



Homeland
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ICTAP Bulletin

Connecting First Responders, Keeping America Safe

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



January 2006 Highlights

The Interoperable Communications Technical Assistance Program (ICTAP) provides free technical assistance to enhance interoperable communications among Federal, State, and local emergency responders and public safety officials in cities and States that have received grants from the Office of Grants and Training (G&T) in the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Preparedness Directorate.

- **New Sites:** The States of Arkansas, New Hampshire, Tennessee, and West Virginia, as well as the Indianapolis Urban Area (UA) requested ICTAP assistance.
- **Workshops:** ICTAP facilitated seven workshops, concentrating on all six sections of the Tactical Interoperable Communications Plan (TICP).
- **Tabletop Planning Meetings:** The Omaha and San Jose UAs, and the States of Kansas and North Dakota held tabletop (TTX) planning meetings.
- **Denver:** ICTAP completed a final review of the Tactical Interoperable Communications Plan (TICP); Denver will be ready to submit the plan to DHS in February 2006.
- **Portland:** The site has designated a Local Administrative Manager (LAM) for the Communications Assets Mapping and Survey (CASM) tool and has begun to enter communications equipment data.

WORKSHOPS HELP SITES MEET APPROACHING DEADLINE

Five new sites requested assistance in January, bringing the total number of active ICTAP sites to 58. The ICTAP team has been working to create a schedule for the coming three months that will help all sites meet the approaching May 1, 2006 deadline for the TICP.

The intensive ICTAP assistance approach now includes an initial kick-off meeting and a two-day workshop. Depending on the site's schedule, the workshop can be held on two consecutive days or as two one-day workshops. ICTAP will then follow up with a final meeting to prepare the site to submit their TICP.

The individual sites should be prepared to collect and enter their communications equipment data before their scheduled workshops. The data can be entered into either the CASM tool or the specially designed data collection template forms. If the sites choose to use the CASM tool, ICTAP will arrange for

a training session, enabling the site to enter their own information electronically. Often, there is time during the workshop for the Technical Lead to conduct a hands-on training session to get the sites started on entering their information into CASM immediately.

“The support received during the ICTAP Workshop has been instrumental in the development of the City of Milwaukee’s Tactical Interoperable Communications Plan.”

—Lt. Paris T. Doffek, Milwaukee Police Department

During the two-day workshops, the ICTAP team assists the sites with completing all six sections of the TICP. The agenda of the workshops varies depending on the needs of each site, however, it typically consists of breakout sessions that are facilitated by ICTAP team members. The two sessions focus on capturing data and writing each section of the TICP by the local UA professionals most knowledgeable about the topics. ICTAP collects and edits each section, fusing all the pieces

into an integrated whole by the end of the workshop. At the end of the two days, the team leaves a nearly complete draft with the site in order for them to make additional revisions.

ICTAP held eight workshops during the month of January; the sites included Baton Rouge, Cleveland, Connecticut, Kansas City, New York City, Philadelphia, Phoenix, and Toledo. Thus far, ICTAP has completed 20 workshops and has 32 more scheduled before May 1, 2006.

For further information on requesting technical assistance, contact the G&T Preparedness Officer assigned to your State.

For more information on ICTAP, visit the program's Web page at:

www.ojp.usdoj.gov/odp/ta_ictap.htm

For general information, contact the Centralized Scheduling and Information Desk at (800) 368-6498 or e-mail askcsid@dhs.gov.