



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.

June 2006

June Highlights

- Mid-Planning Conferences: ICTAP assisted with 36 exercise mid-planning conferences throughout June.
- Final Planning Conferences: ICTAP led 11 sites through the final planning conferences to prepare for the validation exercise.
- TICP Validation Exercises (TVE): The States of Delaware, South Carolina, Tennessee, and New Jersey, as well as the Omaha and Dallas Urban Areas (UAs) held their validation exercises.

TICP IMPLEMENTATION WORKSHOPS

Through ICTAP, the Tactical Interoperable Communications Plan (TICP) Implementation Workshop is available to assist each site in preparing for the TVE. ICTAP recommends inviting any/all regional agency personnel including law enforcement, fire, and EMS incident management staff and communications specialists to attend the workshop.

The workshops cover a variety of topics to prepare sites to efficiently exercise their tactical plans according to the National Incident Management System (NIMS) and Incident Command Structure (ICS) standards during the validation exercise. At the workshop, instructors begin with a review of the TICP and help the site develop an Incident Radio Communications Plan (ICS 205) for the exercise. The workshop continues with an overview of NIMS and the ICS

Workshop Objectives

- ICS Communications Overview
- Communications Unit Leader Core Competencies
- TICP Review
- NIMS/ICS Form 205 Creation Basics

Communications Unit and an explanation of the associated standards and training. The instructor will help identify the site's appropriate Communications Unit Leader (COML) based on the 19 required core competencies. A total of 17 sites have already held their TICP Implementation workshops, and another 38 have one scheduled before their TICP validation exercise.

"The TICP Implementation workshop was extremely useful for the Denver technical and operational staff. It was a comprehensive overview for us to become refreshed on our TICP and how we can best exercise it and more importantly, utilize the plan for our day-to-day operations and large-scale events."

—Dana Hansen, Wireless Manager,
City and County of Denver

For more information on scheduling a TICP implementation workshop, please contact your site manager or G&T Preparedness Officer.

EXERCISES

As sites hold their exercises, ICTAP site managers continue to lead their sites through the planning and TICP implementation process while ICTAP evaluators help bring

their technical expertise to the exercises. Throughout June, six more sites held their communications-based exercises.

South Carolina

On June 8, 2006, Charleston, the designated metropolitan area in South Carolina, tested its TICP during the pre-planned Hurricane Isabella full-scale exercise.

Nashville, TN

Nashville, Tennessee conducted its exercise on June 8, 2006, as part of the Annual Airport Disaster Exercise.

New Jersey

The State of New Jersey, in conjunction with the cities of Newark and Jersey City, conducted its TICP validation exercise during the real world event of the annual Portuguese Days festival on June 10, 2006.

Omaha, NE

On June 20, 2006, the Omaha UA tested its TICP as part of the College World Series.

Dallas/Fort Worth/ Arlington, TX

The Dallas UA TVE exercise took place at the University of Texas-Arlington Stadium. The scenario featured an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) threat and detonation in the stadium during a football game that attracted about 13,000 spectators.



Emergency personnel respond during an exercise

Delaware

Delaware held its exercise on June 20, 2006, as part of the Operation Wildcat. Approximately 200 multi-discipline responders from the greater Wilmington, DE, area participated in the exercise, which simulated a terrorist hostage situation and the release of a hazardous material at a local high school.

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 initiatives of G&T, please contact the Centralized Scheduling and Information Desk at 1-800-368-6498 or askcsid@dhs.gov.