



ICTAP Bulletin

Connecting First Responders, Keeping America Safe



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 Office of Grants and Training (G&T) in the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Preparedness Directorate.

July 2006

July Highlights

- Mid-Planning Conferences: ICTAP assisted with 14 exercise mid-planning conferences in July.
- Final Planning Conferences: ICTAP led 20 sites through the final planning conferences to prepare for the validation exercise.
- TICP Implementation Workshops: 13 sites took advantage of the ICTAP-led TICP Implementation Workshops.
- TICP Validation Exercises (TVE): Nine sites held their TVEs in July.

TECHNICAL INTEGRATION WORK GROUP

The ICTAP Technical Integration Work Group (TIWG) is a technology think-tank that provides guidance and support to ICTAP sites regarding communications technologies and technical issues. TIWG ensures that ICTAP receives relevant technical knowledge about new technologies and regulatory issues. TIWG meets on a regular basis and periodically issues "technical notes" that are distributed to ICTAP team members. These notes discuss important and current technical issues, such as:

P25 Standards

An overview of P25 standards for ICTAP personnel, covering recent developments from P25 steering committee meetings, existing technologies, and future P25 plans.

Communications in Tunnels

A discussion of the physical characteristics of propagation in tunnels and the technical solutions available to ensure coverage. Solutions adopted above-ground need to be extended below-ground.

Narrowbanding

Provides an overview of narrowbanding in the context of land mobile radio technology and discusses relevant examples. The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has mandated that State and local public safety agencies operate voice systems in a narrowband channel (or its equivalent) on channels below 512 MHz by January 2013.

Wireless Communications

Focuses on awareness of wireless data capabilities, technologies, issues, and related FCC Rules and Regulations that pertain to public safety agencies.

TIWG is also developing technical notes discussing Voice-over IP in Public Safety Land Mobile Radio. These TIWG technical notes, as well as other ICTAP-related documents, are available to registered users of the public safety community on the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Lessons Learned Information System Web site at www.llis.gov.

EXERCISES

The number of exercises this month increased as nine sites held their TICP Validation Exercise (TVE) in July.

Columbus, OH

The Columbus Urban Area (UA) "Red, White and Boom" exercise

was held on July 3, 2006, with over 600 people in attendance.

Pittsburgh, PA

The Pittsburgh UA held its validation exercise during the Major League Baseball All-Star Game on July 8, 2006.



Emergency personnel discuss technical issues during an exercise

Baltimore, MD

On July 12, 2006, the city and county of Baltimore, Maryland, along with five surrounding counties, hosted the "Harford County Full-scale WMD Exercise." Approximately 10 agencies and 175 first responders participated.

Denver, CO

On July 19, 2006, the Denver UA validated its tactical plan with its full-scale exercise.

Miami, FL

On July 20, 2006, the Miami UA conducted its TVE, "Operation Cassandra."

San Diego, CA

The San Diego UA validated its tactical plan during a full-scale exercise on July 25, 2006.

North Dakota

Mandan, North Dakota, the designated metropolitan area, conducted its validation exercise on July 26, 2006.

Charlotte, NC

On July 27, 2006, the Charlotte UA held its tactical plan validation exercise at the Verizon Wireless Amphitheater, where two Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) were detonated as part of the exercise.

Honolulu, HI

The Honolulu exercise took place on July 28, 2006, with an estimated 350 first responders in attendance.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

For more information on ICTAP, visit the Web page at:

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

For general information on ICTAP or other G&T initiatives, please contact the Centralized Scheduling and Information Desk at 1-800-368-6498 or askcsid@dhs.gov.