

Next Generation Incident Command System Operational Advancement



Science and Technology

ADDRESSING CAPABILITY GAPS

The goal of the Next Generation Incident Command System (NICS) Operational Advancement effort is to improve crisis management capabilities and communications across the Balkans region by establishing national expertise, while allowing participating nations to still work independently. This Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Science and Technology Directorate (S&T) program will enable the participating nations to acquire, deploy, and customize NICS to support the capacity-building of emergency response and crisis management throughout the region.

S&T, the NATO Science for Peace and Security Programme, and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology – Lincoln Laboratory (MIT-LL) will continue to work collaboratively with the countries of Bosnia & Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro, and North Macedonia to extend the productive and collaborative work accomplished in the previous five-year project into the operational phase of the NICS deployment.

MIT-LL will work with crisis management professionals to research, assess, and integrate new data sets, advanced analytics, and relevant technologies identified as critical to response efforts and decision support into the NICS system.

ASSESSMENT AND EVALUATION OF NICS FOR ENHANCED CRISIS MANAGEMENT

- Establish a baseline for pre-NICS operational conditions for disaster and emergency management information sharing.
- Identify key metrics that will be implemented for information sharing and use as a tool to improve performance for the NICS implementation and use.

THE IMPACT: OPERATIONAL APPLICATION

- The research will enable participating nations to acquire, adopt, deploy, and customize the NICS software platform to facilitate the rapid collection, analysis, and dissemination of critical information between military personnel, first responders, and civilians across borders and languages. It will also provide the ability to share maps, videos, and pictures in real time.

- NICS will facilitate real-time response to both natural and manmade disasters through increased capacity-building and collaboration throughout the region during emergency response and crisis management.

NICS Exercises and Highlights

 Sept 2017 Bosnia, EADRCC Exercise	 Sept 2021 EADRCC Consequence Management Exercise
 Sept 2018 North Macedonia, National TTX	 Oct 2019 Brcko District, Bosnia
 Oct 2018 Serbia, EADRCC Exercise	 Oct 2019 Montenegro, NICS LIVEX
 April 2019 Croatia, EU LIVEX	 July 2019 North Macedonia Digital Conference

Each exercise provided a new opportunity for advancing the system capabilities

UPCOMING MILESTONES

- Project Kickoff (Q1 FY24)
- Training of national NICS personnel
- NICS development and sustainment transition

PARTNERS

U.S. Air Force, Arlington, VA

- MIT-LL, Lexington, MA
- NATO Science for Peace and Security Programme
- Bosnia & Herzegovina
- Croatia
- Montenegro
- North Macedonia

