



**Homeland
Security**

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TO: All State Administrative Agency Heads
All State Administrative Agency Points of Contact
All State Homeland Security Directors

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SUBJECT: Tactical Interoperable Communications Scorecards

In a speech to attendees at the Tactical Interoperable Communications Conference on May 8, 2006, Secretary Chertoff announced, “[b]y the end of this year, each urban area is going to get a scorecard” that will “identify gaps and help us to determine the improvements we need to make [to communications interoperability] in the near term.” To provide input to urban/metropolitan areas on how to best improve their tactical interoperable communications capabilities, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Office of Grants and Training (G&T), in consultation with SAFECOM and the Wireless Management Office (WMO), developed scorecards for each area that submitted and exercised a Tactical Interoperable Communications Plan (TICP). DHS is providing this information to States and urban/metropolitan areas in anticipation of a public release early next year.

The goal of this effort is twofold. First, the scorecard provides an assessment of each urban/metropolitan area’s tactical interoperable communications maturity along three key elements of the Interoperability Continuum (Governance, Standard Operation Procedures, and Usage). This assessment can be used to identify interoperable communications goals that require additional focus in both near- and longer-term activities. Second, the scorecard provides recommendations on how to best enhance tactical interoperability with existing communications technologies in the near-term. These scorecards provide useful insights to achieve nationwide interoperability.

The assessments were documented over a six week time frame in which five panels of subject matter experts (SME) with backgrounds in public safety communications and operations reviewed TICP-related documents from the planning and exercise process. These included:

- The area’s TICP
- Results from the TICP peer review
- TICP validation exercise evaluations

- Validation exercise after-action reports and improvement plans
- Self-assessment follow up discussions between TICP points of contact and the SAFECOM Program

The area's scorecard is attached, along with definitions for the different levels of maturity. If you have comments please send them via e-mail to askcsid@dhs.gov. Submit your comments no later than December 28th at 5:00 PM EST. Should you need additional information or have further questions regarding your area's specific scorecard, please contact your Preparedness Officer or the Centralized Scheduling and Information Desk (CSID) at 1-800-368-6498.