



**Homeland
Security**

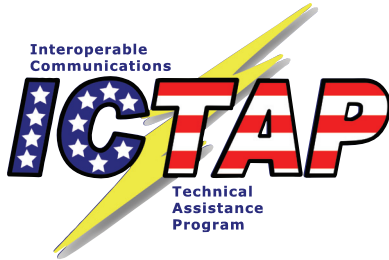
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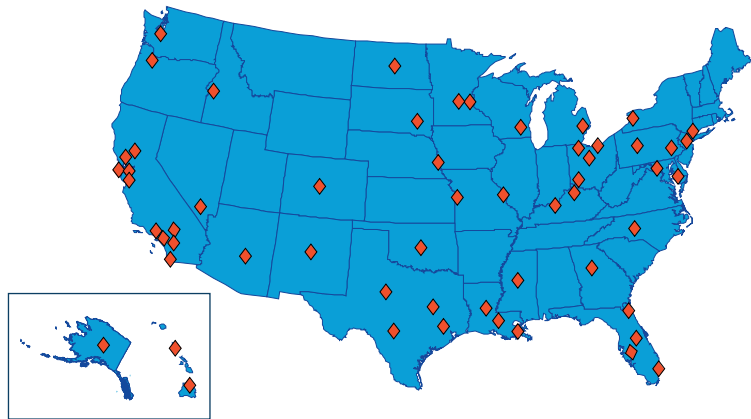
ICTAP Bulletin

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.



ICTAP 2005 Year in Review



Map of Active ICTAP Sites

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 Department of Homeland Security, Office of Grants and Training (G&T) Preparedness Directorate.

Alaska	Honolulu	New York City	San Diego
Atlanta	Houston	North Dakota	San Francisco
Baton Rouge	Jacksonville	Northern Mariana Islands	San Jose
Buffalo	Kansas	Oakland	Seattle
Charlotte	Kansas City	Oklahoma City	South Dakota
Cincinnati	Las Vegas	Omaha	St. Louis
Cleveland	Los Angeles	Philadelphia	Tampa
Columbus	Louisville	Phoenix	Toledo
Connecticut	Miami	Pittsburgh	Twin Cities
Dallas/Ft. Worth	Milwaukee	Portland	Vermont
Delaware	Mississippi	Puerto Rico	Virgin Islands
Denver	New Jersey	San Antonio	Washington DC
Detroit	New Mexico		
Guam	New Orleans		

ICTAP 2005 YEAR IN REVIEW

The year brought many opportunities to examine the importance and effectiveness of the Nation's interoperable communications systems. As Hurricane Katrina and the 9/11 Commission Report demonstrated, the ability to communicate within and across jurisdictions during a crisis is essential. Highlights of 2005 include:

PROGRAM EXPANSION

Currently, ICTAP is working with 53 active sites, up from 29 in 2004, to help them complete their Tactical Interoperable Communications Plans (TICP), due May 1, 2006.

TICP WORKSHOPS

In order to best prepare the Urban Areas (UAs) for the TICP requirements, ICTAP held three workshops throughout 2005 for the Eastern, Central, and Western regions of the United States. All

“Clearly, we would not have made this progress without the advice, guidance, and assistance from ICTAP. The ICTAP team members have shown a high level of commitment to our project and have provided unparalleled assistance in our region.”

—Gregory S. Ballentine, Director of Public Safety, Kansas City

UAs were invited to attend the workshops and more than 70 UAs and States participated.

CASM USAGE

34 UA/States are currently equipped with the Communications Assets Survey and Management (CASM) tool to collect and analyze their communications equipment. CASM is a secure, Web-based tool that provides forms for data entry, displays the data in map format, and performs interoperability and compatibility analysis.

LESSONS LEARNED REPORTS

In addition to assisting with the tactical plans, ICTAP has also provided technical assistance on a case-by-case basis for a variety of other tasks. For example, ICTAP assessed the communications response to Hurricane Charley in Florida and created an After Action Report for Denver's tabletop exercise (TTX). ICTAP makes these findings available through the Lessons Learned Information Sharing Web site. To register for the site, please visit www.llis.dhs.gov/signup/index.cfm.

TABLETOP EXERCISES

The interoperable communications tabletop exercise process was developed to provide a low cost

approach to identify potential communications gaps. The focus of the exercise is on availability, coordination, and integration of systems that the different agencies would experience in response to a multi-jurisdictional event. ICTAP has developed and facilitated seven interoperable communication-based tabletop exercises.

“In this endeavor [Honolulu's TTX], we received excellent support from ICTAP. The result was an unprecedented exercise that brought more than 150 Federal, State, and local government and private sector practitioners together.”

—Mifi Hannemann, Mayor of Honolulu

ICTAP looks forward to 2006, with the focus on preparing sites for their TICP validation in the coming year.

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

askcsid@dhs.gov

or visit

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