



Homeland
Security

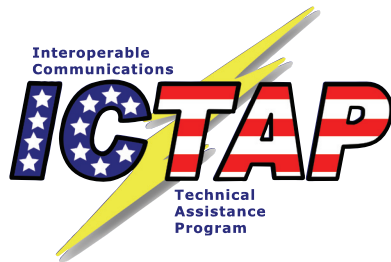
Office of Grants and Training

FY 2005

ICTAP Bulletin

Connecting First Responders, Keeping America Safe

G&T Interoperable Communications Technical Assistance Program (ICTAP) provides on-site, comprehensive interoperability technical assistance to DHS grant recipients.



Nov '05 ICTAP Partner Collaboration

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, Preparedness Directorate's Office of Grants and Training (G&T).

- **ICTAP Quarterly Meeting**—On November 2–3, 2005, ICTAP hosted its fall meeting in Miami, FL. The 30 attendees discussed all aspects of the program, including the pending Tactical Interoperable Communications Plan (TICP) deadline, Federal partner collaboration, and non-TICP requests.
- **New Sites**—North Dakota and Jacksonville, FL, held kick-off meetings this month.
- **Twin Cities**—With ICTAP assistance, the site held a Policies and Procedures workshop and assigned a Local Administrative Manager (LAM) for the CASM tool.
- **Washington**—ICTAP demonstrated the CASM tool at the Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee meeting on November 11.
- **Connecticut**—ICTAP created coverage plots with detailed maps for 34 existing and five potential ITAC/ICALL tower sites.

FEDERAL PARTNER COLLABORATION

The ICTAP Quarterly Meeting brought together ICTAP Program Managers, support personnel, and the program's Federal partners to discuss existing and upcoming interoperable communications initiatives. In attendance were five Federal partners, including DHS G&T, DOJ, FEMA, NIJ, and SAFECOM.

One of the goals of ICTAP is to leverage existing Federal, State, and local interoperable communication efforts whenever possible. This coordination would allow State and local first responders to be informed of the various Federal resources that are available to assist with meeting the interoperable communications challenge.

The following selections provide brief insight on the programs and initiatives discussed.

DOJ 25 CITIES

The Department of Justice (DOJ) Wireless Management Office (WMO) provides Federal law enforcement/homeland security agencies with basic inter-systems communication for emergency situations and an ability to communicate with key State and local public safety agencies.

DHS CEDAP

The Commercial Equipment Direct Assistance Program

(CEDAP), managed by the Office of Grants and Training, transfers technology systems and devices directly to local agencies, targeting law enforcement agencies. CEDAP provides interoperable communications equipment such as the Radio Interoperable System (RIOS) and the Incident Commander's Radio Interface (ICRI).

DOJ COPS

In 2005, the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) awarded \$92.7 million in grants to 26 jurisdictions to support interoperable communications. Through a Memorandum of Agreement with DOJ designed to ensure coordination between the programs, ICTAP technical assistance is available to COPS grantees.

NIJ COMMTECH PROGRAM

National Institute of Justice (NIJ) CommTech Program assists State and local public safety agencies to communicate with one another within and across agency and jurisdictional boundaries. The program conducts research and development of emerging technologies, as well as outreach, technical assistance, and pilot programs.

ICE GRANT PROGRAM

In 2003, \$79.6 million in competitive grants was awarded by FEMA's Interoperable

Communications Equipment (ICE) Grant Program to 17 sites. Now managed by DHS G&T, this program provides modest Federal funding to smaller urban areas to improve multi-discipline, multi-jurisdiction First Responder communications.

NIMS INTEGRATION CENTER

The National Incident Management System (NIMS) is a nationwide approach for all levels of government to work effectively and efficiently together to prepare for and respond to domestic incidents. Together with SAFECOM, the NIMS Integration Center is currently developing the Communications Unit Leader course referenced in FY '05 ODP Grant Guidance.

SAFECOM

SAFECOM is a practitioner-driven program that provides guidance, research, tools, and models for communications interoperability. The SAFECOM Continuum has become a benchmark for the technical assistance offered through the ICTAP Program.

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

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or visit

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