plan (TICP) kick offs were held in Cincinnati and Columbus, Ohio; Kansas City and St. Louis, Missouri; Los Angeles, California; and Seattle, Washington.

ICTAP Provides P25 Equipment Survey to Emergency Responders

When the Commonwealth of Kentucky's Office of Homeland Security (KY OHS) and the Kentucky Wireless Interoperability Executive Committee (KWIEC) asked ICTAP for help in assessing equipment purchases, ICTAP created a side-by-side comparison of P25 equipment based on vendor surveys. P25 is the Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials, Intl. (APCO's) project designation for the task of developing a public safety digital land mobile radio standard to enhance communications interoperability. One of the P25 goals is to ensure competition in system life cycle procurements so agencies can choose from multiple vendors and products, ultimately saving money and gaining the freedom to select from the widest range of equipment and features.

The result is a report displaying the survey results for both cost and functionality between conventional analog and both P25 conventional and trunked radios. ICTAP is currently expanding the P25 survey to include base-station information and developing further detailed information regarding P25 equipment costs and compatibility with existing

systems. ICTAP does not endorse, reject, or draw conclusions regarding the information of any of the vendor solutions listed. The P25 survey is intended to inform agencies of potential expenses incurred in upgrading equipment. It can also be used for planning purposes for agencies intending to obtain P25 systems in the future.

This report is available to all first responders through the ICTAP program. If you would like a copy of the report, please contact Ralph Barnett at (202) 786-9782, or by email at Ralph.Barnett@associates.dhs.gov.

Commercial Equipment Direct Assistance Program Requests ICTAP Support

The threat of terrorism extends outside the city limits of major metropolitan areas. Agencies outside urban areas may be confronted by these threats to their transportation infrastructure, agriculture, water supplies, power grids, and other critical items spread out over a wide geographical area. Targets such as pipelines and nuclear power plants are typically located in smaller jurisdictions.

To address these smaller jurisdictions, emergency responder agencies will now be able to

acquire specialized equipment through the Commercial Equipment Direct Assistance Program (CEDAP) initiated by DHS. One of the central goals of the program is to provide support for jurisdictions that cannot otherwise afford to purchase state-of-the-art equipment, including interoperable communications devices to assist them in their homeland security missions.

In the area of communications, CEDAP is offering applicants interoperability gateway switches. To ensure that this equipment is used effectively, CEDAP has requested ICTAP support for local agencies to provide installation and technical assistance services.

The partnership between these programs is an example of ongoing efforts throughout SLGCP to provide a "one-stop-shop" for equipment, training, and technical assistance for State and local emergency responders.

The first round of CEDAP awards are scheduled to be announced later this summer.

For additional information, please contact the SLGCP Centralized Scheduling and Information Desk (CSID):

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