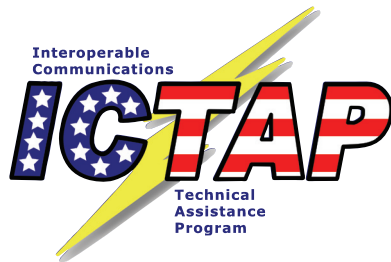## Homeland Security

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.

Interoperable Communications ICTAP Technical Assistance Program

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)

August Highlights

- **Oklahoma City**—Provided training to the first responders on the CASM tool.

- **Omaha**—Held a well-attended and well-received TIC Plan kickoff meeting.

- **Alaska**—ICTAP was asked to observe the Alaska Shield '05 exercise.

- **National Capital Region (NCR)**—Kickoff meeting was held for tactical interoperable communications.

- **ICTAP identifies communications gaps through tabletop exercises (TTX)**—ICTAP has held TTXs at six Urban Areas (UAs) to date. [See page two for more information.]

- **APCO Conference**—ICTAP demonstrated the CASM tool at the APCO Conference in Denver, Colorado. [See page two for more information.]

ICTAP COMMUNICATIONS GAP ANALYSIS TABLETOP EXERCISES

Tabletop exercises simulate real emergency situations to test the adequacy of policies and procedures, plans, and equipment that would be used in response to a real event. Tabletops not only promote preparedness by training personnel and providing the opportunity to practice procedures, but they also help to identify potential gaps in the response system.

ICTAP TTX in Honolulu, HI

Working closely with frontline responders from the Urban Area (UA), ICTAP helps to identify technical, governance, operational, and training gaps in local procedures using a Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD)-based scenario. ICTAP provides scenario planning support, coordination, and facilitation of a Tabletop Exercise (TTX). Following the exercise, ICTAP performs a gap analysis of interoperable

communications. Gap analysis results and proposed solutions are presented to UA representatives in After Action Reports (AARs) and follow-on meetings. The secret to the success of the TTX Gap Analysis Process is ICTAP's close interaction and collaboration with UA regional representatives.

ICTAP Gap Analysis Benefits

ICTAP's TTX Gap Analysis provides multiple benefits to the UA, such as:

- Helps the UAs meet Tactical Interoperable Communications (TIC) Plan and regional training requirements.

- Encourages face-to-face cooperation among agencies across jurisdictions and disciplines.

- Provides efficient methods to identify interoperable communications gaps at the user level.

- Provides an After Action Report (AAR) that details gaps and includes recommended solutions.

ICTAP DEMONSTRATES CASM TOOL AT APCO CONFERENCE

Representatives of the ICTAP Team, DHS, and the Kansas City UA, hosted a panel at the Association of Public Safety Communications

Officials International, Inc. conference in Denver, Colorado, in August. APCO, with 14,000 members, is the world's oldest and largest professional organization dedicated to the enhancement of public safety communications.

ICTAP demonstrated the automated Communications Assets Survey and Mapping Tool (CASM) to interested attendees. CASM inventories regional communications equipment assets, while providing a real-time tool to determine available interoperability links among participating systems, as well as an online equipment inventory. The briefing was followed by a panel discussion of ICTAP support for Kansas City's Regional Area Multi-Band Integrated System (RAMBIS), one of many projects across the country utilizing the ICTAP. RAMBIS is a constantly operating simulcast system linking interoperability channels in the 150, 450, and 800 MHz bands across eight counties in two States.

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

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