



Note from the Director

By: Ron Hewitt, OEC Director

Welcome to Volume III, Issue IV, of the SAFECOM-National Council of Statewide Interoperability Coordinators (NCSWIC) Quarterly Newsletter. I hope everyone had a joyful holiday season and your new year is off to a great start. It was wonderful to see so many SAFECOM and NCSWIC members at the joint meetings this past November in Norman, Oklahoma. Since the meetings, the Office of Emergency Communications (OEC) has been working with the committees and working groups to continue making progress on key initiatives, some of which are detailed below. We appreciate all the feedback and participation during the in-person meetings and your continued effort to move these initiatives forward.

The National Governors Association (NGA), in partnership with OEC, conducted the Southeast Regional Workshop to “enhance public safety communications governance” from January 17-18, 2018, in New Orleans, Louisiana. The regional workshops are designed to promote the importance of an interoperability champion within each State or Territory, and to strengthen governance structures. During the NCSWIC meeting in Norman, we collected feedback from many of you and incorporated your suggestions into the agenda. Additionally, prior to the Southeast Workshop, NGA and OEC conducted planning calls with each participating state to understand their specific goals for the workshop and current state of emergency communications. This input was integral in finalizing the agenda to ensure the workshop would be beneficial for all attendees.

The States represented at the Southeast Workshop were Florida, Georgia, Kansas, Kentucky, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, and Tennessee. Participants found the state-focused

team times very useful. During these facilitated discussions, participants defined their current state, desired future state, and challenges in order to develop a tailored plan identifying short and long-term actions to improve their State’s emergency communications governance. Participants also indicated a key benefit of the workshop was learning from one another’s experiences. This dialogue allowed participants to leverage best practices from other States and identify potential pitfalls.



Director Ron Hewitt, OEC; Representative Tom Sloan, Kansas House of Representatives; and Tim Blute, NGA discuss considerations for developing actionable roadmaps for states to improve public safety communications and how to make their case to the state legislatures.

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About the Newsletter

The SAFECOM-NCSWIC Quarterly Newsletter is designed to be a source of information, news, and updates for SAFECOM, Statewide Interoperability Coordinators (SWICs), their staff, and members of the stakeholder community. We hope it will be a valuable resource as you lead future statewide planning efforts and implementation of the National Emergency Communications Plan (NECP).

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All States and Territories are strongly encouraged to attend one of the subsequent workshops:

- Southwest Workshop: Albuquerque, New Mexico (March 20–21)
- Northwest Workshop: Portland, Oregon (May 16–17)
- Northeast Workshop: Philadelphia, Pennsylvania (July 25–26)

For more information, please contact, Mark Grubb (Mark.Grubb@hq.dhs.gov).

The development process for the 2019 National Emergency Communications Plan (NECP) kicked-off during the joint SAFECOM and NCSWIC meeting in November. Attendees provided input on the current and future states of emergency communications. This information will serve as a starting point for the discussions we will have with ecosystem partners over the next several months to develop the 2019 NECP. We will continue to seek your feedback to help us articulate the vision for the future of emergency communications, identify the gaps and barriers to achieve that vision, and identify ways to address those gaps. Your efforts will help ensure the 2019 NECP provides critical information and guidance to those that plan for, coordinate, invest in, and use operable and interoperable communications for response and recovery operations. Please direct your interest in contributing to this important effort to OECNECP@hq.dhs.gov.

As we all know, there is a great deal of work for SAFECOM, NCSWIC, and OEC in the coming year as we support and enhance public safety emergency communications at all levels of government and across the nation. I am grateful for your partnership and dedication to this critical mission. Together, we are ensuring the Nation's Emergency Communications. ■



Note from the SAFECOM Chair

By: Chief Gerald Reardon, SAFECOM At-Large

Happy New Year! I hope the holiday season was happy and safe for all, and you have returned to 2018 ready to dive in to SAFECOM's busy agenda with both feet. Through fall and into winter, SAFECOM's initiatives have not slowed. In November 2017, SAFECOM met individually and jointly with NCSWIC in Norman, Oklahoma, where members participated in a number of engaging sessions, to include a panel on Hurricane Harvey response and recovery efforts and the first tribal panel with representatives from the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and the Nez Perce Tribe. Many thanks to SAFECOM members who presented or participated on panels during the SAFECOM meeting.

Topics covered SAFECOM's role in broadband and Project 25 (P25) standards and compliance, as well as the importance of cybersecurity in emergency communications. SAFECOM's 2017 election process concluded in Norman, with the election of Chris Lombard, InterAgency Board for Emergency Preparedness & Response, and Michael Murphy, SAFECOM At-Large (Baker, LA Police Department), as SAFECOM's newest Vice Chairs.

Another major task tackled during the November 2017 committee sessions was to identify SAFECOM's 2018 strategic priorities. These discussions led to the second annual SAFECOM Leadership Meeting in December 2017, where I met with the SAFECOM Vice Chairs, Committee Chairs, and Committee Vice Chairs to discuss SAFECOM's 2018 strategic goals and priorities, charting the way ahead for SAFECOM in 2018.

During this Leadership meeting, it was determined that with an ever-expanding scope, the formerly named COMU Working Group became the COMM Task Force. This action elevates the group to more effectively expand its focus from land mobile radio communications to include planning for the integration of data and broadband. You may have heard people refer to this initiative as "COMU 2.0." At the COMM Task Force meeting in Norman, members reviewed and discussed milestones on the Roadmap and agreed on additional communication functions to drive new positions. To operationalize the Roadmap for the year ahead, the COMM Task Force leadership team met in-person in December 2017 to conduct 2018 strategic planning and design performance metrics. The COMM Task Force also met in January 2018 in Los Angeles, California, to discuss the development of the IT Service Unit Leader (ITSL) Course, target audience, and essential functions. Members also reviewed and discussed position task books

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and position requirements. These efforts will lead to recommendations to the Federal Emergency Management Agency on integrating information technology and communications in the NIMS. If you would like to participate in this effort, please reach out to Wes Rogers (Wes.Rogers@hq.dhs.gov) for information on joining the group.

The SNS launched in October and will remain open until February 23, 2018. OEC needs our help to increase survey responses from all agencies with emergency communications responsibilities at all levels of government. Please complete the survey and share the survey link with appropriate distribution lists, response partners, and neighboring jurisdictions. I want to emphasize that this survey will not only provide funding guidance, but it will also strengthen the history of accomplishments achieved with previous Congressional funding. Please be cognizant of both our future needs, as well as how far we have collectively come due to the years of funding provided to public safety, and our diligent use of these funds to get us to where we are today. OEC is also planning several outreach efforts for early 2018 leading up to the survey deadline. Please contact the OEC offices at SAFECOMGovernance@hq.dhs.gov or NCSWICGovernance@hq.dhs.gov and someone will return your request with additional information on how you can help.

We had a multi-group, nationwide meeting regarding the T-Band issue at the Emergency Operations Center in Brooklyn, New York, in early December 2017, resulting in a consensus of talking points and a future meeting in Washington, DC, in mid-February. I believe this unified message from all public safety entities will be significant when presenting this issue to our collective congressional delegations.

We have yet another busy year ahead, filled with important priorities and products that will continue to provide value to our public safety community. We can only truly be 100% effective as a collaborative voice when we receive participation from all our SAFECOM members. I thank you all for your continued support! ■



Note from the NCSWIC Vice Chair

By: Joe Galvin, Illinois Statewide Interoperability Coordinator (SWIC)

I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season and a happy New Year! As it is the beginning of a new year, this is a great time for our organization to recognize and reflect upon the progress states have made over the last few years towards enhancing emergency communications interoperability. NCSWIC would not be what it is today without each SWIC participation and dedication to the NCSWIC community, and our success is the result of continued collaboration and sharing of best practices and lessons learned. Our main focus in 2018 remains continuing to advance the importance of SWICs as key leaders and advocates for statewide public safety communications by educating lawmakers,

policymakers, and stakeholders on the importance of supporting policies for public safety communications. I look forward to our continued collaboration and working with our Chair, Nikki Cassingham.

Thank you to everyone who attended the recent NCSWIC-SAFECOM meetings in Oklahoma. Key points from the meetings included discussions on the path forward for 2018, including priority areas such as the SNS, the 2019 NECP, COMU 2.0, and Next Generation 9-1-1 (NG 9-1-1). Discussions also included Emergency Management Assistance Compact Mission Ready Packages, and how SWICs can better balance land mobile radio and broadband responsibilities. The NCSWIC Executive Committee (EC) also met and approved Phase I of the *Emergency Communications Systems Lifecycle Guide* and the *Public Safety Communications Resiliency: Ten Keys to Obtaining a Resilient Local Access Network* document.

Upcoming in 2018, OEC and NCSWIC Leadership will continue to work closely together to enhance our relationship, expand the services, and improve the offerings available to the states and territories. Our first face-to-face leadership meeting is on January 24, 2018, in Virginia. I am encouraged by the interest expressed by OEC that we will develop a concrete plan, and I know with a common vision of all sides desiring to make a big impact on the SWIC community that 2018 will prove to be a year to remember.

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Additionally, the NGA is partnering with OEC to engage the nation’s senior state officials and emergency communications leaders to improve interoperability across all existing and emerging public safety communications systems. The NGA will host four regional workshops on the following dates:

- Southeast Workshop: January 17-18, 2018
- Southwest Workshop: March 20-21, 2018
- Northwest Workshop: May 16-17, 2018
- Northeast Workshop: July 25-26, 2018

Thanks again for your dedication to the NCSWIC organization. I encourage each of you to actively participate on one of the many NCSWIC committees or working groups this year and help drive at least one of the many work products and initiatives slated for development. I look forward to seeing how much we can accomplish over the next 12 months! ■

2018 Committee Schedule

	Committee	Meeting Dates
SAFECOM	Education and Outreach	Last Wednesday of every month at 2pm ET
	Governance	Second Wednesday of every month at 2pm ET
Joint	Technology Policy	Third Tuesday of every month at 3pm ET
	Funding and Sustainment	Third Wednesday of every month at 3pm ET
NCSWIC	Governance	Fourth Thursday of every month at 1:30pm ET
	Planning, Training, Exercises	Fourth Tuesday of every month at 3pm ET

2018 SAFECOM & NCSWIC Committee Leadership

NCSWIC Governance Committee:

Chair: Brad Stoddard

Vice Chair: Vacant

NCSWIC Planning, Training, and Exercise Committee:

Chair: John Miller

Vice Chair: Sue Krogman

SAFECOM Governance Committee:

Chair: Don Bowers

Vice Chair: Sheriff Paul Fitzgerald

SAFECOM Education and Outreach Committee:

Chair: Chris Lombard

Vice Chair: Mike Murphy

Joint Technology Policy Committee:

SAFECOM Chair: Chief Gerald Reardon

NCSWIC Chair: Joe Galvin

SAFECOM Vice Chair: Eddie Reyes

NCSWIC Vice Chair: Vacant

Joint Funding and Sustainment Committee:

SAFECOM Chair: Mel Maier

SAFECOM Vice Chair: Lloyd Mitchell

NCSWIC Chair: David Soloos

NCSWIC Vice Chair: Penny Rubow

Communications Section Task Force:

Chair: Chris Lombard

Vice Chair: Don Bowers

Upcoming SAFECOM and NCSWIC Meetings

Month	Day	Meeting
January	10-11	Communications Section (COMM) Task Force Communications Unit (COMU) Information Technology Service Unit Leader (ITSL) Workshop; Los Angeles, California
	23-24	Southwest Border Communications Working Group (SWBCWG) Meeting; Tucson, Arizona
	29	SAFECOM Nationwide Survey (SNS) Webinar
February	13	NCSWIC EC Conference Call
	22	SAFECOM EC Conference Call
March	20-21	COMM Task Force COMU ITSL Workshop; Houston, Texas

SAFECOM and NCSWIC November and December Executive Committee (EC) Meetings

The NCSWIC EC met on Wednesday, November 8, 2017:

- Members discussed the May and December 2018 in-person meetings, including potential venue locations, dates, and agenda topics
- Members discussed the benefits of the upcoming NGA Regional Workshops and the need for SWICs to participate in booth engagements at conferences to elevate the NCSWIC Program

The SAFECOM EC met on Wednesday, November 8, 2017:

- Approved the following documents:
 - [SAFECOM Membership Application for Associations](#)
 - [SAFECOM Membership Application for At-Large Members](#)
 - [SAFECOM Membership Advertisement](#)
- Discussed a proposal to add a P25 standing committee under SAFECOM's governance structure, with additional discussions to continue

The SAFECOM and NCSWIC ECs approved the following documents during the November 2017 meetings:

- Emergency Communications Systems Lifecycle Guide Phase I
- [Public Safety Communications Resiliency: Ten Keys to Obtaining a Resilient Local Access Network](#)

The NCSWIC EC met on Tuesday, December 12, 2017:

- Members received updates on OEC programs and initiatives from Director Ron Hewitt and updates on NCSWIC Committees and Working Groups from their respective Chairs
- Members discussed potential agenda topics for the upcoming January 24, 2018, NCSWIC EC in-person meeting

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The SAFECOM Leadership met on Wednesday, December 20, 2017:

- Reviewed and updated goals outlines in the *2017 SAFECOM Strategic Plan* for inclusions in the *2018 SAFECOM Strategic Plan*
- Discussed OEC's priorities as they relate to SAFECOM's initiatives
- Reviewed recommendations from the U.S. Governmental Accountability Office (GAO) Audit to expand local and tribal SAFECOM membership including the Governance Committee's efforts to develop a new application and announcement and seeking additional membership
- Determined further discussion is needed before a proposal to add a P25 Committee to SAFECOM's current governance structure is presented to the SAFECOM EC

Please contact the [SAFECOM Inbox](#) for more information on SAFECOM activities, and [NCSWIC Inbox](#) for more information on NCSWIC activities. ■

Meet the Stakeholders



Brian Howard

SAFECOM, *National Congress of American Indians (NCAI)*

Brian Howard is a Research and Policy Analyst with the American Indian Policy Institute (AIPI) at Arizona State University. He currently provides analyses of various infrastructure and sovereignty issues relevant to tribal communities, manages AIPI's Legislative and Administrative Policy Update tracking federal and Arizona state government actions affecting tribal communities, and is co-investigator for an AIPI tribal technology research project to collect data on telecommunications availability on tribal lands.

Brian also serves as the National Congress of American Indians' (NCAI) appointed representative to the Department of Homeland Security as a member of the SAFECOM EC and the First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet) Public Safety Advisory Committee (PSAC) where he represents tribal interests and relays tribal concerns regarding public safety communications issues on tribal lands. In his role as the NCAI appointed representative to the FirstNet PSAC, Brian also chairs its Tribal Working Group (TWG), comprised of regional representatives from tribal governments, organizations, and public safety/emergency management associations. Since assuming chairmanship of the FirstNet TWG in February 2017, Brian has led the group in developing tribal-specific recommendations regarding tribal public safety communications and the creation of a Tribal Consultation Policy, which was formally adopted by FirstNet in October 2017.

Prior to joining the AIPI team in November 2016, Brian served for over five years as a Legislative Associate with NCAI in Washington, DC. Working on behalf of American Indian and Alaska Native tribal governments across the U.S., Brian's work included advocating tribal policy initiatives in Congress, the Administration, and the White House on matters regarding telecommunications, government contracting, cultural protections (Sacred Places, Eagle Feather/Eagle Protections, The Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act), and mascot issues. Brian's work experience has included numerous DC-based research and policy internships in the federal government and non-profit sectors, as well as with the New Mexico House of Representatives and the Gila River Indian Community Council's Office.

Brian graduated from the University of New Mexico in 2009 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Native American Studies, focusing on Federal Indian Law and Policy, with a minor in Political Science. He is Akimel O'odham, Tohono O'odham, and Piipash, and an enrolled member of the Gila River Indian Community where he grew up in the Komatke District. ■

Brian can be reached at Bhoward.ak@gmail.com.



Melissa Nazzaro

NCSWIC, Massachusetts Statewide Interoperability Coordinator (SWIC)

Melissa Nazzaro was hired as the Massachusetts SWIC in October of 2017. Prior to holding the SWIC position, Melissa served as the Dispatch Director for the City of Springfield, Massachusetts (MA), managing police and fire civilian communications centers for the third largest city in the Commonwealth. Melissa was also the Vice Chair for the Massachusetts' Western Region Homeland Security Advisory Council and the Chair of the region's Interoperability Subcommittee. She has held a voting position with the Commonwealth's State Interoperability Executive Committee (SIEC) Executive Management Committee for over 10 years, where she worked on the development of policy and programs in support of interoperability in Massachusetts.

Prior to her tenure with the City of Springfield, Melissa was the Administrator for the City of Northampton, MA Public Safety Communications Center, having been promoted through the ranks from her initial position of Public Safety Dispatcher/911 Operator. Since her hire into the dispatch profession in 2000, Melissa has experienced the transition through three 911 systems in MA, most recently converting to a fully IP based NG911 system, deployed throughout 100% of the Commonwealth in 2016-2017.

Melissa is the proud mom to two high-spirited, outspoken, snuggle-bug sons, ages four and nine. She lives in rural western MA, closer to Albany, New York than Boston. She considers herself an export of New Jersey, where she was born and raised until attending college. Melissa attended Colgate University in central New York for two years, finally graduating from Mount Holyoke College in Massachusetts several years later. She then earned her Master's in Public Policy and Administration from UMASS Amherst. ■

Melissa can be reached at Melissa.Nazzaro@State.MA.US.



Charles (Charlie) Guddemi

NCSWIC, DC SWIC, District of Columbia's Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency (DCHSEMA)

Charlie Guddemi is the District of Columbia's Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency's (DCHSEMA) SWIC. He joined DCHSEMA in August of 2017. He is currently working on the Interoperability Communications Plans for the January 2018 Presidential State of the Union and the July 2018 Major League Baseball ALL STAR Game to be held at Nationals Park in Washington, D.C.

Charlie Guddemi comes to DCHSEMA after a 25 ½ year career with the United States Park Police. He worked in Field Offices in Washington, D.C., New York, and San Francisco and the National Park Service Northeast Regional Headquarters in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. During his career, he achieved the rank of Deputy Chief and served as the Commander of the Services Division. Previous duties included serving as Major of the Technical Services Branch and the ICON Protection Branch and Commander of the Special Events Unit and the Special Forces District. He also served as the Northeast Regional Law Enforcement Specialist. As a Lieutenant, he was assigned as the Station Commander for the Statue of Liberty and the Ellis Island Immigration Museum and served as the physical security specialist.

During his career, Charlie worked six Presidential Inaugurations, including serving as the principle planner and the National Special Security Event Executive Steering Committee member for the United States Park Police for the 2013 Inauguration. He was also responsible for overseeing the safe dedications of the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial and the American Veterans Disabled for Life Memorial.

Charlie has been a member of numerous working groups to include the DHS Science and Technology Directorate (S&T) for technology and equipment advancements, the whole of community working group for Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) and Non Traditional Aviation Threats (NTAT), the Transportation Security Lab (TSL), Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments Technology Committee and UAS working group, White House National Security Council UAS working group, Department of Defense's (DOD) Combatting Terrorism Technical Support Office (CTTSO) and Technical Support Working Group (TSWG),

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Preparedness Leadership Council-Explosives working group team lead, Advisory Board Member-Domestic Preparedness Journal, Advisory Board Member-Smithsonian National Conference on Cultural Property Protection and the TOUCHSTONE group (public/private partnership).

Charlie's professional memberships include ASIS International, International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP), Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association (FLEOA), and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) National Academy Association. He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology from the State University of New York at Albany and is a graduate of the 237th session of the FBI National Academy. ■

Charlie can be reached at Charles.Guddemi@dc.gov.

OEC ICTAP Branch Update

OEC Interoperable Communications Technical Assistance Program (ICTAP) is kicking off the FY2018 Technical Assistance (TA) and Statewide Interoperability Plan (SCIP) Workshop requests cycle. To support this annual event the ICTAP Branch has updated the [FY2018 TA/SCIP Guide](#) and it is currently available on the SAFECOM website on the Resources page.

Seeking Innovative, Passionate Individuals with Public Safety Experience

We are currently seeking additional at-large membership from experienced and cutting-edge public safety practitioners, representing state, local, territorial, and tribal managers, operators, and support-level personnel with a background in emerging public safety communications, cybersecurity, and information technology disciplines. Interested parties please visit <https://www.dhs.gov/safecom/membership> to submit an application today!

Project Responder 5: Meeting First Responder Communications Needs in an Ever-Changing Environment

In its current and fifth iteration in the Project Responder series, Project Responder 5 (PR5) describes 37 capability needs identified by emergency responders who participated in some of the nation's recent large-scale incidents. For more information on [Project Responder 5](#) and the Project Responder series, visit <https://www.dhs.gov/science-and-technology/frg-publications>.



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If you would like to contribute articles for future newsletters highlighting innovative practices in your state, territory, or represented association, please contact SAFECOMGovernance@hq.dhs.gov or NCSWICGovernance@hq.dhs.gov.