

# SAFECOM



## 2014 SAFECOM Annual Report

Chair: Steve Proctor  
Vice Chairs: Doug Aiken & Mark Grubb

June 2015

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## Introduction



As a result of the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks; SAFECOM was created as a Presidential E-Government Initiative to improve interoperability, allowing emergency responders to communicate effectively before, during, and after emergencies and disasters. Managed and administered by the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Office of Emergency Communications (OEC), SAFECOM is one of the first organizations to bring together elected and appointed officials, representatives from public safety associations, and emergency responders in the field to promote governance, best practices, and

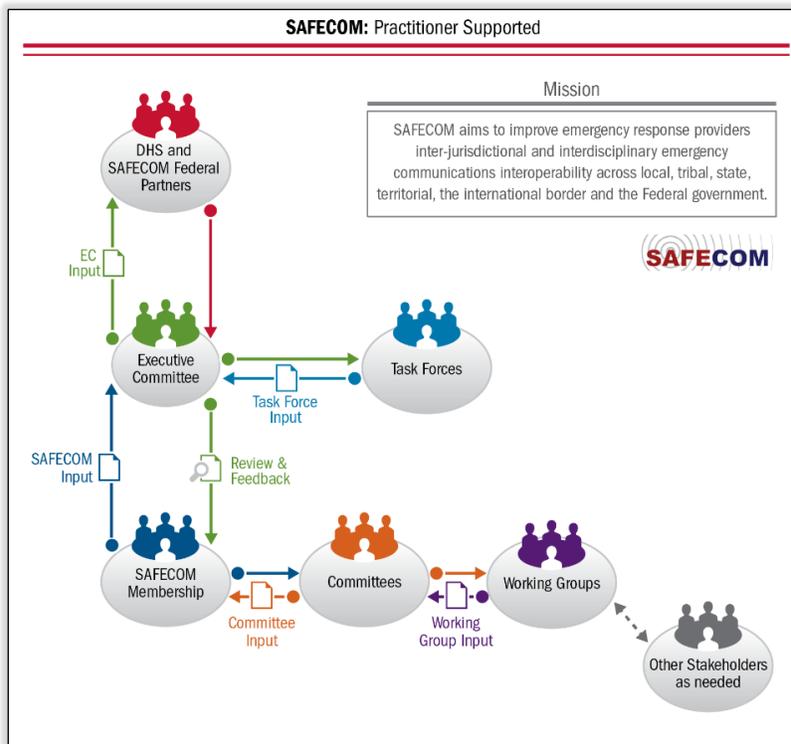
lessons learned related to emergency communications. SAFECOM's mission is to improve designated emergency response providers' inter-jurisdictional and interdisciplinary emergency communications interoperability through collaboration with emergency responders across tribal, territorial, local, state, and international borders, and the Federal Government. SAFECOM's membership includes over 65 members representing emergency response agencies across all levels of government, as well as major intergovernmental and national public safety associations.

This report provides a thorough overview of activities, products, and projects completed by SAFECOM members in 2014. Sections of the report review SAFECOM committee products and activities, in-person and web-based meeting outcomes, and association accomplishments. Committee products, such as webinar presentations and fact sheets, are available on the new SAFECOM [website](#), launched in February 2015, or you may contact [OEC@hq.dhs.gov](mailto:OEC@hq.dhs.gov) to obtain copies. In addition to work related to the four committees, SAFECOM members provided valuable feedback to the 2014 National Emergency Communications Plan (NECP), a comprehensive framework to help public safety officials plan for the deployment and use of wireless broadband, while also enhancing existing land mobile radio (LMR) systems necessary for mission critical voice.

## 2014 SAFECOM Committees

The SAFECOM program relies heavily on local and state emergency response stakeholders and policymakers across a diverse number of disciplines, jurisdictions, and levels of government for input and guidance as it works to define and implement interoperability solutions. To support this approach, SAFECOM developed a governance structure aimed at facilitating input from the Nation's leading public safety associations and government entities.

In December 2013, at the in-person SAFECOM meeting held at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center in Brunswick, Georgia, SAFECOM members identified strategic priorities for calendar year 2014, and voted to support four committees: Education and Outreach, Governance, Technology Policy, and Funding and Sustainment. Similar to previous years, SAFECOM and the National Council of Statewide Interoperability Coordinators (NCSWIC) collaborated on issues related to funding and sustainment, while the other three committees were solely organized by SAFECOM members. The Technology Policy Committee, although comprised of only SAFECOM members, also collaborated with NCSWIC's



**FIGURE 1: SAFECOM GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE**

Outreach Working Group on numerous products and initiatives. Figure 1 depicts the internal governance structure to which SAFECOM adheres, utilizing the four-committee structure, employing working groups and other stakeholders as needed, and delivering products for review by the entire SAFECOM membership, as well as by the Executive Committee (EC), DHS, and SAFECOM federal partners.

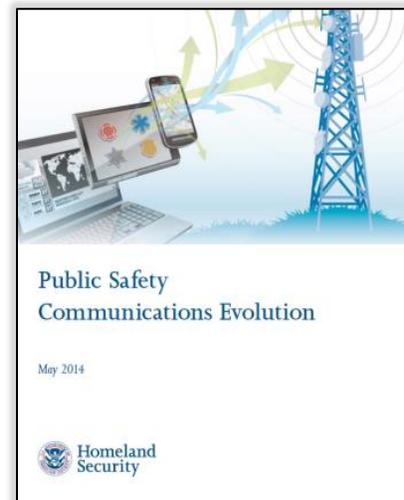
In 2014, SAFECOM members worked to enhance the coordination and capabilities of the public safety community through the development and facilitation of various goals and initiatives. DHS OEC solicited membership for the various committees and assisted members in achieving specific goals associated with each priority. OEC partnered with each of SAFECOM's committees to achieve prioritized goals, leverage expertise and harness knowledge within and external to the program, and share best practices and lessons learned across the groups. The following sections detail each committee's products and activities undertaken in 2014.

**Education and Outreach** – The Education and Outreach Committee focused on developing products to promote the role of SAFECOM and share information about the program to member organizations, associations, and stakeholders in the public safety community. In 2014, the committee developed and published the "Introduction to SAFECOM" presentation and drafted the SAFECOM Executive briefing (also known as the "Elevator Speech"), which are promotional tools for members to provide information and background on SAFECOM, its membership, past accomplishments, and current projects. Additionally, in coordination with the National Public Safety Telecommunications Council (NPSTC), SAFECOM developed a [100-second video](#) highlighting the work, membership, and accomplishments of SAFECOM. SAFECOM also developed and published monthly bulletins that provide quick snapshots of SAFECOM's committee activities and member association updates, and highlighted member associations

and organizations. The committee also audited the current SAFECOM website, providing recommendations and prioritizing resources for the new SAFECOM [website](#), which launched in February 2015.

**Governance** – Throughout 2014, the Governance Committee maintained the internal governance of SAFECOM by reviewing membership and maintaining attendance records. Additionally, the committee developed the 2013 SAFECOM Annual Summary Slick Sheet, detailing SAFECOM’s priorities and accomplishments; updated the SAFECOM Governance Charter; and revised the SAFECOM Strategic Plan. At the December 2014 in-person meeting in Norman, Oklahoma, SAFECOM members began developing the 2015 *Emergency Communications Governance Guide for State, Local, Tribal, and Territorial Officials* (2015 Governance Guide). The Governance Committee also began developing an annual SAFECOM membership award, honoring members’ contributions to the SAFECOM Program.

**Technology Policy** – The Technology Policy Committee worked on numerous products and activities in 2014 to promote the use of technologies, resources, and processes related to emergency communications and interoperability. The committee revised the *Public Safety Communications Evolution (PSCE) Brochure* (Figure 2) to account for changes in broadband deployment; developed and published the Broadband 101 presentation for use by stakeholders to educate non-public safety audiences on public safety broadband; developed an LMR Fact Sheet and hosted a webinar on April 4, 2014, to promote the continued use of LMR; developed a Project 25 position paper; and began development of *The T-Band Giveback: Implications for the Public Safety Community*, a fact sheet providing perspective on the T-Band spectrum giveback.



**FIGURE 2: PSCE BROCHURE**

**Funding and Sustainment** – Similar to previous years, the Funding and Sustainment Committee partnered with NCSWIC to determine innovative ways to identify, share, and sustain programs, systems, unique partnerships, and funding opportunities. In 2014, committee members assisted in the development of the SAFECOM Grant Guidance; developed and published a repository of funding opportunities for use by stakeholders; developed a the Statewide Interoperability Coordinators (SWIC) Success Stories promotional brochure; and produced a document on *Public Safety Communications Funding Mechanisms*. Members also hosted a session on grant guidance during the December 2014 in-person meeting in Norman, Oklahoma.

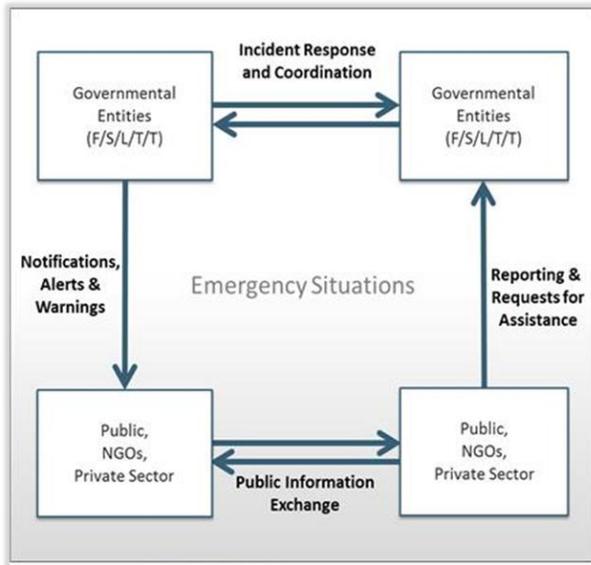
Table 1 on the following page provides a list of achievements for each of the working groups.

**TABLE 1: 2014 SAFECOM ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

COMMITTEE	ACCOMPLISHMENTS
<p><b>EDUCATION &amp; OUTREACH</b></p>	<p>Chair: Mark Grub; Vice Chair: Wes Rogers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Developed and published the Introduction to SAFECOM (“SAFECOM 101”) presentation</li> <li>✓ Drafted SAFECOM Executive Briefing (a.k.a “Elevator Speech”)</li> <li>✓ Developed and published the SAFECOM 100-second video</li> <li>✓ Audited the current SAFECOM website and developed the new version of the website</li> <li>✓ Evaluated the SAFECOM HSIN Community</li> <li>✓ Developed and published monthly bulletins</li> </ul>
<p><b>FUNDING &amp; SUSTAINMENT</b></p>	<p>Chair: Steve Proctor; Vice Chair: Tom Roche</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Provided input to the SAFECOM Grant Guidance</li> <li>✓ Developed and published a repository of public safety funding opportunities</li> <li>✓ Developed and published the Public Safety Communications Funding Mechanisms document</li> <li>✓ Developed and published the SWIC Success Stories promotional brochure</li> <li>✓ Hosted a Grant Guidance session at the December in-person meeting</li> </ul>
<p><b>GOVERNANCE</b></p>	<p>Chair: Doug Aiken; Vice Chair: Chris Lombard</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Maintained SAFECOM’s internal governance structure</li> <li>✓ Developed and published the 2013 SAFECOM Annual Summary slick sheet</li> <li>✓ Updated SAFECOM’s Governance Charter and Strategic Plan</li> <li>✓ Created the 2015 Governance Guide Working Group</li> </ul>
<p><b>TECHNOLOGY POLICY</b></p>	<p>Chair: Gerald Reardon; Vice Chair: <i>Vacant</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Revised PSCE brochure</li> <li>✓ Developed and published the Broadband 101 presentation</li> <li>✓ Developed a LMR fact sheet and hosted a LMR webinar</li> <li>✓ Developed and published the P25 position paper</li> </ul>

**June 2014 SAFECOM Meeting Overview**

On June 6, 2014, SAFECOM members met in Westminster, Colorado, to hear from subject matter experts on relevant emergency communications topics. Mark Hall, Communications Officer for the Rocky Mountain Fire District, provided a keynote address on best practices and lessons learned from responses to the 2013 Colorado fires and floods. According to Mr. Hall, the 2013 Colorado Flood response represented one of the most complex communications environments experienced in the State. Chief Gerald Reardon, City of Cambridge Fire Department, presented his account of emergency communications during the 2013 Boston Marathon Bombing and subsequent changes to practice and process in 2014. While the emergency response to the events of the bombings and aftermath were successful due to close collaboration, the Boston responders identified ways to improve their response systems.



**FIGURE 3: NECP EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS ECOSYSTEM**

Dusty Rhoads, OEC Partnerships Branch Chief, presented on the importance of communicating across emergency communications governance bodies. Despite having similar missions, many states and territories maintain separate governance structures for LMR, broadband, and 9-1-1 capabilities. However, the Emergency Communications Ecosystem<sup>1</sup> (Figure 3) is becoming increasingly complex (i.e., the influx of new and emerging technologies and processes), and requires additional collaboration of governance structures across states and territories. A once straightforward process, the flow of emergency communications and information is becoming increasingly complex as broadband and Next Generation 9-1-1 capabilities are introduced into these systems.

SAFECOM committee members also provided updates and facilitated discussions on accomplishments and upcoming projects initiated by the 2014 committees. OEC leadership and federal partners shared a number of updates on federal programs impacting emergency communications, including the 2014 NECP, grants information, and relevant activities and initiatives by others in the emergency communications community. John Merrill, Deputy Director for the DHS Office for Interoperability and Compatibility (OIC), noted that OIC works closely with SAFECOM and NPSTC to collect requirements for voice and data communications research and development needs. Sample projects in this area include a partnership with the Public Safety Communications Research (PSCR) Program to inform First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet) efforts to implement a Nationwide Public Safety Broadband Network (NPSBN), device hardening (e.g., ruggedized smartphone jacket), and the Wireless Broadband Technology Demonstrator project. John noted that bridging the LMR and long-term evolution (LTE) environments would help federal, state, and local first responders identify solutions that may be leveraged as FirstNet develops the NPSBN.

## December 2014 Joint SAFECOM-NCSWIC Meeting Overview

SAFECOM convened with NCSWIC in December 2014, for the 5th semi-annual Joint Meeting at the National Center for Employee Development in Norman, Oklahoma. Fifty-one SAFECOM members attended, representing 44 associations and organizations. Joint in-person meetings serve as the primary venue for SAFECOM and NCSWIC members to share and solicit input from represented associations and to discuss how national guidance on emergency communications will be organized and applied throughout the country.

<sup>1</sup> The Emergency Communications Ecosystem is a framework, defined and developed by the Department of Homeland Security Office of Emergency Communications, illustrating the complex nature of interactions among the public sphere, the private industry, and citizens as a result of planning for and responding to emergencies and large-scale disasters.

OEC Deputy Director, Chris Essid, began the meeting with a moment of silence in memory of Gregg Riddle and Bill McCammon, two members of the public safety community who passed away in 2014. The joint meeting focused on the implementation of the 2014 NECP and the emergency communications ecosystem. Table 2, page 8 displays session topics highlighting interactions or technologies within various segments of the ecosystem:

**TABLE 2: DECEMBER 2014 JOINT SAFECOM-NCSWIC ECOSYSTEM SESSION**

ECOSYSTEM SEGMENT	MEETING SESSION
Government→Government	Laurie Flaherty, Department of Transportation, and Roberto Mussenden, Federal Communications Commission (FCC), discussed NG 9-1-1
Government→Citizen	Antwane Johnson, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), discussed the Integrated Public Alerts & Warnings System
Citizen→Citizen	Heather Kowalski, OEC, discussed Priority Telecommunications Services
Citizen→Government	Roberto Mussenden, FCC, provided an update on the FCC Interoperability Rule

Additionally, members of the local public safety community discussed response efforts to the 2013 Moore, Oklahoma, tornado. Members also received an update on the development of the *Emergency Communications Governance Guide for State, Local, Tribal, and Territorial Officials (2015 Governance Guide)*, which will utilize the Ecosystem and the NECP to improve emergency communications across state, local, tribal, and territorial governments. During the SAFECOM meeting, members heard from community experts, including Dan Cotter, DHS OIC, on new DHS Science and Technologies’ (S&T) goals, and Tracy McElvaney, PSCR, on progress made towards major research projects in 2014. SAFECOM committee members provided updates and facilitated discussions on work products and activities initiated by the 2014 committees and discussed future work products for 2015 through 2016.

**2014 SAFECOM Meeting Dates**

*In 2014, the SAFECOM Executive Committee (EC) participated in a number of teleconferences and in-person meetings. During these meetings, the group discussed recent federal program updates, announcements related to working group activities, and approved multiple committee work products.*

*The SAFECOM EC met on the following dates:*

- *January 9, 2014 – Conference Call*
- *February 6, 2014 – In –Person, Boulder, Colorado*
- *March 6, 2014 – Conference Call*
- *April 3, 2014 – Conference Call*
- *June 2-6, 2014 – Joint In-Person, Westminster, Colorado*
- *June 12, 2014 – Conference Call*
- *July 8, 2014 – Conference Call*
- *August 7, 2014 – In-Person, New Orleans, Louisiana*
- *September 4, 2014 – Conference Call*
- *October 2, 2014 – Conference Call*
- *November 6, 2014 – Conference Call*
- *December 3-4, 2014 – Joint In-Person, Norman, Oklahoma*

## SAFECOM Representation

### SAFECOM EC

- Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials International
- International Association of Chiefs of Police
- International Association of Fire Chiefs
- Major Cities Chiefs Association
- Metropolitan Fire Chiefs Association
- National Association of Counties
- National Association of State EMS Officials
- National Congress of American Indians
- National Council of Statewide Interoperability Coordinators
- National EMS Management Association
- National Governors Association
- National League of Cities
- National Public Safety Telecommunications Council
- National Sheriffs' Association
- US Conference of Mayors
- Public Safety At-Large Member: *Utah Communications Authority*
- Public Safety At-Large Member: *City of Cambridge, Massachusetts, Fire Department*

### SAFECOM Member Associations

- American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials
- American Public Works Association
- Forestry Conservation Communications Association
- Interagency Board
- International Association of Emergency Managers
- International Municipal Signal Association
- Major County Sheriffs' Association
- National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians
- National Association of Regional Councils
- National Association of State 9-1-1 Administrators
- National Association of State Chief Information Officers
- National Association of State Technology Directors
- National Association of Telecommunications Officers and Advisors
- National Criminal Justice Association
- National Emergency Management Association

### Member Accomplishment Spotlight

#### NATIONAL PUBLIC SAFETY

#### TELECOMMUNICATIONS COUNCIL (NPSTC):

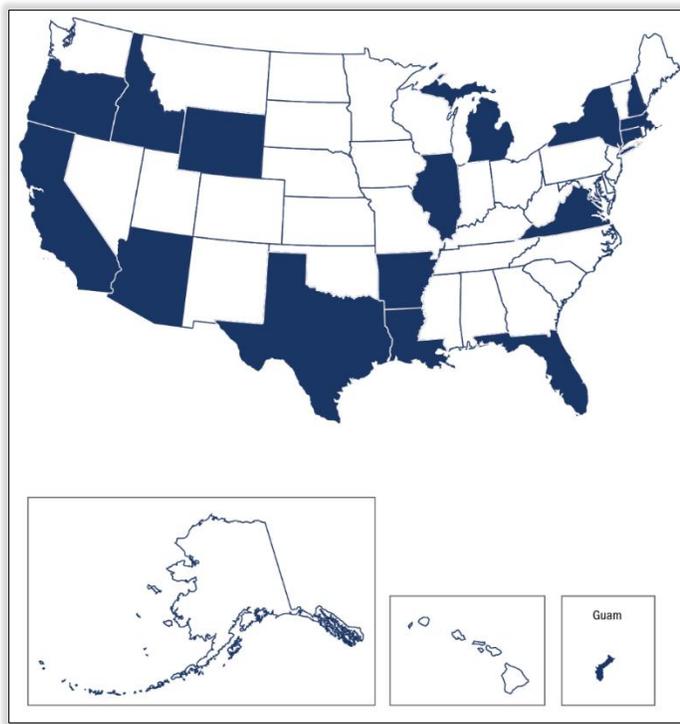
- ✓ Developed public safety requirements documents for FirstNet to inform the building of the NPSBN and published two of these reports—*Defining Public Safety Grade Systems and Facilities* and *Public Safety Broadband Console Requirements*
- ✓ Stood up a new *LTE Deployable Assets Working Group* to study the use of deployable LTE assets that may be set up within or along national and jurisdictional borders. NPSTC also reactivated the *Local Control and Priority and Quality of Service Working Groups* in 2014 at the request of FirstNet
- ✓ Stood up the *Radio Interoperability Best Practices Working Group* to develop a set of best practices for radio programming, to include programming guidelines, verification, testing, and training
- ✓ NPSTC and the Canadian Interoperability Technology Interest Group (CITIG) have completed an extensive white paper explaining the challenges and potential solutions of cross border communications between the U.S. and Canada, including technology and spectrum issues, government treaties and laws, and an appendix with many resources
- ✓ The *Radio Programming Compatible Requirements Working Group* completed a Radio Programming and Management Tool, which utilizes a spreadsheet to capture specific P25 radio programming data fields. In July 2014, Version 3 of the spreadsheet was released, which includes updated manufacturer information and National Interoperability Field Operations Guide (NIFOG) data

- National Emergency Number Association
- SEARCH, National Consortium for Justice Information and Statistics

## **SAFECOM Public Safety At-Large Members**

The following graphic illustrates the 2014 SAFECOM At-Large membership and reflects membership as of July 2014. All at-large members represent a relevant discipline within the Public Safety Community:

- Police
  - Commissioned Officer, Many, Louisiana Police Department
  - Police Captain, Miami-Dade Police Department (Florida)
  - Assistant Communications Systems Manager, San Diego Sheriff Department (California)
  - Director, Willamette Valley 9-1-1 Dispatch Office (Oregon)
- Fire
  - Battalion Chief, Lieutenant Operations; Fairfax County Fire and Rescue (Virginia)
  - Incident Communications Commander, Fire Department New York
- Fire Chief, Merrionette Park Fire Department (Illinois)
- Emergency Medical Services (EMS)
  - Emergency Services Dispatcher I, Ulster County 9-1-1 Emergency Communications (New York)
- Communications Coordination, Michigan Department of Community Health, EMS, and Trauma
- Statewide Interoperability Coordinators
  - Guam
  - Wyoming
- NYS Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Services (New York)
- Chief of Communications, New Hampshire Department of Resources and Economic Development
- Emergency Manager, Port of Houston Authority (Texas)
- Interoperability Coordinator, Monroe County, New York
- Program Manager, Arkansas Wireless Information Network (Arkansas)
- Emergency Telecommunications Manager, Office of Statewide Emergency Telecommunications (Connecticut)
- Arizona State Forestry, Communications Coordination (Arizona)



**FIGURE 4: 2014 SAFECOM AT-LARGE MEMBERSHIP, JULY 2014**

## Member Spotlight

### **NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE TECHNOLOGY DIRECTORS (NASTD):**

- ✓ The association brought together nearly 600 public and private sector IT professionals at five learning, collaborating, and networking events held throughout the country
- ✓ More than 1,600 member representatives generated 638 public messages and 402 new discussion threads using the NASTD community website
- ✓ NASTD conducted more than 48 regional discussion calls and informational webinars
- ✓ Readership increased for eMonitor (NASTD's weekly regulatory and policy newsletter) and Gateway (the association's monthly general newsletter)
- ✓ Social media participation (LinkedIn, Twitter and Facebook) continued to grow
- ✓ The NASTD website experienced more than 21,500 website sessions; 42.5% of these were from new visitors
- ✓ NASTD experienced net new membership growth

### **SAFECOM Federal Agency Members<sup>2</sup>**

- Department of Agriculture
- Department of Commerce<sup>+</sup>
- Department of Homeland Security<sup>+</sup>
- Department of the Interior
- Department of Justice<sup>+</sup>
- Department of Transportation
- Federal Communications Commission
- Department of Treasury

### **2014 SAFECOM EC Elections**

In accordance with the SAFECOM Governance Charter, an annual election was held at the December 2014 SAFECOM EC meeting to elect a chair and vice chair(s). The EC voted to elect:

- Chair: Steve Proctor (Public Safety At-Large – Utah Communications Authority)
- Vice Chair: Doug Aiken (NPSTC)
- Vice Chair: Mark Grubb (NCSWIC)

### **Technical Assistance: 2014 Review**

In 2014, OEC's TA Branch continued to support states and territories in their efforts to enhance emergency communications capabilities and preparedness. TA support included onsite training, assisting special events and exercises, and statewide planning workshops and support services. Provided at no cost and tailored to stakeholder needs, the services and resources are designed to support states in advancing interoperable communications nationwide.

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<sup>2</sup> + Denotes SAFECOM EC non-voting member

- TA Engagements:** In 2014, OEC's Interoperable Communications Technical Assistance Program (ICTAP) completed 219 TA engagements. The top five offerings requested during the year included: the Broadband (BB) suite of workshops; Communications Unit Leader Exercise (COMLEX) support; Auxiliary Communications (AUXCOMM) training and support, Communications Unit Leader (COML) training; and Communications Unit Technician (COMT) support. ICTAP also began promoting the Communications Unit Exercise (COMMEX) Train-the-Trainer program, which helps states conduct their own communications exercises using ICTAP procedures and materials. ICTAP extended its training to federal partners, who work closely with the emergency communications community during activations. Ten federal courses were executed in 2014, and three additional courses were conducted that had a combination of federal and state students.
- Support for Communications Exercises:** OEC supported several types of communications-focused exercises. These included COMLEXs, COMMEXs, tabletop exercises, functional exercises, and support to a federal full-scale exercise. In 2014, ICTAP trained 393 students in the COMLEX and COMMEX exercises.
- Public Safety Tools Web Site:** OEC made major improvements to the Public Safety Tools ([publicsafetytools.info](http://publicsafetytools.info)) website in 2014. These included new features to the Communication Assets Survey Mapping (CASM) Next Generation (NextGen) tool. During 2014, CASM NextGen had 273 new users, over 8,000 logins, and almost 55,000 new data updates.
- National Interoperability Field Operations Guides (NIFOGs):** In 2014, OEC distributed 17,439 copies of NIFOG version 1.5.
- SWIC Reference Guides:** In 2014, OEC developed customized data guides, *Statewide Interoperable Communications Reference Guides*, as tools for SWICs providing visibility about the SWIC position and a high-level overview of emergency communications for each state and territory. OEC provided guides to all 56 states and territories. OEC will continue to coordinate updates with each SWIC to ensure their accuracy.

### DHS/OEC TA by the Numbers

- 219 TA Engagements Completed
- 393 Exercise Students
- 273 New Public Safety Tools Users
- 8,000 CASM Logins
- 17,439 NIFOGs Distributed
- 56 SWIC Reference Guides Provided
- 47 SCIP Workshops Conducted

### *SCIP Program Update*

The SCIP is a critical tool for states and territories to enhance interoperable and emergency communications capabilities. In 2014, OEC continued to provide support and services in the form of facilitated workshops, streamlined reporting, and innovative tools.

In 2014, OEC conducted 20 SCIP Revision Workshops to support states and territories in revising their SCIPs to account for voice and data communications over the next two to five years. Each state and territory outlined its priorities via goals and initiatives, determined a method to achieve and track progress, and outlined a process to report accomplishments. The SCIP Program worked closely with stakeholders to support the finalization and approval of each SCIP following the workshops. In 2015, OEC will coordinate with states and territories to schedule a workshop if they have not already completed one.

- Annual SCIP Snapshot and eSCIP Tool:** In 2014, OEC provided tools to support SCIP implementation to streamline the annual reporting process. The Annual SCIP Snapshot and eSCIP tools are both available [online](#) to provide tracking capability for SWICs to monitor the progress made on goals developed during workshop discussions.

## Policy & Planning: 2014 Review

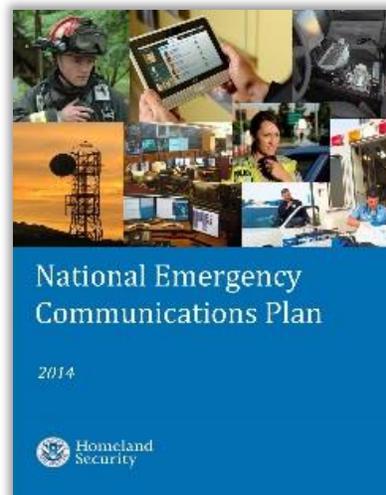
### 2014 NECP

In the 2014 NECP opening letter, DHS Secretary Jeh Johnson states, “The first [NECP], published in 2008, was a tremendous success thanks to cross-stakeholder engagement and partnerships.” SAFECOM’s support and contributions during NECP development are a reflection of the Secretary’s sentiment. On November 12, 2014, DHS officially published OEC’s cornerstone initiative – the updated NECP. This milestone was announced via an official DHS [blog post](#) titled, “2014 National Emergency Communications Plan Sets Path for 21st Century Public Safety Communications.” As the first public notification, the blog postmarked the official NECP release and national rollout.

OEC applied a bottom-up, stakeholder-driven approach to NECP development. In doing so, all major public safety and emergency communications partnership and advisory groups, including SAFECOM and NCSWIC, participated in opportunities to provide critical feedback. As a result, stakeholder engagements totaled over 30 working sessions (e.g., in-person meetings, webinars, conference calls) involving more than 350 emergency communications representatives at the federal, state, local, tribal, and territorial levels as well as academia and industry. OEC’s extensive outreach effort to stakeholders captured a broad range of perspective and inputs. All feedback served as key insight directly shaping NECP concepts and framework. Accordingly, the 2014 NECP was developed as a plan for the nation, and it focuses on three stakeholder-driven priorities over the next several years: (1) identify areas for improvement in Land Mobile Radio (LMR) systems; (2) ensure preparation for adoption and use of broadband technologies, including the National Public Safety Broadband Network (NPSBN); and (3) enhance coordination across the emergency response community.

Since public release of the NECP, OEC has initiated a national rollout effort. The strategy aims to generate broad awareness of the 2014 NECP, educate stakeholders on the updated plan, and establish a foundation of support for implementation. Such efforts include the December 2014, joint SAFECOM and NCSWIC meeting in Norman, Oklahoma, which provided a forum to discuss public safety issues, NECP implementation, and the new emergency communications ecosystem. OEC has also provided NECP-related briefings at various other meetings and conferences. Collaboration with partnership groups, such as SAFECOM and NCSWIC, has helped to allow news of the NECP release to reach stakeholders across the nation.

To view or download an electronic copy of the 2014 NECP, a summary fact sheet, or a brochure, please visit the [NECP website](#). For NECP inquiries, please contact Eric Runnels, OEC’s National Planning Chief at [OECNECP@hq.dhs.gov](mailto:OECNECP@hq.dhs.gov).



**FIGURE 5: 2014 NECP**

### SAFECOM Guidance

The *Fiscal Year (FY) 2014 SAFECOM Guidance on Emergency Communications Grants (SAFECOM Guidance)* was released in March 2014 in anticipation of FY 2014 grants Funding Opportunity Announcements. The *SAFECOM Guidance* details current information on emergency communications policies, eligible costs, best practices, and technical standards for state, local, tribal, and territorial grantees investing Federal funds in emergency communications projects. Most notably, the *SAFECOM Guidance* reflects the updated 2014 NECP. Beginning in FY 2014, grantees receiving emergency communications funding through the DHS grants are required to comply with the *SAFECOM Guidance*.

## **9-1-1**

OEC completed the 9-1-1 Governance and Planning Case Study, which examined the governance, planning, and funding challenges that states are facing regarding 9-1-1. The case study made a number of recommendations for OEC to improve coordination between 9-1-1 entities and other federal, state, and local public safety organizations. OEC also established the Federal 9-1-1 Focus Group under the Emergency Communications Preparedness Center. The focus group is planning to improve coordination between federal agencies regarding 9-1-1 policies.

### **Year Ahead: Collaborative Efforts in 2015**

Each of the committees outlined a number of proposed initiatives to be undertaken in 2015, ranging from the creation of a suite of outreach documents, such as the Education & Outreach Committee's development of a SAFECOM executive briefing, to the development of best practice guidance documents, such as the Funding Sustainment Committee's best practices for funding and sustaining emergency communications systems.

#### **Education and Outreach Committee**

- Finalize the SAFECOM executive briefing
- Assist in the development, launch and update of the SAFECOM website
- Distribute a survey to map current public safety broadband efforts and analyze results
- Create an engagement plan to improve membership outreach to member associations/organizations, and other stakeholder communities
- Draft and distribute SAFECOM Communications products, such as a joint quarterly newsletter with NCSWIC, monthly bulletin, and an article for the APCO newsletter
- Review existing SAFECOM outreach products (fact sheet, SAFECOM 101) for necessary updates
- Establish a working group to address Communications Leader/Communications Technicians stakeholder concerns and the Technology Policy Committee will provide technical recommendations for these initiatives

#### **Governance Committee**

- Develop the 2014 SAFECOM Annual Report
- Develop the 2015 SAFECOM Strategic Plan
- Through the Membership Working Group, continue to develop criteria for the SAFECOM Membership Award
- Review the SAFECOM EC structure
- Continue maintenance of SAFECOM's internal governance structure (e.g., review membership, maintain attendance records, maintain SAFECOM Quick Reference Guide, draft amendments to the SAFECOM Charter)
- Through the Governance Guide Working Group, continue to develop the Emergency Communications Governance Guide for state, Local, Territorial, and Tribal Officials
- Conduct a sample Memorandum of Understandings/Standard Operating Procedures effort

## **Technology Policy Committee**

- Develop a cyber-security terminology glossary for public safety
- Develop a best practices guide for public safety agencies to interact with vendors and to ensure cyber security is integrated with software and equipment infrastructure purchases
- Develop a high-level factsheet for public safety to further understand cyber security issues in their field
- Identify potential member(s) to represent the railroad community at SAFECOM meetings and events

## **Funding and Sustainment Committee**

- Identify and assess issues affecting emergency communications funding
- Provide input on SAFECOM funding priorities
- Identify and share best practices for funding and sustaining emergency communications systems
- Provide webinars on the Grant Life Cycle, System Life Cycle Planning, and User Fees
- Develop state summaries of emergency communications projects, issues, and funding
- Continue to track the FCC task force working groups, pertaining to funding for NG 9-1-1

**For questions regarding the SAFECOM program, please contact**  
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