Homeland Security

Office of State and Local Government Coordination and Preparedness

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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 between local, State, and Federal emergency responders and public safety officials to cities and States that have received grants from the Department of Homeland Security, Office of State and Local Government Coordination and Preparedness (SLGCP)

March Highlights

- On March 31st, SLGCP released the Guidance for the Tactical Interoperable Communications Plan (TICP). This Guidance with its accompanying template was developed by ICTAP and is designed to support tactical communications planning for over 70 cities Nationwide. ICTAP will be hosting a series of Regional Workshops to assist in the development of the TICPs.

- **Denver** – Produced a detailed After Action Report based on Denver's highly successful communications tabletop. The report outlined initial gaps in interoperability and work has begun to address those issues. In addition, planning has begun for a second exercise at Denver's request to measure improvements.

- **Fresno** – Completed and released an analysis of proposed communications upgrades which will help to move the current ICTAP effort in Fresno forward.

- **Orlando** – Compiled infrastructure data from Orange County, the City of Orlando, and Volusia and Seminole Counties. This data has been entered into the CASM mapping tool which was enthusiastically received by the FDLE Region 5 Communications Committee.

- **St. Louis** – Completed infrastructure data collection for Saint Louis County, Saint Charles County and Saint Louis City. Data collection is expected to be completed by mid-April for the entire Urban Area.

- **Oklahoma, Las Vegas, and San Diego** – ICTAP officially began providing support to these sites which have requested assistance. Kick-off meetings were held to assess current capabilities and required assistance.

Tabletop Exercises Improve Performance by Highlighting Strengths and Weaknesses

Recently the Denver, Colorado, UASI site participated in a highly successful exercise conducted to increase awareness of current Denver Urban Area communications interoperability capabilities, to conduct a gap analysis of capabilities and processes, and to determine Denver's ability to establish interoperable communications in case of a major multi-jurisdictional incident.

Tabletop Participants

- Adams County OEM/Sheriff's Office
- Arapahoe County Sheriff's Office
- Arvada Fire Protection District
- Aurora Police Department
- Boulder County Sheriff
- Denver Police Department
- Denver Fire Department
- Denver Safety - UASI
- Douglas County Sheriff's Office
- Englewood Safety Services
- Glendale Police Department
- Jefferson County Sheriff's Office
- Lakewood Police Department
- West Metro Fire & Rescue
- Denver Department of Aviation
- ICTAP Facilitators

The Scenario:

A package arriving via commercial carrier at Denver International Airport is picked up by an unknown individual who arouses suspicion in an airport employee. The State is notified that the package may contain radiological materials. On New Years Eve, the device is hidden in a container marked "Deep Fat Fryer Oil" and delivered to the concession area at the Pepsi Center. The device is detonated during intermission when the concession area is most crowded.

Instructions for the Tabletop:

The role of participants in the Denver TTX and in all tabletop exercises is to respond to the situation presented based on the participant's current knowledge of response procedures, current plans, and cross-jurisdictional agreements, and knowledge of communications capabilities. Observers who are subject matter experts take notes during the TTX and provide information during the debrief or hotwash. The facilitator moderates the dialogue during the exercise, provides additional information, and/or resolves questions as they develop.

The ICTAP tabletops provide an opportunity to discuss communications policies, procedures, plans, available assets, and communications capability gaps involving systems that the region's different agencies would use and experience in response to a multi-jurisdictional event and to attempt to resolve, as a group, problems that may arise during these activities. The tabletop identified a number of challenges for Denver to address including several governance gaps, SOP gaps, and technical gaps.

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

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