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Jason Leonard, Vice-Chair

John R. Benson
Homeland Security &
Emergency Management Division

Tom Boeckmann
Department of Public Health

Kerry Devine
Municipal Police Department

Kelly Groskurth
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Ellen Hagen
Fire Department (Volunteer)

Ted Kamatchus
Sheriff's Office

Michael Kasper
Sheriff's Office

Tom Lampe
Department of Public Safety

Jason Leonard
Municipal Police Department

Michael Ehret
Communications Center Manager

Sandy Morris
Communications Center Manager

Rick Roe
Fire Department

Jeffery Sweargin
Department of Natural Resources

Patrick Updike
Department of Corrections

Robert A. Younie
Department of Transportation

Legislative Members

Senator Chris Brase
Senator Joni Ernst
Representative Bob Kressig
Representative Walt Rogers

SWIC
Craig Allen
Iowa Statewide Interoperability
Coordinator

TO : Mr. Mike Marshall, Secretary of the Senate
Ms. Carmine Boal, Chief Clerk, House of Representatives
Mr. Glen Dickinson, Director, Legislative Services Agency

FROM: Thomas Lampe, Chair, Iowa Statewide Interoperable
Communications System Board (ISICSB)

DATE: December 18, 2014

RE: Seventh Annual Report to the Legislature from the Statewide
Interoperable Communications System Board

2007 Iowa Acts, House File 353, contained a provision specifying that the Iowa Statewide Interoperable Communications System Board (ISICSB) shall submit an annual report to the General Assembly regarding communications interoperability and associated board activities by January 1 of each year.

On behalf of the ISICSB, I hereby respectfully submit our eight annual report, reflecting the Board's activity during calendar year 2014.

Please contact myself, or Craig Allen, Iowa's Statewide Interoperability Coordinator (SWIC), or any other board member if you have any questions or concerns regarding this report.

Thomas T. Lampe
Chairman ISICSB

Report to the Iowa Legislature
on the Status of the
Iowa Statewide Interoperable Communications System Board
(ISICSB)
Calendar Year 2014

Overview

During the first session of the 82nd General Assembly, the Iowa Legislature established a new Iowa Statewide Interoperability Communications System Board (ISICSB). 2007 Iowa Acts, House File 353, created Iowa Code Section 80.28, which addresses the membership of the Board, with Section 80.29 identifying its duties, as follows:

“A statewide interoperable communications system board is established, under the joint purview of the department and the state department of transportation. The board shall develop, implement, and oversee policy, operations, and fiscal components of communications interoperability efforts at the state and local level, and coordinate with similar efforts at the federal level, with the ultimate objective of developing and overseeing the operation of a statewide integrated public safety communications interoperability system. For the purposes of this section and section 80.29, *“interoperability”* means the ability of public safety and public services personnel to communicate and to share data on an immediate basis, on demand, when needed, and when authorized.”

Legislative Report - 2014

The ISICSB has been in existence for seven years.

The current Chair and Vice-Chair are as follows:

Chair: Thomas Lampe, Department of Public Safety
(515) 725-6113, lampe@dps.state.ia.us

Vice-Chair: Jason Leonard, Waverly Police Department
(319) 352-5400), jasonl@ci.waverly.ia.us

During calendar year 2014, there were two local/state and one anticipated legislative member change in the Board.

Current ISICSB Members

Local Representatives

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>City</u>
Kerry Devine	Municipal Police Department	Waterloo P.D.
Jason Leonard	Municipal Police Department	Waverly P.D.
Ellen Hagen	Fire Department (Volunteer) <i>(Replaced Tom Berger, Epworth F.D.)</i>	Jewell F.D.
Rick Roe	Fire Department (Career)	Clive F.D.
Michael Ehret	Communication Center Manager <i>(Replaced Judy Flores BlackHawk County)</i>	Dickinson County
Sandy Morris	Communication Center Manager	Des Moines City
Ted Kamatchus	County Sheriff	Marshall County
Michael Kasper	County Sheriff	Linn County
Kelly Groskurth	Member-at-Large	City Clerk, Underwood

Representatives

State Agency

John Benson	Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management
Tom Boeckmann	Department of Public Health
Thomas Lampe	Department of Public Safety
Jeffrey Swearngin	Department of Natural Resources <i>(Replaced Robert Garrison)</i>
Patrick Updike	Department of Corrections
Robert Younie	Department of Transportation

Legislative Ex-Officio Members

Senator Chris Brase

Representative Bob Kressig
Representative Walt Rogers

Communications Interoperability Efforts

The ISICSB holds monthly public meetings, on the last Wednesday of the month, except for a combined November-December meeting. The ISICSB posts information on a web site at www.isicsb.iowa.gov.

During 2014, the ISICSB addressed its legislative mandates, as contained in Iowa Code 80.29, as follows:

1. Implement and maintain organizational and operational elements of the board, including staffing and program activity.

- From its inception in 2007, ISICSB relied on Federal Interoperability Fund Grants to support Board activities.
 - For the first time in Fiscal Year (FY) 2014, state funding was appropriated to ISICSB.
 - Each Board member has a full-time professional position and performs Board duties on a part-time basis.
 - As part of a national interoperability initiative, circa 2008 each state was to establish a Statewide Interoperability Coordinator (SWIC) position. This position is also consistent with this code of Iowa mandated element.
 - In April 2014, ISICSB hired a new SWIC Craig Allen to replace SWIC Jim Bogner, who retired in March after serving since 2010.
 - SWIC position is one of two employees of this Board.
 - In 2010 the Board hired their first SWIC. This SWIC position has been critical to improving interoperability in Iowa, addressing these legislative mandates, and the resulting accomplishments of the Board.
 - In 2014 the Board hired an Administrative Assistant. This position is funded by SLIGP grant funds. The position is limited to only FIRSTNET broadband duties.
 - Until 2014, SWIC salary was paid for by Federal Interoperability grants.
 - During 2014, State and Local Implementation Grant Program (SLIGP) pay half the SWIC's salary and expenses. This grant program creates a national public safety broadband network (NPSBN),
 - In 2012, Congress passed the Nationwide Public Safety Broadband Network (NPSBN). A state and local broadband planning grant program was included.
 - In 2013, this grant became available. Iowa applied for this grant, and in August 2013 was awarded funds partially supporting the SWIC's salary for a three (3) year period with the restriction that this grant can only be used for broadband planning activities, and not a SWIC's overall interoperability duties.
 - Therefore, it is essential that annualized legislative funding continue to be available to pay half of the SWIC's salary to continue to meet Iowa's various and unique interoperability needs.
 - NPSBN funds are used specifically to educate Iowa's public safety communities about this new network, and solicit feedback from that community about their broadband communications needs.

- To plan a statewide build-out, ISICSB will use a county by county effort holding coordination meetings to share information and collect network requirements to meet Iowa Public safety wireless broadband needs.
- To achieve this county-by-county outreach effort ISICSB contracted with (the low bidder) Connect Iowa for services to develop and present in each county. Additionally presenters are to identify interested stakeholders in each county to serve on 1 of 6, Regional Interoperability Committees (RICs) reporting to ISICSB directly on their public safety wireless broadband needs, including, coverage, availability, reliability, security and resiliency of a network.
- As of December 2014, over 60 of Iowa's 99 counties have participated in at least one outreach presentation.
- In addition, the ISICSB expanded their FirstNet Broadband Sub-Committee to address planning and technology issues of NPSBN in Iowa.
 - This Sub Committee is now co-chaired by Ric Lumbard Executive Director of Iowa Communications network (ICN), and Chief Information Officer (CIO) Bob von Wolfradt. SWIC Allen and two ISICSB Board members, and other state and local subject matter experts (SMEs) are on this committee.
 - NPSBN directed each state to identify a state point of contact (SPOC) for NPSBN interactions. Governor Branstad selected ISICSB Chairman Thomas Lampe as the SPOC for NPSBN planning and implementation in Iowa. FirstNet Broadband Sub committee meets on a regular basis to become more informed about broadband technology, Iowa public safety needs, NPSBN public safety grade requirements, and identify potential private companies willing to engage in a public safety wireless broadband network.
 - On November 18, 2014, Iowa became the 8th state to hold an Initial Consultation with seven senior representatives of FirstNet. Over 50 Iowa state, and local representatives met to begin the multiphase process of determining if Iowa wishes to Opt-in or Opt-out of building NPSBN in conjunction with FirstNet, or if Iowa wishes to shoulder the expense to build out their portion of a NPSBN alone.
- The Governance Committee, in conjunction with other Board committees, will continue to steer activities with local public safety community partners/users in a collaborative way to establish regional governance presence throughout Iowa.
- The Governance Committee anticipates leveraging local governance public safety community partners/users for knowledge and advice in 2015, and beyond as the Board

works through the task of developing/implementing (subject to completion of procurement protests) a new Statewide 700 MHz Land Mobile Radio Network in Iowa.

- The Governance Committee continues to work with local public safety community partners/users to establish effective/appropriate governance practices and relationships creating a foundation for successfully operating both a Public Safety Land Mobile Radio Network and Iowa's portion of a National Public Safety Broadband Network.

2. Review and monitor communications interoperability performance and service levels on behalf of Agencies.

- The ISICSB and E911 Council coordinated their activities and scheduled meetings at the same locations.
- In 2014, ISICSB released a series of Policy Statements (attached) consistent with the National Emergency Communications Plan (NECP) clarifying radio channels naming or re-naming all bands of public safety interoperability channels.
 - ISICSB management monitored public safety interoperability responses in Iowa.
 - There were incidents in Iowa where the response involved a number of agencies responding and interoperability issues identified.
 - Board management contacted those involved in the response, examined interoperability issues, and offered solutions that could solve interoperability communication issues that evolved from the incident. Some of the findings were:
 - Lack of training field personnel on how interoperability channels work,
 - Improperly labeled radio channels, and
 - Other available options to achieve interoperability with the equipment they use on a day-to-day basis.
 - Policies in some instances were prohibiting responders from using interoperability channels because of the lack of updating the policy to reflect newer technology and the availability of more channels.
 - In some cases, communication centers were only broadcasting on certain channels that some agencies could not monitor.
 - Clearly, interoperability is still an issue preventing coordinating communications much of the time in the incidents examined.
 - Iowa does not yet have a statewide communication system, like our adjacent states. (An RFP process is complete and an award was made to Motorola solutions. This award is currently under appeal with the Department of Administrative Services.)

- Absent a completed statewide interoperable system, the Board will continue to explore viable options and additional initiatives to improve interoperability in the coming year.
- During 2014, the ISICSB conducted a series of regional training workshops designed to improve interoperability, focusing on delivery of the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) COML (Communications Leader) and COMT (Communications Technical).
- During 2014, one ISICSB member attended an out of state school to become certified as a "trainer" in COMT, to enhance Iowa's cadre of trained COMT. ISICSB has scheduled an ISICSB member to attend a school to become certified as "trainer" in COML to further enhance Iowa's cadre of COML.
- The ISICSB scheduled "Regionalized" monthly board meetings with the intent of gaining more one-on-one local input from a broader range of local users on interoperability issues.

3. Establish, monitor, and maintain appropriate policies and protocols to ensure that interoperable communications systems function properly.

- The ISICSB is promoting the national policy of using Plain Language in radio communications throughout Iowa.
 - The ISICSB approved a policy adopting the use of a minimum number of national interoperable channels in each radio as a statewide standard in January 1, 2014, and adopted the use of the national standard channel nomenclature (naming channels with standardized national names)[attached].
 - The ISICSB developed and published 'quick' one page templates and instructions for ease of use and programming channels into radio equipment [attached].
 - However, because it is a voluntary compliance policy, the lack of any enforcement authority by ISICSB limits achievement of interoperability as some county and local governments continue past practices using legacy channel naming which is inconsistent with new federal guidance, thereby creating user confusion and hindering interoperability best practices.
- ISICSB passed a number of policy statements beginning in July 2014. After working closely with Attorney General Staff on a process for developing, prominently posting for 30 days on ISICSB website to incentivize public comment, Board discussion and if appropriate voting to determine if a policy statement represented a best practice for Iowa public safety stakeholders, lastly all policy statements are posted on ISICSB website in order of chronological order. Policy statement passed in 2014 are:
 - 2014-1 Support of Project 25 Standard [attached].
 - 2014-2 Endorsement of Strategic Technology Reserve (STR) Trailers [attached].
 - 2014-3 Support of No Encryption on Interoperability Channels [attached].
 - 2014-4 Endorsement of Credentialing Process of COML/COMT [attached].

Additional policy statements are in various degrees of completion and positing for interested stakeholders.

4. *Allocate and oversee state appropriations or other funding received for interoperable Communications.*

- The legislation creating ISICSB did not contain any state appropriations for its day-to-day operation or grant acquisition matching funds. From Fiscal Years (FYs) 2008-2012, the only funding received by the Board came from Federal Interoperable Communications Grants, which have been substantially reduced or eliminated by the Federal Government. The last available Federal Grant expired in May, 2013. A portion of that grant was earmarked to fund the SWIC's salary, Board operations, and stakeholder outreach and training efforts, and radio programming with national interoperable channels to improve interoperability.
 - The ISICSB managed its funds very conservatively and were informed that it would be approved to continue to use those funds for one more year. However, with the Federal sequestration, the grant extension was denied and those budgeted projects were left without that funding.
- In August, 2013, the ISICSB, on behalf of the State of Iowa, received a \$1.6 Million Federal Grant to plan future build-out of the Nationwide Public Safety Broadband Network (NPSBN) in Iowa. NPSBN is being undertaken by a new federal agency FirstNet. NPSBN will be a national public safety grade, wireless broadband network. This grant is restricted to specifically this initiative and includes planning, outreach, education of public safety and elected officials, inventory of existing assets that could be leveraged for this broadband network, and funding for any personnel costs directly related to this initiative, e.g., a percentage of the SWIC's salary directly attributable to his work on broadband.
- Fiscal year 2014, ISICSB received \$154,000 to conduct state of Iowa interoperability matters not covered by federal grants.

5. *Identify sources for ongoing, sustainable, longer-term funding for communications interoperability projects, including available and future assets that will leverage resources and provide incentives for communications interoperability participation, and develop and obtain adequate funding in accordance with a communications interoperability sustainability plan.*

- (See #4 above.)
- With the passage of the Federal Nationwide Public Safety Broadband Network (NPSBN) legislation, Iowa will be participating in the planning, for Iowa's portion of build-out of this nationwide broadband network to supplement public safety's land mobile-radio communications networks with interoperable wireless data capabilities.
- ISICSB continues to seek ways to identify sustainable, long-term funding, and cost containment measures for communications interoperability. Continued state funding for ISICSB allows this board to continue to seek federal grant opportunities. Without funding (local match,) ISICSB will be denied many grant opportunities due to inability to meet timelines of grant request requiring local match.

- Local, county and state funding is essential for sustainability of any interoperable communications system. State funds will continue to be used to train, educate, and where possible build and maintain infrastructure.
- ISICSB will continue to seek grants and outside funding; however, federal grants specifically for interoperable communications are diminishing making state support all the more crucial in receiving such funding.

6. Develop and evaluate potential legislative solutions to address the funding and Resource challenges of implementing statewide communications interoperability initiatives.

- In August, 2013, the Board, on behalf of Iowa, received a Federal broadband planning grant, known as the State and Local Implementation Grant Program (SLIGP) in the amount of \$1.67 Million for a three (3) year planning period to specifically focus on planning for the build-out in Iowa of the Nationwide Public Safety Broadband Network (NPSBN), a high-speed wireless broadband network specifically for public safety. This broadband network will supplement and compliment public safety's land-mobile radio systems. This grant can also be used to fund 50% of the SWIC's position, with the restriction that that 50% has to be entirely devoted to broadband planning initiative of the NPSBN. After three (3) years, this grant will expire.
- As a solution, funding obtained from the Rebuild Iowa Infrastructure Fund (RIIF) would seem appropriate.

7. Develop a statewide integrated public safety communications interoperability system that allows for shared communications systems and costs, takes into account infrastructure needs and requirements, improves reliability, and addresses liability concerns of the shared network.

- In 2012, the Department of Public Safety (DPS), Department of Transportation (DOT), and Department of Corrections (DOC), began working together with ISICSB to develop a plan and issue a Request for Proposal (RFP) for using State infrastructure and leveraging any other state resource that could be used to develop a communications interoperability radio system. That effort was recalled and a new RFP process was initiated.
- In 2013, the ISICSB management monitored and assisted with an RFP for a statewide Department of Public Safety (DPS), Department of Transportation (DOT), Department of Natural Resources (DNR), and Department of Corrections (DOC) 700 MHz land-mobile radio (LMR) statewide system. ISICSB concluded that this RFP is essentially the system that will serve as the anchor for establishing the interoperability system in Iowa.
 - ISICSB will work closely with this RFP process and offer any support and/ or assistance with the planning of how the system will serve as the core network for all of public safety in Iowa
- In November, 2013, a revised RFP was issued by the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) on behalf of the DPS, DOT, DNR, and DOC soliciting bids for a statewide system to serve these agencies.
- In July 2014, DAS received three proposals to RFP for a Project 25 Phase two statewide 700 MHz land mobile radio (LMR) system procurement. Bid offers were scored (three ISICSB members participated in that evaluation and scoring). DAS awarded this contract

to the low bidder Motorola Solutions. High bidders Harris Corporation, and RACOM promptly protested this award.

- In October 2014, an administrative law judge ruled the state had not violated the processes Harris Corporation and RACOM protested, and directed DAS to immediately begin procurement award.
 - In November 2014, RACOM entered a protest with DAS seeking reversal of the administrative law judge's ruling.
 - We await the outcome of DAS's decision. An initial study had estimated the cost of a statewide system to be about \$336 million. Bids from Motorola (for system infrastructure) came in at less than \$69 million spread over a ten year payment cycle. Annual payments range from just under \$4 million to just under \$7 million.
 - Motorola's offer was significantly lower than the other two bidders, so much so the administrative law judge pointed out in her ruling that even if losing bidder had been awarded points on all the points they sought in the case, the outcome of this bid award would not have changed.
 - ISICSB members believe by working with state agencies to create a "shared interoperable" LMR 700 MHz statewide system both interoperability and a very significant cost savings for state and local governments occur.
- ISICSB has expanded membership on all six committees, Finance, Governance, Operations, Outreach, Technology, and Training and Exercise to make sure our on-going process to gather input from local users on a continuous basis, to ensure that the actual state-wide system operational protocols remain fresh and up to date.

8. Investigate data and video interoperability systems.

- In 2010, Iowa was one of twenty-one jurisdictions (one of seven states) to be granted an FCC license to build a public safety high speed wireless network for data and video interoperability, the precursor to the NPSBN. The ISICSB applied for, but did not receive a federal grant to initiate construction of this network. The grant was denied because the ISICSB lacked the 20% matching fund requirement and had no sustainable state appropriations.
- Despite the lack of funding, in 2014, the SWIC aggressively explored industry developments in high-speed LTE (Long Term Evolution) data and video networks. The SWIC has been extremely involved nationally in the development of a nationwide interoperability broadband framework and protocols, which would allow interoperability not only within Iowa, but with its adjacent states and the national network.
- With the passage of the Nationwide Public Safety Broadband Network (NPSBN) legislation by Congress in February of 2013, mandating the build-out of a public safety broadband network in each state, the ISICSB created a FirstNet Broadband Sub-Committee to address Iowa's portion of planning and technology issues of this coming national network.
 - This Sub Committee is Co-Chaired by ICN Executive Director Ric Lombard and CIO Robert von Wolfradt; SWIC Allen, other members include state and local subject matter experts (SMEs), Department of

Management, E911 Council Chair, Connect Iowa, and representatives of police, fire and EMA. Governor Branstad has selected the ISICSB as the points-of-contact for the NPSBN planning process in Iowa (see #1 above for more details).

9. Expand, maintain, and fund consistent, periodic training programs for current communications systems and for the statewide integrated public safety communications interoperability system as it is implemented.

- The ISICSB has established and maintained a periodic training program for Iowa’s public safety officials through a series of regional workshops annually funded by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) / Office of Emergency Communications (OEC), called Technical Assistance (TA) grants which can be presented throughout the state. The ISICSB has acquired several national DHS/OEC interoperability tools for these efforts, such as:
 - The Communications Unit Leader (COML) training course conducted in May 2014 in the Des Moines where 20 first responders from across Iowa were trained on preparing communication plans for disasters as well as large-scale events, such as Ragbrai, in situations where multiple agencies and disciplines (law enforcement, fire, EMS, etc.) need to effectively communicate.
 - The Communications Technician (COMT) training course conducted in June in Iowa City for 12 first responders, who were trained on the technical aspects of setting up interoperability equipment to support the communication plans developed by the COMLs. The COMTs are taught how to connect radios of different frequencies and bands in multi-agency public safety responses so on-scene law enforcement can talk to fire, etc. in situations where this normally does not occur.
 - Following up on the above technical training, 2 Audio Gateway workshops were held in June in Johnson County for about 30 attendees to support Iowa’s Emergency Managers. This training supports procurements by Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division (HSEMD) used grant funds to purchase 12 Audio Gateway devices, which are electronic boxes that allow one to connect radios of different frequencies or bands to allow agencies to talk to one another where normally that would not be the case. The ISICSB conducted two workshops to show those who received these gateways on how to effectively use them, as training was not included with these devices.
 - In May 2013, a multi-state workshop was held in Des Moines to put together a standard recognition and credentialing process for the COML and COMT positions in Iowa, Missouri, and Kansas. This process ensures trainees take the relevant courses and then demonstrate their skills so that they are not only better prepared to use these skills in Iowa, but regionally and nationally, if requested. So far, 6 individuals successfully completed this process in 2013, and 3 more in 2014, and were credentialed by the ISICSB.
- The above efforts are those training initiatives which, although they do not replace a statewide communications system, can help improve interoperability in pre-planned or

recovery situations like Iowa's where public safety uses many disparate radio systems to communicate.

10. Expand, maintain, and fund stakeholder education, public education, and public official education programs to demonstrate the value of short-term communications Interoperability solutions, and to emphasize the importance of developing and funding long-term solutions, including implementation of the statewide integrated public safety communications interoperability system.

- (See #9 above.)
- Besides the ISICSB's efforts regarding improving interoperability with traditional land-mobile radio (LMR) systems, the ISICSB has initiated stakeholder education regarding the new Nationwide Public Safety Broadband Network (NPSBN) system to be built in the near future in every state as part of a single nationwide high-speed wireless broadband network designed to supplement and complement public safety's LMR systems. A Federal grant has been obtained, which will fund stakeholder education and planning for this coming network over the next three (3) years.
- In August 2014, SWIC met with E911 Council to review Iowa's Statewide Communications Interoperability Plan (SCIP). In 2013 E911 Council was included in this process; prior to 2013 only the ISICSB annually developed Iowa's SCIP. The E911 Program and E911 Communications Council, which serves as an advisory group to the E911 Program Manager, continue to oversee enhancement of Iowa's 911 system from E(enhanced) 911 to NG (next generation) 911, an all Internet-Protocol network, which will eventually converge with the NPSBN that the ISICSB is overseeing. The SCIP represents a strategic plan which contains a vision, objectives, and goals for the Council and Board.

11. Identify, promote, and provide incentives for appropriate collaborations and partnerships among government entities, agencies, businesses, organizations, and associations, both public and private, relating to communications interoperability.

- (See #10 above regarding a single unified SCIP [strategic plan] for Iowa between the ISICSB and E911 Program and Council.)
- (See # 7 regarding the collaboration and issuance of a statewide multi-state agency RFP for a land-mobile radio (LMR) system.)
-
- Board Management and the SWIC did presentations at several events in 2014. Iowa League of Cities, Connect Iowa Broadband Summit, and the Iowa Sheriffs and Deputies Association Winter School, Iowa Association of Professional Firefighters. The goal of the presentations was to pass information down on the FIRSTNET initiative and create new potential partnerships for the FIRSTNET network in Iowa.

12. Provide incentives to support maintenance and expansion of regional efforts to promote implementation of the statewide integrated public safety communications interoperability system.

- (See #7 regarding the multi-state agency land-mobile radio RFP.)
- After DAS procurement award of a statewide LMR system is finalized, then ISICSB will be in a position to examine the results of that contract and determine what opportunity may be feasible to incentivize expansion of the statewide system to support regional efforts and bring to fruition the implementation of a statewide integrated public safety interoperable communications system.
- If DAS rejects the LMR award process, ISICSB will continue efforts to identify incentives to make the best of the cornucopia of eclectic systems across Iowa and make improvements where possible.

13. In performing its duties, consult with representatives of private businesses, organizations, and associations on technical matters relating to data, video, and communications interoperability; technological developments in private industry; and potential collaboration and partnership opportunities.

- ISICSB members and the SWIC have met, in addition to many county and city public safety groups regarding a statewide LMR system, SWIC also made presentations to various organizations across Iowa on ISICSB activities and the FirstNet NPSBN initiative including;
 - Iowa League of Cities
 - Iowa Association of Counties
 - Iowa Fire Chief's Association
 - Meetings were held with Iowa Network Services (INS) regarding the fiber infrastructure they have in Iowa for potential use in the build out of FIRSTNET in Iowa.
- ISICSB Chair and SWIC modified the meeting model to include use of a conference line for all meetings, both Board and Committee, posting meetings times, dates and locations on the ISICSB website such that any interested party can listen into the meetings and comment under public comment periods.
- ISICSB formed a MACH CAD committee to explore the possibility of CAD systems in Iowa sharing vital officer safety information for officers. This committee sees the value of MACH as a network of DATA interoperability that are using the commercial networks now for connectivity and eventually the FIRSTNET network in the future for priority coverage and service during day to day and also during disasters and or large planned events.

14. Submit a report by January 1, annually, to the members of the general assembly regarding communications interoperability efforts, activities, and effectiveness at the local and regional level, and shall include a status report regarding the development of a statewide integrated public safety communications interoperability system, and funding requirements relating thereto.

- This report satisfies this requirement.



PUBLIC NOTICE

Policy Release Number: ISICSMC12-B

Contact Point:
 c/o Jim Bogner
 Iowa Statewide Interoperable
 Communications System Board
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 Des Moines, Iowa 50319-1902
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State of Iowa

Minimum Interoperable Radio Channels & Nomenclature

Effective Date: Jan. 1, 2014

All Public Safety Radios should be programmed to include these channels (as applicable to your frequency band and as channel capacity allows) by the effective date of January 1, 2014.

This statewide minimum interoperability channel plan will improve multi-agency interoperability for communication by Land Mobile Radio (LMR) systems at times of a major incident and/or need.

IF YOU HAVE VHF	IF YOU HAVE UHF	IF YOU HAVE 700 ^{MHZ}	IF YOU HAVE 800 ^{MHZ}
YOU SHOULD HAVE ALL OF THE FOLLOWING MINIMUM BASELINE CAPABILITIES	YOU SHOULD HAVE ALL OF THE FOLLOWING MINIMUM BASELINE CAPABILITIES	YOU SHOULD HAVE ALL OF THE FOLLOWING MINIMUM BASELINE CAPABILITIES	YOU SHOULD HAVE ALL OF THE FOLLOWING MINIMUM BASELINE CAPABILITIES
VCALL10 VTAC11 VTAC12 VTAC13 VTAC14	UCALL40 UCALL40D UTAC41 UTAC41D UTAC42 UTAC42D UTAC43 UTAC43D	7CALL50 7CALL50D 7TAC51 7TAC51D 7TAC52 7TAC52D 7TAC53 7TAC53D 7TAC54 7TAC54D 7TAC55 7TAC55D	8CALL90 8CALL90D 8TAC91 8TAC91D 8TAC92 8TAC92D 8TAC93 8TAC93D 8TAC94 8TAC94D
<u>DISCIPLINE SPECIFIC</u> VFIRE21 VLAW31 VMED28			

The following radio channel names will be changed as of January 1, 2014:

- State Fire Aid/Fire Mutual Aid (154.2800 MHz) - Now called VFIRE21
- Law Aid/Mutual Aid Law (155.4750 MHz) - Now called VLAW31
- State EMS/EMS Mutual Aid (155.3400 MHz) - Now called VMED28

In order to maintain consistency with current capabilities, agencies may wish to continue use of these frequencies, using the updated names.

Additional information can be found from the Iowa Statewide Interoperable Communications Systems Board (ISICSB) at www.isicsb.iowa.gov.



PUBLIC NOTICE

Policy Release Number: ISICSMC12

Contact Point:

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Statewide Policy Establishing Minimum Interoperable Channel Usage and Nomenclature

Purpose

- 1) Establish a statewide **minimum** interoperability channel plan to improve multi-agency interoperability for communication by a Land Mobile Radio (LMR) system at times of a major incident and/or need;
- 2) Adopt the ‘Standard Channel Nomenclature for the Public Safety Interoperability Channels’ as published in 2010 by APCO/NPSTC (ANS 1.104.1-2010)¹.
- 3) Provide assurance to first responders, who enter a high-risk area, that they will possess the capability of voice interoperability and information sharing within the jurisdiction of authority.

Summary of Problem

Many state agencies and local governments across the State of Iowa own and operate disparate LMR systems and use different channels or frequencies to communicate. Additionally, even if agencies in Iowa and surrounding states use the same channels or frequencies, they may call them by different names, thus implying a lack of interoperability.

These two conditions hinder interoperability with other agencies (multi-jurisdictional or cross-discipline), especially in emergency situations and thus prevent intercommunication among multi-agency first responders, thus potentially jeopardizing effective and efficient public safety response.

- **History - Previous Interoperability Policies/Committees:**

In 1987, the Federal Communication Commission (FCC) established Regional Planning Committees (RPCs) to oversee the use of the 800 MHz spectrum for exclusive use by local, regional and state public safety agencies under guidelines developed by the National Public Safety Planning Advisory Committee (NPSPAC). In 1998, the FCC established RPCs for the 700 MHz spectrum to meet state and local needs, encourage innovative use of the spectrum, and accommodate new and unanticipated developments in technology and equipment. There are fifty-five RPCs, and each Committee is required to develop plans for their spectrum and ensure that those plans comply with the FCC’s rules and policies.

The state of Iowa is designated as Region 15 and the Region 15 RPCs have the above authority granted by the FCC for Iowa.

¹ APCO International “Standard Channel Nomenclature for the Public Safety Interoperability Channels” (APCO/NPSTC ANS 1.104.1-2010).

Additionally, in 1994, LEATAC (Law Enforcement Administrators Telecommunication Advisory Committee) established Iowa's initial mutual aid frequency plan. Later, in 2010, APCO (the Association of Public Safety Communications Officials) International and NPSTC (National Public Safety Telecommunications Council) issued a national standard for channel naming in their "Standard Channel Nomenclature for the Public Safety Interoperability Channels" as the Approved American National Standard (APCO/NPSTC ANS 1.104.1-2010).

Solution

The SAFECOM Continuum identifies the use of commonly identified frequencies or channels as one of the most basic solutions to achieving interoperability. A cornerstone to obtaining successful communications interoperability in Iowa rests with establishing a minimum set of standardized radio frequencies or channels to be used by public safety/first responders when needed. Thus, a basic solution to improve Iowa's public safety interoperability is to develop a matrix/s which identifies commonly used interoperable pre-designated frequencies or channels that should be installed into each agency's LMR system within the particular frequency band or spectrum that that system is capable of operating in, i.e., *Low Band, VHF, UHF, 700, and/or 800 MHz*. Additionally, by using the national standard channel naming system, confusion caused by each agency's proprietary channel naming policy will be eliminated, both in Iowa, with our bordering states, and nationally.

In 2011, the E911 Program Manager/Council and ISICSB commissioned GeoComm to study 9-1-1 and Interoperability in Iowa. The results of that study (see ISICSB web site) were furnished to the 2012 Iowa Legislature, which directed that a 9-1-1 Task Force be formed to address the findings of that study. During the Spring and Summer of 2012, that statewide Task Force was formed and met to address Iowa's 9-1-1 and interoperability issues, as identified in the GeoComm Report. That Task Force's Interoperability Committee recommended that the ISICSB address the issue to improve interoperability through its policy authority by adopting a standard set of interoperability channels as a statewide policy and that standard channel naming be utilized statewide in Iowa. It was recommended that these two policies be implemented statewide by January 1, 2014, one year after the FCC's Narrow banding mandate.

On September 12, 2012, the RPCs and ISICSB representatives met to discuss this interoperability problem. Based upon Iowa's 700 and 800 MHz channel plans, LEATAC's previous work and the APCO/NPSTC national standard channel naming designations, it was the recommendation that the below identified nationally recognized interoperable channels be adopted by Iowa as the minimum statewide standard and be incorporated into each public safety radio system, as its capability allows, to improve Iowa's public safety interoperability. This builds upon the work of LEATAC and the RPCs and will improve voice interoperability between agencies when called upon during tactical necessity.

Specifically, these policies are intended for the first responder disciplines that would respond to the scene of an emergency, as well as other disciplines that would need to be coordinated with during a response or upon need.

ISICSB Established – Granted Authority

In order to address the issue of interoperability, legislation was enacted in 2007 establishing the Iowa Statewide Interoperable Communications System Board (ISICSB). The ISICSB was given the responsibility to develop, implement and oversee the policy, operations, and fiscal components of communications interoperability efforts at the state and local level and is ultimately responsible for developing and overseeing the operation of a statewide integrated public safety communications system. Furthermore, under Iowa Code 80-28, the Board is to "establish, monitor, and maintain appropriate policies and protocols to ensure that interoperable communications systems function properly."

Assurance of Voice Interoperability

Under mandate, the ISISB has determined that in order to obtain critical interoperable communications functionality during times of a major incident or need, all responding emergency services should be capable of critical mission voice interoperability by: 1) programming into their radio systems and utilizing a standard set of interoperable channels in the frequency spectrum and channel capacity level of their radios, and 2) using the established national standard channel names for those interoperability channels.

The ISICSB adopts the attached sheet as recommendations, and identifies the *minimum* interoperable channels to be used by each agency, as listed below, along with their standard channel nomenclature, as standardized nationally by APCO/NPSTC in 2010.

Therefore, each agency should program into their radio system those frequencies designated in the attached matrix in which their radio system operates in and to the extent allowable by their system's capacity. Installation of these designated frequencies should allow any agency responding to a particular incident to have the capability of radio-to-radio communication if their equipment is capable of transmission and receiving the same frequency range used by the jurisdiction of need.

NOTE: The implementation of these ISICSB policies shall be a requirement for said agency to be granted consideration during any future ISICSB funding opportunities.

In addition, it highly recommends that each County Jurisdiction formulate a set of guidelines, which address the development of an Area Tactical Interoperable Communications Plan (TICPlan) following the SAFECOM guidelines and utilizing the DHS/Office of Emergency Communications Template format. The TICPlan is used to clearly define the breadth and scope of interoperable assets available in the area; how those assets are shared and how their use is prioritized; and the steps individual agencies should follow to request, activate, use, and deactivate each asset.

Channel Name Re-designation

A major portion of this new plan involves the re-designation of the existing OLD "channel names" of those radio frequencies that have been in use for state-wide interoperability to their NEW designated "channel name". This "renaming" process helps to ensure that anyone from across the Country, who enters an Iowa jurisdiction, will immediately recognize the designation of a particular frequency or talk-group for interoperable purpose during times of high risk need.

<http://www.safecomprogram.gov/SiteCollectionDocuments/OECTICPTemplatev28609.doc>

Licensing Requirements

- In Reference to: The non-Federal National Interoperability Channels VCALL10-VTAC14, UCALL40-UTAC43D, and 8CALL90-8TAC94D.
 - PSAPs/Base Stations: Such an entity must have an "FCC Part 90" license to operate a base or control station on these interoperability channels.
 - Mobiles/Portables: The interoperability channels are covered by a "blanket authorization" from the FCC - "Public safety licensees ... can operate mobile units on these interoperability channels without an individual license."
- See FCC 00-348, released 10/10/2000, paragraph 90 for clear guidance.

Policy for Use (recommended addition of similar verbiage to agency policy)

- Communication Prior to Reaching an Incident Scene or Staging Area
 - ALL public safety mobile units and portable units **must possess** that jurisdiction’s applicable statewide interoperable channel/s. *(those frequencies which match the agency’s emergency radio system)* Doing so in advance, will help to ensure radio connectivity upon deployment.
 - Responding parties should attempt to make contact with the appropriate PSAP or Incident Command on one of the designated interoperability calling channels. If it is a repeater channel and you get no response, try the “direct” or “talk-around” mode if your radio has that capability. In some cases, the talk-around channel exists as a distinct channel on the radio.

700 MHz	VHF	UHF	800 MHz
7CALL50 7CALL50D	VCALL10	UCALL40 UCALL40D	8CALL90 8CALL90D

- Communication upon Reaching an Incident Scene
 - In order to maintain safe and orderly operations, ALL responding parties must communicate on the interoperability channel as directed by the Incident Commander. Note that interoperability between separate frequency types will require some type of bridging technology.

700 MHz	VHF	UHF	800 MHz
7TAC51	VTAC11	UTAC41	8TAC91
7TAC51D	VTAC12	UTAC41D	8TAC91D
7TAC52	VTAC13	UTAC42	8TAC92
7TAC52D	VTAC14	UTAC42D	8TAC92D
7TAC53		UTAC43	8TAC93
7TAC53D		UTAC43D	8TAC93D
7TAC54			8TAC94
7TAC54D			8TAC94D
7TAC55			
7TAC55D			

- In order to maintain consistency with current local law enforcement and local fire interaction on scene, each individual agency should continue to have a plan of connectivity to the commonly used VHF statewide frequencies of **VLAW31** (Mutual Aid) and **VFIRE21** (Fire Mutual Aid).
- Broadcast Communication during times of High-risk or Major Incident Occurrence
 - In order to maintain a safe and secure environment, (during periods of high-risk and/or major incident occurrence) an authorized PSAP or agency shall broadcast on a pre-designated “non-Federal Interoperability Channel”:
 - “Be On the Lookout” – BOLO
 - Major crime in progress
 - Motor vehicle pursuit
 - Request for assistance

Standard Statewide Interoperable Channels According to Specific Bands

(The below chart lists both analog and digital (P25) channels to be implemented according to your specific radio system. For P25 digital systems, it is recommended that both analog and digital channels be programmed to achieve maximum interoperability.)

COMMUNICATIONS RESOURCE AVAILABILITY WORKSHEET					Frequency Band VHF-HI, UHF, 800, 700		Description Non-Federal National Interoperability Channels			
Channel Configuration	Channel Name	Eligible Users	RX Freq	RX Tone/NAC	TX Freq	TX Tone/NAC	Mode (A,D or M)	Channel Spacing	Remarks	
	VCALL10	For FCC Part 90 licensees, the non-Federal National Interoperability Channels	155.7525	156.7	155.7525	156.7	A	12.5		
	VTAC11		151.1375	156.7	151.1375	156.7	A	12.5		
	VTAC12		154.4525	156.7	154.4525	156.7	A	12.5		
	VTAC13		158.7375	156.7	158.7375	156.7	A	12.5		
	VLAW31		155.475	CSQ	155.475	None	A	12.5	Old LE Mutual Aid	
	VFIRE21		154.28	CSQ	154.28	None	A	12.5	Old Fire Aid	
	UCALL40		VCALL10-	453.2125	156.7	458.2125	156.7	A	12.5	
	UCALL40D		VTAC14,	453.2125	156.7	453.2125	156.7	A	12.5	
	UTAC41		UCALL40-	453.4625	156.7	458.4625	156.7	A	12.5	
	UTAC41D		UTAC43D, and	453.4625	156.7	453.4625	156.7	A	12.5	
	UTAC42	8CALL90-	453.7125	156.7	458.7125	156.7	A	12.5		
	UTAC42D	8TAC94D, are	453.7125	156.7	453.7125	156.7	A	12.5		
	UTAC43	covered by a	453.8625	156.7	458.8625	156.7	A	12.5		
	UTAC43D	"blanket authorization" from	453.8625	156.7	453.8625	156.7	A	12.5		
	8CALL90	the FCC - "Public	851.0125	156.7	806.0125	156.7	A	25.00		
	8CALL90D	safety licensees ...	851.0125	156.7	851.0125	156.7	A	25.00		
	8TAC91	can operate	851.5125	156.7	806.5125	156.7	A	25.00		
	8TAC91D	mobile units on	851.5125	156.7	851.5125	156.7	A	25.00		
	8TAC92	these	852.0125	156.7	807.0125	156.7	A	25.00		
	8TAC92D	interoperability	852.0125	156.7	852.0125	156.7	A	25.00		
	8TAC93	channels without	852.5125	156.7	807.5125	156.7	A	25.00		
	8TAC93D	an individual	852.5125	156.7	852.5125	156.7	A	25.00		
	8TAC94	license." See FCC	853.0125	156.7	808.0125	156.7	A	25.00		
	8TAC94D	00-348, released	853.0125	156.7	853.0125	156.7	A	25.00		
	7CALL50	700 Mhz	769.24375	\$F7E	799.24375	\$293	D			
	7CALL50D	interoperability	769.24375	\$F7E	769.24375	\$293	D			
	7TAC51	channels are	769.14375	\$F7E	799.14375	\$293	D			
	7TAC51D	P25 conventional	769.14375	\$F7E	769.14375	\$293	D			
	7TAC52		769.64375	\$F7E	799.64375	\$293	D			
	7TAC52D		769.64375	\$F7E	769.64375	\$293	D			
	7TAC53		770.14375	\$F7E	800.14375	\$293	D			
	7TAC53D		770.14375	\$F7E	770.14375	\$293	D			
	7TAC54		770.64375	\$F7E	800.64375	\$293	D			
	7TAC54D		770.64375	\$F7E	770.64375	\$293	D			



Policy Statement

State of Iowa

Policy Release Number: [2014 - 01](#)

Date of Proposal ISICSB: Meeting June 25, 2014
Dates Posted for Public Comment: June 26, 2014 to July 30, 2014
Date Adopted by ISICSB: Meeting July 30, 2014
Public Comment: None

Policy Statement endorsing support for Association of Public Safety Communications Officials (APCO) Project 25 Standards (P25) setting minimum requirements for voice radio communications equipment and land mobile radio (LMR) systems for Iowa Public Safety and other affiliated communication suppliers or users.

WHEREAS: The Iowa Statewide Interoperability Communications Systems Board (ISICSB) is charged under Iowa Code 80.28 and 80.29 to develop, implement, and oversee policy, operations, and;

WHEREAS: ISICSB supports standards based communications criteria for radio operable and interoperable equipment and land mobile radio (LMR) systems, and;

WHEREAS: The ISICSB supports standards that requires an "open architecture" in all frequency bands for LMR communications systems and equipment providing real-time, interoperability through multiple means, and;

WHEREAS: The ISICSB supports common standards for all frequency bands to provide effective and reliable inter-agency and intra-agency radio communications, consistent with current best practices and Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Office of Emergency Communications (OEC) Interoperability Continuum, which recognizes a standards based system as the highest levels of interoperability, and;

WHEREAS: The ISICSB supports development of a statewide, wide area LMR system as the states' interoperability platform, and recognizes the role of a wide area LMR platform as necessary to Iowa statewide voice radio interoperability solution, and;

WHEREAS: The ISICSB supports standards requiring compatibility and graceful migration requirements for all public safety communications systems in all frequency bands leading to increased cross frequency band interoperability which P25 provides, and;

WHEREAS: The ISICSB supports standards stimulating manufacturer involvement and competition throughout a system's lifecycle, and;

WHEREAS: A significant coalition of local, state and federal public safety agency users have already demonstrated their support for the APCO Project 25 Suite of Standards; Now therefore

IT IS THE ISICSB POLICY:

That the Iowa Statewide Interoperability Communications Systems Board (ISICSB) hereby documents and publishes policy of support for, and compliance with, APCO Project 25 (P25) initiative and its standard setting process for any public safety LMR interoperable communications systems used in Iowa for public safety.



Policy Statement

State of Iowa

Policy Release Number: [2014 - 02](#)

Date of Proposal ISICSB: Meeting August 27, 2014
Dates Posted for Public Comment: August 28, 2014 to September 24, 2014
Date Adopted by ISICSB: Meeting September 24, 2014
Public Comment: None

Policy Statement supporting deployment of Strategic Tactical Reserve (STR) trailer(s) to any Iowa public safety interoperable communications need whether for land mobile radio (LMR) or national public safety broadband network (NPSBN) system, including trained personnel, for any Iowa Public Safety organization and other affiliated communication users.

WHEREAS: Iowa statewide interoperability communications system board (ISICSB) is established in Code of Iowa sections 80.28 and 80.29. ISICSB is charged to develop, implement and oversee policy, operations, and fiscal components of communications interoperability efforts at the state and local levels, and to coordinate similar efforts at the federal level, with the objective of overseeing operation of statewide integrated public safety systems, and establish, monitor, and maintain appropriate policies and protocols, expand, maintain and fund stakeholder education, public education, and official education programs to demonstrate value of short-term communications interoperability solutions, and;

WHEREAS: ISICSB supports interoperability on interoperable frequencies, and channels to mean cross discipline, and cross agency communications on interoperable equipment including STR, LMR, NPSBN, systems, and;

WHEREAS: ISICSB supports interoperability in all frequency bands and channels for LMR communications systems and equipment including STR providing real-time, interoperability through multiple means, and;

WHEREAS: ISICSB supports open communications for all frequency bands and channels to provide effective and reliable inter-agency and intra-agency radio communications, consistent with current best practices and Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Office of Emergency Communications (OEC) Interoperability Continuum, and STR trailers along with their equipment reserves contributes to interoperable communications, and;

WHEREAS: ISICSB received federal grants under Public Safety Interoperable Communications (PSIC) grant funding for improved interoperable communications and dedicated a portion of PSIC funds to procure and deploy STR trailers across Iowa, and;

WHEREAS: ISICSB received considerable federal technical assistance grants to train a cadre of volunteers to be Communications Leaders (COML), Communications Technicians (COMT), and Audio Gateway operators in support of interoperable communications and deployment of STR trailers across Iowa; Now therefore

IT IS THE ISICSB POLICY:

That the Iowa Statewide Interoperability Communications System Board (ISICSB) hereby documents and publishes policy of support for, deployment of Strategic Tactical Reserve (STR) trailer(s) to any Iowa public safety interoperable communications need whether for land mobile radio (LMR) or national public safety broadband network (NPSBN) system and those deployed in support of STR for any Iowa Public Safety organization and other affiliated communication users.

IT IS FURTHER POLICY THAT:

ISICSB shall develop a series of protocols in support of this policy directing the appropriate level of personnel training and/or support, readiness, and preparedness of all equipment for deployment of STR trailers and/or equipment in achievement of interoperable communications across Iowa.



Policy Statement

State of Iowa

Policy Release Number: [2014 - 03](#)

Date of Proposal ISICSB: Meeting August 27, 2014
Dates Posted for Public Comment: August 28, 2014 to September 23, 2014
Date Adopted by ISICSB: Meeting September 24, 2014
Public Comment: None

Policy Statement supporting no encryption on any interoperable frequency and channel on any voice radio communications equipment and land mobile radio (LMR) systems for Iowa Public Safety and other affiliated communication suppliers or users.

WHEREAS: The Iowa statewide interoperability communications system board (ISICSB) is established in Code of Iowa sections 80.28 and 80.29. ISICSB is charged to develop, implement and oversee policy, operations, and fiscal components of communications interoperability efforts at the state and local levels, and to coordinate similar efforts at the federal level, with the objective of overseeing operation of statewide integrated public safety systems, and establish, monitor, and maintain appropriate policies and protocols, expand, maintain and fund stakeholder education, public education, and official education programs to demonstrate value of short-term communications interoperability solutions, and;

WHEREAS: ISICSB supports interoperability on interoperable frequencies and channels to mean cross discipline, and cross agency communications on interoperable equipment and land mobile radio (LMR) systems, and;

WHEREAS: ISICSB supports interoperability in all frequency bands and channels for LMR communications systems and equipment providing real-time, interoperability through multiple means, and;

WHEREAS: ISICSB supports open communications for all frequency bands and channels to provide effective and reliable inter-agency and intra-agency radio communications, consistent with current best practices and Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Office of Emergency Communications (OEC) Interoperability Continuum, and;

WHEREAS: ISICSB supports development of a statewide, wide area LMR system as the states' interoperability platform, and recognizes the role of operational and interoperable frequencies and channels in a wide area LMR platform used as Iowa statewide voice radio interoperability solution, and;

WHEREAS: A significant coalition of local, state and federal public safety agency users have already demonstrated their support for cross discipline interoperability in all bands on recognized interoperability frequencies; Now therefore

IT IS THE ISICSB POLICY:

That the Iowa Statewide Interoperability Communications System Board (ISICSB) hereby documents and publishes policy of support for, no encryption on any interoperability channel in any public safety LMR interoperable communications systems used in Iowa for public safety.



Policy Statement

State of Iowa

Policy Release Number: 2014 – 04

Date of Proposal ISICSB: Meeting: **September 24, 2014**

Dates Posted for Public Comment: **September 27, 2014**

Date Adopted by ISICSB: Meeting: **October 29, 2014**

Public Comment: None

Policy Statement supporting the Iowa All-Hazards Communications Unit Credentialing Procedure which identifies the credentialing process for Communications Unit personnel in Iowa.

WHEREAS: The Iowa Statewide Interoperable Communications System Board (ISICSB) is established in Iowa Code 80.28 and 80.29. ISICSB is charged to develop, implement and oversee policy, operations, and fiscal components of communications interoperability efforts at the state and local levels, and to coordinate similar efforts at the federal level, with the objective of overseeing operation of statewide integrated public safety systems, and establish, monitor, and maintain appropriate policies and protocols, expand, maintain and fund stakeholder education, public education, and official education programs to demonstrate value of short-term communications interoperability solutions, and;

WHEREAS: ISICSB acknowledges the National Incident Management System (NIMS) as a comprehensive, national approach to incident management that provides a template to effectively and efficiently prepare for, prevent, respond to, and recover from domestic incidents, regardless of cause, size, or complexity;

WHEREAS: ISICSB acknowledges that NIMS is applicable across functional disciplines at all jurisdictional levels;

WHEREAS: ISICSB acknowledges that a key feature of NIMS, the Incident Command System (ICS), is a standardized, on-scene, all hazards incident management approach that represents organizational best practices and has become the standard for emergency management across the country;

WHEREAS: ISICSB acknowledges that within the NIMS ICS structure, the Communications Unit plays a critical role and is responsible for developing plans for the use of incident communications equipment and facilities; coordinating, installing and testing communications equipment; supervision and operation of the Incident Communications Center (ICC); and the distribution, maintenance, repair and recovery of incident communications equipment;

IT IS THE ISICSB POLICY:

That the Iowa Statewide Interoperable Communications System Board (ISICSB) hereby documents and publishes policy of support for a procedure to describe the process for granting Iowa credentialing for Communications Unit (COMU) positions and instructions for submitting applications for Iowa credentialing or renewal of credentials.

IT IS FURTHER POLICY THAT:

The ISICSB shall develop and maintain an Iowa All-Hazards Communications Unit Credentialing Procedure in support of this policy.