



Homeland
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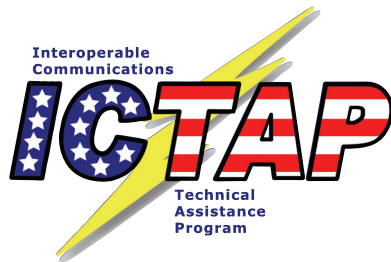
*Office of State and Local Government
Coordination and Preparedness*

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)

October Highlights

- **New Sites**—Atlanta, Delaware, and Phoenix held kick-off meetings this month.
- **Kentucky**—ICTAP completed the Internet Protocol Instant Messaging (IP IM)/Text Messaging analysis report and made recommendations for wireless public safety access.
- **National Capital Region (NCR)**—The Police and Fire Department Communications Subcommittee unanimously voted to accept the Communications Assets Survey and Mapping (CASM) tool as the standard data collection program for the region.
- **San Antonio**—With ICTAP assistance, the site formed a governance group and identified a LAM (Local Administrative Manager) for CASM.
- **San Francisco**—ICTAP observed the FastTrak Exercise, a mini full-scale exercise to test emergency response to an IED incident. The exercise could be modified to include other jurisdictions in the Urban Area (UA) in preparation for the TICP exercise requirement.
- **7th Annual Technologies for Critical Incident Preparedness Conference**—ICTAP demonstrated the CASM tool in San Diego, CA, on October 31.

COMMUNICATIONS DATA AVAILABLE DURING HURRICANE WILMA

As Hurricane Wilma approached the Florida coast in October, Nancy Dzoba, chair of the Florida Regional Domestic Security Task Force (RDSTF) Region Seven (Miami), was determined not to be caught off guard. In preparation for the category three hurricane, Dzoba requested access to the radio communication infrastructure information that had been previously collected for the CASM tool.

In working with ICTAP, Miami was also granted access to Regions Four (Tampa) and Five (Orlando) who had also participated in CASM data collection and serve as mutual aid partners in Florida. This represented the first information sharing effort between multiple UASI regions using the CASM tool.

“The CASM tool allowed us to work with surrounding regions and the State of Florida to preplan the communication response to Hurricane Wilma. The database saved us valuable hours of technical research.” —Nancy Dzoba, Public Safety Communications Manager

The information contained in the CASM tool allows agency representatives to perform interoperability and compatibility analysis. The UA and agency representatives can also better understand which radio systems are in use by other agencies in the region, the radio system infrastructure, and any available interoperable resources.

Centrally hosted on a Federal government database, CASM data is very secure; each region is responsible for its own data and is the only authority for sharing the data. In order to obtain permission to share the equipment inventory data, ICTAP contacted the other two region chairs in Orlando and Tampa. All three regions allowed ICTAP to share the CASM information and southern Florida was able to assess their current communications interoperability options before Hurricane Wilma struck.

PROJECT REPORTS POSTED ON LLIS WEB SITE

As ICTAP continues to complete tasks for sites, project reports are composed and posted on the Lessons Learned Information Sharing Web site, www.llis.gov. The site is

the national online network of Lessons Learned and Best Practices for emergency response providers and homeland security officials. The site is secure and access is restricted to first responder agencies. Currently there are five ICTAP reports on the site:

- Denver Communications Tabletop After Action Report
- Tampa Bay Equipment Inventory
- Preliminary Technical Review of the Silicon Valley Interoperability Project
- A Review of Interoperable Communications in Response to Hurricane Charley
- Mobile Communication Gateways during the Terri Schiavo Crisis

To register for the Lessons Learned Information Sharing Web site, please visit www.llis.dhs.gov/signup/index.cfm.

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

askcsid@dhs.gov

or visit

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