

August 2017 Monthly Bulletin

SAFECOM Spotlight: National Congress of American Indians (NCAI)

NCAI was established in 1944 in response to the termination and assimilation policies the United States government forced upon tribal governments in contradiction of their treaty rights and status as sovereign nations. To this day, protecting these inherent and legal rights remains the primary focus of NCAI. The NCAI strives to secure traditional laws, cultures, and ways of life as well as promote a common understanding of the rightful place of tribes in the family of American governments. The NCAI's work has greatly improved the quality of life for Native people and communities.

Representative: Brian Howard*

*SAFECOM Executive Committee (EC) Representative

Below is a snapshot of the work products and initiatives currently being developed by SAFECOM's four committees.

Education and Outreach

- ▶ August 2, 2017, Education and Outreach In-Person Meeting; Glynco, Georgia
 - Updated the SAFECOM Elevator Speech
 - Began drafting the SAFECOM Interoperability Video storyboard
 - Reviewed the SAFECOM Demographics Survey data, identified significant data points, and established a timeline for completing the SAFECOM Membership Fact Sheet
 - Began developing the Succession Planning: Bridging the Gap Guide
 - Toured the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (FLETC) Media Center
- ▶ August 23, 2017, Education and Outreach Conference Call
 - Received updates on the evolution brochure graphic
 - Reviewed and discussed the timeline graphic
 - Reviewed the committee election timeline
 - Discussed agenda topics for the November 7, 2017 In-Person Meeting in Norman, Oklahoma
 - Next Meeting: Wednesday, September 27, 2017, at 2:00 PM ET

Communications Unit (COMU) Working Group

- ▶ August 17-18, 2017, COMU Working Group In-Person Meeting; Lakewood, CO
 - Identified key issues and goals for improving COMU
 - Reviewed the Technical Assistance Communications Offerings
 - Listened to a presentation on the next All-Hazards Incident Management Teams Association (AHIMTA) annual training and education symposium
 - Established two Sub-Groups to champion identifying key issues and goals
 - Developed the draft for COMU 2.0 Roadmap
 - Next Meeting: Monday, September 11, 2017, at 2:00 PM ET
- ▶ August 28, 2017, Sub-Group two (2) Conference Call
 - Reviewed the Office of Emergency Communications (OEC) Recognized Instructor Requirements document
 - Reviewed the Communications Unit Leader (COML) Course Update document
 - Reviewed the Instructor Workshop Proposal

- ▶ August 29, 2017, Sub-Group one (1) Conference Call
 - Discussed the vision for COMU governance
 - Discussed the development of a Nationwide Federated Model for COMU
 - Discussed credentialing and certification
 - Discussed stakeholder engagement

Joint SAFECOM & NCSWIC Funding and Sustainment

- ▶ August 23, 2017, Funding and Sustainment Conference Call
 - Received a briefing on the *List of Fiscal Year 2017 Emergency Communications Federal Funding Opportunities*. The list has been posted on the SAFECOM website at: <https://www.dhs.gov/safecom/funding>
 - Reviewed and approved the Implementation section of Lifecycle Guide
 - Discussed and examined Survey findings and results from the Lifecycle Survey administered during the May 2017 In-Person Meeting. Survey results will be featured in the Maintenance Section of the Lifecycle Guide
 - Agreed on next steps for the Lifecycle Guide:
 - Phase I sections will be presented to the SAFECOM and NCSWIC membership in a webinar on September 25, 2017; comments will be accepted; final version of Phase I sections will be presented to the SAFECOM and NCSWIC ECs for review and approval at the November 8, 2017 EC In-Person Meeting
 - Phase II sections will be developed and reviewed at the November 7, 2017 Funding and Sustainment Committee In-Person Meeting
 - Requested Product Champions for Lifecycle Guide Sections
- ▶ Next Meeting: September 20, 2017, at 3:00 PM ET
- ▶ Life Cycle Planning Guide Webinar: September 25, 2017, at 2:00 PM ET

Joint SAFECOM & NCSWIC Technology Policy

- ▶ August 1, 2017, Technical Policy (TP) Committee Meeting
 - Received updates from the Federal Partnership for Interoperable Communications (FPIC)
 - Received updates from the Identity, Credential, and Access Management (ICAM) Working Group
 - Heard from the Federal Lead of the Next Generation (NG) 911 Working Group
 - Continued discussions on committee work products such as the Public Safety Grade White Paper and Request for Proposal (RFP) Best Practices for Subscriber Units
- ▶ Agreed to focus on RFP Best Practices for Subscriber Units in preparation for the November 7, 2017 In-Person Committee Meeting
- ▶ Next Meeting: September 19, 2017, at 3:00 PM ET (Tentative)

Identity, Credentialing, and Access Management (ICAM) Working Group

- ▶ The ICAM WG is focused on creating discipline-specific education and outreach materials for fire, law enforcement, EMS, 911, and emergency management
- ▶ ICAM WG members were asked to consider ICAM challenges and impacts for their respective disciplines prior to the next WG meeting
- ▶ Next Meeting: TBD

Next Generation (NG) 911 Working Group

- ▶ August 28, 2017, NG 911 Working Group held its kick off meeting
- ▶ The NG 911 Working Group will be chaired by Mr. Mark Buchholz, Director Willamette Valley (Oregon) 911 Communications Center, and vice chaired by Ms. Jennifer Kirkland, Operations Support Supervisor Vail Public Safety Communications Center
- ▶ Agreed to compile a document surveying the various NG 911 activities among SAFECOM member organizations
- ▶ Next Meeting: Late September 2017

Governance

- ▶ The Membership Working Group continues to identify SAFECOM's membership needs and develop criteria candidates should meet to fill those needs
- ▶ The State Governance Review Working Group continues to develop the *SAFECOM Recommended Guidelines for Statewide Public Safety Communications Governance Structure*
- ▶ The Governance Committee continues to develop a new process by which all SAFECOM members will have an opportunity to review all SAFECOM products and materials prior to final approval
- ▶ The opening of the 2017 SAFECOM Elections for the Education & Outreach Committee and the Funding & Sustainment Committee Chairs and Vice Chairs, two SAFECOM Executive Committee At-Large positions, and SAFECOM Vice Chair will be announced soon. The Technology Policy Committee will also vote on a Vice Chair. ▶ Next Meeting: September 13, 2017, at 2:00 PM ET

SAFECOM Association Highlights and Current Events

- ▶ Following Fiscal Year 2017 (FY 2017) appropriations, the Emergency Communications Preparedness Center (ECPC) Grants Focus Group (GFG) worked with federal granting agencies to update the FY 2017 List of Federal Financial Assistance Programs Funding for Emergency Communications Opportunities. The list includes program descriptions, available funding amounts, application deadlines, and links to federal agency websites for additional information. ECPC will continue to maintain and update the list throughout the year. The updated 2017 list has been posted to the SAFECOM website. Below are some of the new programs featured in the list:
 - Border, Trade, and Immigration Homeland Security Research, which will fund projects to address research related to innovative solutions and educational materials to enhance the Nation's ability to secure borders

State Fire Training Systems, which will provide direct training assistance to states to help bridge training and competency gaps within the Nation's fire and emergency response community. **Check out SAFECOM's blog to stay informed about SAFECOM's achievements, product development, community outreach and updates from OEC:**

www.dhs.gov/safecom/blog

For more information or questions related to SAFECOM, please contact your association's SAFECOM representative or SAFECOMGovernance@hq.dhs.gov