



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)

April Highlights

- ICTAP held the Western Region Tactical Interoperable Communications Plan (TICP) workshop. This workshop, which was attended by over 45 State and local representatives from 16 jurisdictions, was conducted to assist sites with the development of their TICPs. (See reverse side for more information.)
- Conducted TICP kickoff meetings with the Cleveland and Columbus, Ohio, sites, both of which will be sending representatives to the Central Region TICP workshop to receive further assistance with their plans.
- Completed an After Action Report addressing the outstanding issues that were recognized from the tabletop exercise that was held in Denver, Colorado.
- Developed a draft TICP with the New Orleans, Louisiana, site, which will be submitted for approval. The plan represented numerous agencies and disciplines, all of which were integral to the development of a functional plan.
- Collected data from all counties in the St. Louis, Missouri, UASI site. ICTAP is now working with the Department of Justice to collect the data for Federal agencies.
- Acted as observers for the TOPOFF3 exercises in the State of Connecticut and the State of New Jersey. (See reverse side for more information.)

ICTAP Assesses Communications Capabilities During TOPOFF3

When a simulated plague was unleashed by terrorists in central New Jersey and simulated toxic chemicals were released simultaneously in Connecticut, government officials in the Northeast were able to test their ability to respond to a large-scale terrorist attack. At the request of Raymond J. Hayling II, Chief of Public Safety Communications, Office of the Attorney General, ICTAP provided three specialists to independently observe and provide feedback on events in New Jersey during TOPOFF3, held April 4 to 9, 2005. TOPOFF3, an abbreviation for Top Officials, is a large-scale exercise designed to strengthen the Nation's capacity to prevent, prepare for, respond to, and recover from terrorist attacks involving weapons of mass destruction.

ICTAP officials visited a number of sites to assess communications interoperability resources during a terrorist event. At

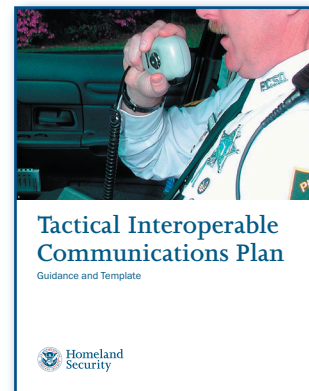
"The evaluation . . . could not have been successfully observed without the assistance of [ICTAP]. The entire work effort was both valuable and informative," said Chief Hayling.

most of the sites visited, communications relied on public telephone service—cellular and hardline—and the Internet. Both the towns of Nutley and Wanaque, New Jersey, and Liberty Airport had a dedicated command vehicle capable of providing interoperable communications, using 800 MHz portable radios. The drill highlighted specific areas that will need to be addressed in New Jersey, officials said, including the difficulty of maintaining effective communications among State agencies and more than 560 municipalities. Based on the after-event "hot wash," ICTAP representatives reported that TOPOFF3 identified gaps that involved the use of the public telephone network and the Internet for critical communication.

ICTAP Hosts First Tactical Interoperable Communications Plan Workshop

In April, over 45 participants from 16 jurisdictions visited Denver, Colorado, to attend the first of three Tactical Interoperable Communications Plan (TICP) Workshops that provide guidance on how to implement the required Department of Homeland Security (DHS) plans. The workshop provided specifics on DHS requirements; methods

of achieving interoperability; planning templates; valuable pointers on governance, exercises, training, and equipment; and the broad spectrum of assistance available through ICTAP. ICTAP will host regional workshops in Columbus, Ohio, on June 3, and in Charlotte, North Carolina, on July 14.



The goal of TICP is to identify and utilize existing communications systems in the region during a terrorist event. The TICP will require a collaborative effort among Federal, State, and local stakeholders. ICTAP technical assistance for tactical interoperability is part of a region's ongoing development of regional short-term and long-term interoperability plans.

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

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