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)

June Highlights

- **Columbus**—ICTAP conducted the Central Region Tactical Interoperable Communications Plan (TICP) workshop to assist sites with the development of their TICPs. It was attended by over 90 State and local representatives from 24 urban areas and 10 States (See reverse page for more information).

- **Charlotte**—An 11 county communications-based tabletop exercise was conducted at Lowe's motor speedway on June 29th. This was the first communications-based tabletop exercise ever conducted in the Piedmont region.

- **New Orleans**—After receiving ICTAP support, the TICP was completed and submitted to the Louisiana SAA on June 17. In addition, a tabletop exercise was held on June 23.

- **Philadelphia**—ICTAP conducted site visits to public safety radio facilities in Philadelphia to support the development of a technical assessment.

- **San Diego**—A draft TICP was completed for the San Diego Interoperable Communications Committee.

- **San Jose**—ICTAP delivered a Preliminary Technical Review of Enhancements to the Silicon Valley Regional Interoperability Project (See reverse page for more information).

TICP Central Workshop

On June 3rd, over 90 participants from 10 States and 24 urban areas visited Columbus, Ohio to attend the second of three Tactical Interoperable Communications Plan (TICP) workshops designed to assist jurisdictions with tactical communications response plans during a WMD event. Workshop attendees listened to a presentation from a panel of subject matter experts, as well as participating in breakout sessions by area of expertise and urban area. As required by FY 2005 grant guidance, the TICP plans chart the governance, equipment, and
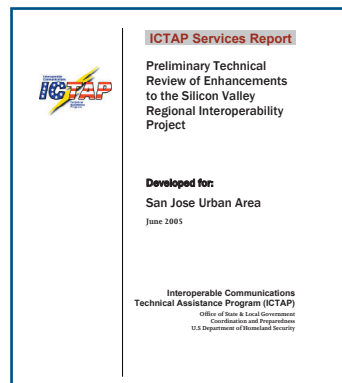
policies and procedures to be used during incident response. ICTAP technical assistance with the development of TICPs has been requested by over 35 urban areas to date.

ICTAP Assesses San Jose's Silicon Valley Interoperability Project

As the San Jose Urban Area considered significant communications updates for the region, the group felt that it was

critical to garner an independent third-party review of the solutions that were being considered. To meet this need, the Silicon Valley Regional Interoperability Project (SVRIP) Steering Committee turned to ICTAP to review the proposed solution, interview SVRIP technical staff, and provide an overall assessment of the

ICTAP Services Report

Preliminary Technical Review of Enhancements to the Silicon Valley Regional Interoperability Project

Developed for:
San Jose Urban Area

June 2005

Interoperable Communications Technical Assistance Program (ICTAP)
Office of State & Local Government Coordination and Preparedness
U.S Department of Homeland Security

proposed system.

According to Sheryl A. Contois, Director of Police Technical Services at the Palo Alto Police Department, "The SVRIP Executive Steering Committee was pleased to receive the Preliminary Technical Review of Enhancements to the SVRIP from ICTAP in June. The report provided clear, concise feedback on the interoperability technologies being pursued by the SVRIP, offered constructive feedback and provided helpful suggestions on what considerations the project should consider in moving its interoperability forward...."

The proposed upgrades include

the creation of a regional microwave backhaul system, such as the Emergency Communications Backbone Network (E-COMM), enhancements to the existing Bay Area Mutual Aid Communication System (BayMACS), installation of a network-based gateway solution for voice communication, and a regional information broker for data exchange (RIIB).

ICTAP highlighted key areas of importance and provided recommendations to ensure a successful implementation of the system. The assessment recommended that SVRIP move forward with all components of the proposal.

Speaking on ICTAP support, Ms, Contois went on to say, "To date, the SVRIP has been extremely impressed with the ICTAP staff, the overall quality of the ICTAP technical team members, and the willingness of ICTAP to provide assistance in any way possible to further our local interoperability needs. Finally, and most importantly—working with ICTAP has helped to enhance the overall level of collaboration and continuity amongst, and between other regional interoperabilty initiatives underway in Northern