



**State of Alabama
SCIP and PSIC Grant
Briefing
February 27, 2008**



Agenda

- Welcome
- Background
- TICP
- State Interoperable Communications Plan
- PSIC Investments



Background

- 2003 - Assessment by Federal DHS to identify needs. (Communications Top Need)
- 2004 - \$18.8M committed to communications
- 2005 - Additional \$3M committed to commo
- 2006 - \$1M committed to connect Counties, Regions and State Agencies



Grants

- Section I. C.5 2006 Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP)
 - Requires all States to Develop & Adopt a Statewide IC Plan by end of 2007.
 - DHS Funding contingent upon Approved Plan.

Continued...



Grants

- Public Safety Interoperability Communications (PSIC) \$1 Billion
 - Awarded Oct 2007 (Period of 36 Months)
 - Alabama Award \$13,585,399
 - \$1,052,169 for STR
 - Contingent upon Statewide Plan Submission & Approval
 - Dept of Commerce (NTIA) MOU.
 - 25% Match



SAFECOM

- A Communications Program of the Department of Homeland Security's Office for Interoperability and Compatibility (OIC)..
- Provides Research, Development, Testing and Evaluation, Guidance, Tools, and Templates..
- For Local, Tribal, State and Federal Emergency Response Agencies.



Statewide Planning Guidebook

Office for Interoperability and Compatibility
U.S. Department of Homeland Security



Statewide Interoperability Planning Guidebook

March 2007



ALA DEPT OF HOMELAND SECURITY



SAFECOM Approach

- “Bottom-up”
 - Local & State Public Safety Practitioners Input & Guidance.
 - Secure Support from the Most Affected
- Working to Define and Implement Solutions for the Interoperability Challenge.



Statewide Plan

- Incorporates the Perspectives and Support of ALL Stakeholders from Across the State to Create a Communications Strategy that is both Attainable and Sustainable.





Plan Framework/Critical Elements

- Governance
- Standard Operating Guidelines
- Technology
- Training & Exercises
- Usage



Tactical Interoperable Communications Plan



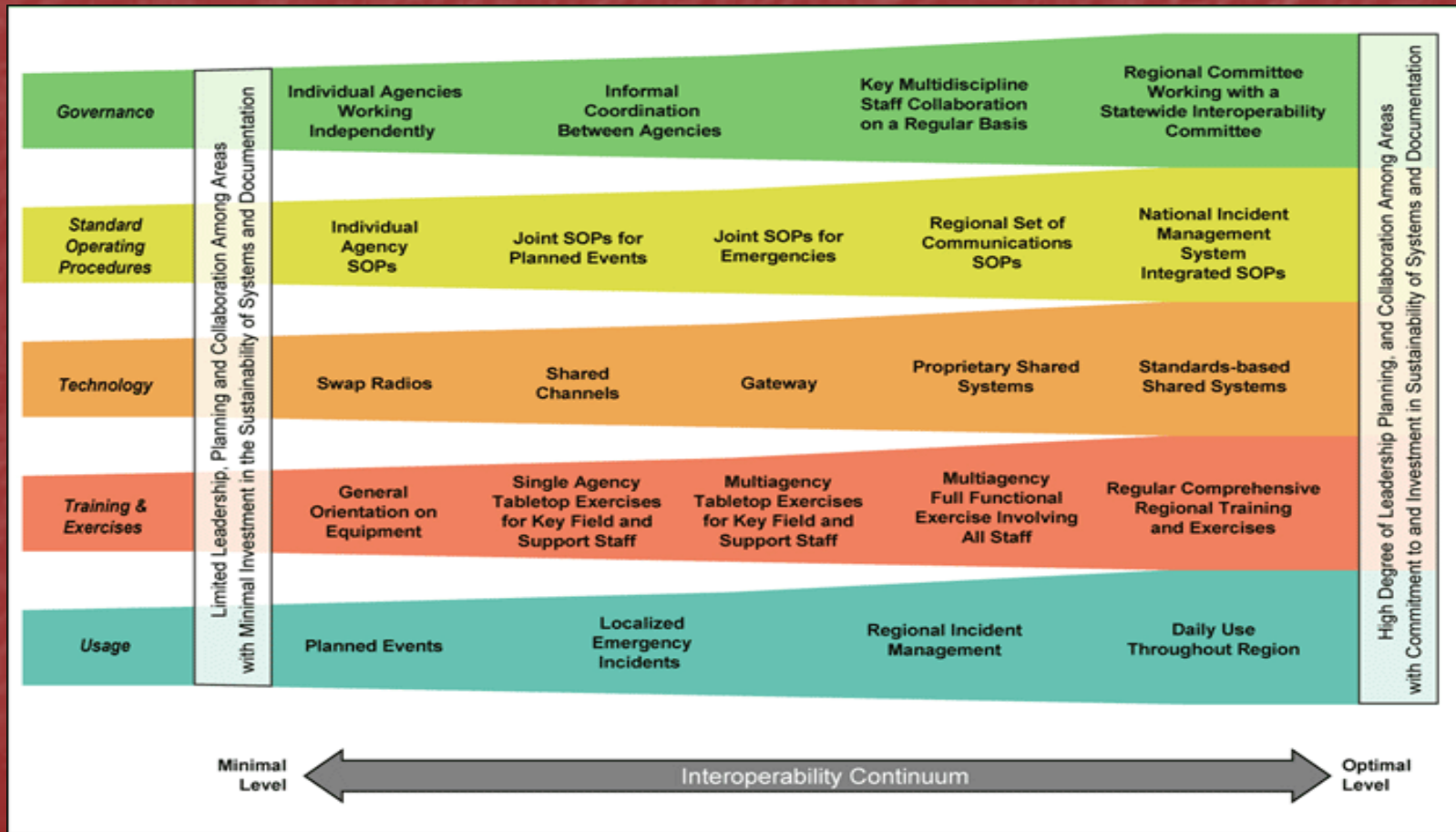
TIC State Scorecards Issued January 2007

Tactical Interoperable Communications Scorecards represents the first measurement of the maturity of communications interoperability in urban / metropolitan areas across the Nation.

➔ Reissue October 2008.



Interoperability Continuum







Alabama's DHS Region 7 Scorecard Results

- Governance: Intermediate
Implementation
- SOPs: Established
Implementation
- Usage: Advanced
Implementation



Summary Definitions of Interoperable Communications Maturity Levels

Elements	Early Implementation 	Intermediate Implementation 	Established Implementation 	Advanced Implementation 
Standard Operating Procedures (SOP)	Region-wide SOPs were developed and formalized for the first time through the TICP, but have not been disseminated to all included agencies. Some elements of NIMS/ICS procedures for command and control are in place, but understanding varies among agencies and was an area of difficulty during exercise(s).	Some existing SOPs were incorporated in the TICP and steps have been taken to institute these interoperability procedures among included agencies. Formal NIMS/ICS procedures are in place, but understanding varies among agencies leading to some issues during the exercise(s).	Existing regional SOPs were reviewed and included in the TICP, and are in use by included agencies. NIMS-compliant command and control has been instituted by all agencies and disciplines in the region. Despite minor issues, all SOPs were successfully demonstrated during exercise(s).	Regional SOPs, reviewed through the TICP process, are in place and regularly used by included agencies. NIMS procedures are well established among all agencies and disciplines. All procedures were effectively utilized during exercise(s).
Usage	Interoperable communications solutions are rarely used for multi-agency communication and difficulties were encountered in achieving interoperability during exercise(s).	First responders use interoperability solutions regularly and demonstrated the ability to achieve multi-agency communications despite some challenges during exercise(s).	First responders use interoperability solutions regularly and easily. The region demonstrated successful multi-agency (which may have included state, federal, and support organizations) communications during exercise(s).	First responders regularly and seamlessly utilize interoperability solutions. The region demonstrated successful multi-agency communications during exercise(s), including state, federal and support organizations.
Governance	Decision making groups are informal, and do not yet have a strategic plan in place to guide collective communications interoperability goals and funding.	Some formal agreements exist and informal agreements are in practice among members of a decision making group; regional strategic and budget planning processes are beginning to be put in place.	Formal agreements outline the roles and responsibilities of a decision making group, which has an agreed upon strategic plan that addresses sustainable funding for collective, regional interoperable communications needs.	Decision making bodies proactively look to expand membership to ensure representation from broader public support disciplines and other levels of government, while updating their agreements and strategic plan on a regular basis.



State Interoperable Communications Plan



State Interoperable Communications Plan

Executive Overview

1 Introduction

2 Background and Preliminary Steps

2.1 State Overview

2.1.1 NIMS/Multi-Agency Coordination System (MACS)

2.1.2 Municipal / County / Regional / State Jurisdictions

2.1.3 Metropolitan Areas/TIC Plans

2.2 Participating Agencies and Points of Contact

2.3 Statewide Plan Point of Contact

2.4 Scope and Timeframe



State Interoperable Communications Plan

3 Methodology

4 Current Statewide Assessment

4.0.1 Description

of Interoperable Capabilities by ALDHS Regions

4.0.2 Interoperability Projects - Statewide

4.1 Governance Structure

4.2 Technology – Statewide Shared

4.2.1 Alabama Strategic Technology Reserve (STR)

4.2.2 State Agencies

4.2.3 Other Shared Resources

4.3 Standard Operating Procedures

4.4 Exercise and Training Plan

4.5 Usage



State Interoperable Communications Plan

5 Strategy

5.1 Interoperability Vision

5.2 Mission

5.3 Goals and Objectives

5.4 Interoperability Investments

5.5 National Incident Management System (NIMS)

Compliance

5.6 Review and Update Process

6 Implementation

7 Funding

8 SCIP and PSIC Criteria Reference

9 Close



State Interoperable Communications Plan

Appendix A: SEIC Info

Appendix B: AEM Agencies and Contact Information

Appendix C: County Governance Committees

Appendix D: SEIC Working Comm. / Commo POC

Appendix E: Meeting Minutes / List of SEIC Membership

Appendix F: Minutes / Attendee List 2nd SEIC Meeting

Appendix G: Minutes / Attendee SCIP Workshop

Appendix H: Minutes of AHSTF Meeting to Establish SEIC

Appendix I: NIMS Statewide Compliance Letter

Appendix J: MOU Agreement by Local Agencies

Glossary



PSIC Investments Review



State-Wide Communications Platform

Alabama will accomplish true state-wide interoperable communications among all emergency response agencies through a state-wide communications platform. At present, most state and local agencies operate on their own system and cannot effectively communicate with each other without a shared gateway. This new initiative will allow all agencies to communicate via mutual aid channels over a common system. It will also enhance the Wide Area Interoperability System (WAIS) by networking shared gateways in the state. This system will allow for a coordinated response from mutual aid recourses throughout the state. It will also ensure communications between responders and local/state emergency operations centers.



Wide Area Interoperability System (WAIS)

The Alabama Wide Area Interoperability System (WAIS) currently consists of eight (8) ACU-1000s (gateways) connected together over an IP Network. Each gateway can have up to twelve (12) local assets which can consist of radios, phones, cell phones or Network Extension Modules (NXM). The NXMs are the backbone of the Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) connection between the ACU-1000s. Each NXM is a potential link into the WAIS system utilizing the WAIS Controller Software. Personnel can cross-connect assets attached to their local gateway (local interoperability) as well as cross-connect assets from other gateways (wide area interoperability). Network Hubs can be added to create additional links that optimize the use of network resources. This system is being expanded to the nine (9) largest metropolitan areas in Alabama now and will be installed in other areas of the state within the next three (3) years. This mode of communication is a very effective method of connectivity between disparate frequency bands and creates an environment for interoperability.



Enhancement of a Strategic Technology Reserve (STR)

For the past three (3) years Alabama has invested in a strategic technology reserve. The strategic placement of eight (8) Regional Communications Vehicles and one (1) Mobile 9-1-1 vehicle ensures an immediate deployment in an emergency situation or major disaster. These interoperable communications assets are utilized to enhance communications infrastructure at the local or state level if they become overwhelmed, damaged or destroyed. Equipment utilized in these vehicles includes Land Mobile Radio Systems, gateways, cellular telephones and satellite-enabled equipment. Further enhancement of the STR will include a radio cache for each vehicle and mobile tower/repeater capabilities.



Enhancement of State, Regional and Local Governance Structures:

As identified in Alabama's TICP Scorecard last year, some regions have developed a fairly robust governance structure for the support of its communications interoperability. However, significant work is needed to achieve advanced implementation. This initiative will provide for planning, training and exercise support to further enhance the governance structure at the state, regional and local levels. A strong governance structure will foster tremendous growth in other areas of the interoperable continuum.



Virtual-Alabama Communications Layer

The Alabama Department of Homeland Security in cooperation with the Alabama Space Science Exhibit Commission (U.S. Space and Rocket Center) has developed a visualization platform utilizing Google Earth. This platform, an enterprise version of Google Earth, was purchased by the Alabama Department of Homeland Security. Virtual-Alabama is provided to state and local emergency response agencies free of charge. This IP based software is an innovation in communication and data gathering that will serve to bring all agencies together in one effort to supply a user with a vast amount of knowledge about all facets of the state to include communications assets and resources. The possible list of data overlays is endless. Virtual-Alabama will be used in conjunction with CASM to display a visual picture of interoperability and communications assets within the state.



Questions ?

Comments ?

