

SAFECOM

November Monthly Bulletin

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

SAFECOM Association Spotlight: National Association of State Chief Information Officers

NASCIO provides state CIOs and state members with products and services designed to support the challenging role of the state CIO, stimulate the exchange of information and promote the adoption of IT best practices and innovations.

Education and Outreach

- ▶ The Education and Outreach Committee's Communications Unit (COMU) Working Group presented to SAFECOM and the National Council of Statewide Interoperability Coordinators (NCSWIC) at the November Joint Meeting on COMU/Communications Unit Leader (COML) related issues, and received feedback to further explore improving the awareness for and logistics of a COMU. Anyone interested in joining the Working Group should contact either [Mark Grubb](#) or [Chris Lombard](#).
- ▶ Chair and Vice Chair Elections for the Education and Outreach Committee were held during the November Executive Committee meeting in Norman, Oklahoma. The Committee Leadership includes:
 - Chris Lombard (Chair); Wes Rogers (Vice Chair)
- ▶ Continues to identify SAFECOM/NCSWIC speaking engagements for industry events. Please contact [Mark Grubb](#) to share any upcoming opportunities.

Funding and Sustainment

- ▶ Met on November 18, 2015, and provided input on the Fiscal Year (FY) 2016 SAFECOM Grant Guidance, and discussed future products and activities that could be used to educate decision-makers on LMR sustainment.
- ▶ Received approval during the November SAFECOM EC and NCSWIC EC meetings for the following products, which will be posted to the SAFECOM website by mid-December:
 - Funding Mechanisms Document: How States and Localities are Funding Public Safety Systems
 - SAFECOM Guidance on Broadband Purchasing
 - Improving Grant Management: SAFECOM Guidance for Public Safety Agencies
- ▶ Chair and Vice Chair Elections for the Funding and Sustainment Committee were held during the November EC meeting in Norman, Oklahoma. The Committee Leadership includes:
 - Tom Roche (Chair); TBD (Vice Chair)

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- ▶ To receive a briefing on December 16 from the Mid-Atlantic Consortium for Advanced Interoperable Communications (MACINAC) on a potential financial model for FirstNet Opt-In states.
- ▶ Continues to collect new and or unique methods that are used to fund and or sustain public safety communications systems for the Funding Mechanism Table. If you have any information to share please email the [SAFECOM Governance Inbox](#).
- ▶ Next meeting: December 16, 2015, at 4:00 pm ET

Technology Policy

- ▶ Met on November 17, 2015, to discussing work products and ongoing initiatives.
- ▶ Discussed the current T-band situation and will draft executive briefing talking points to assist associations and states in educating officials on the issue.
- ▶ Discussed land mobile radio (LMR) encryption and will review additional LMR products including the Guidelines for LMR Encryption and the Non-P25 Fact Sheet.
- ▶ Technology Policy Chair, Gerald Reardon appointed Terry Hall as the Vice Chair. Formal elections will be held in Fall 2016.
- ▶ Next Meeting: December 15, 2015, at 3:00 pm ET

Governance

- ▶ Continues to develop and design the Marilyn J. Praisner SAFECOM Leadership Award and the 2015 SAFECOM Strategic Plan.
- ▶ The EC continues to review the EC governance structure recommendations submitted by the Governance Committee.
- ▶ SAFECOM Elections were held during the November EC meeting in Norman, Oklahoma. SAFECOM Leadership includes:
 - SAFECOM Chair: Steve Proctor
 - SAFECOM Vice Chairs: Doug Aiken and Mark Grubb
- ▶ Doug Aiken the Governance Chair appointed Don Bowers as the Vice Chair. Formal elections will be held in Fall 2016.
- ▶ Next meeting: December 22, 2015, 1:00 pm ET

SAFECOM Association Highlights and Current Events

National Public Safety Telecommunications Council (NPSTC)

- ▶ The Border Working Group completed a two-page outreach document highlighting the recent agreement between the U.S. and Canada on use of portable radios at and across the border. The document is ready to publish, pending coordination with CITIG on a joint release date. The Working Group is also monitoring efforts by the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) and Industry Canada regarding policy direction on the licensing of public safety base stations across the border.

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- ▶ At the FCC's encouragement the National Regional Planning Council (NRPC) and NPSTC identified specific Reserve Channels to support deployable trunked systems on a nationwide basis. Six channels were identified as being available on a nationwide basis, including border area access, and were subsequently approved by the FCC. The Working Group published a report October 16.
- ▶ The Local Control Working Group was formed to update the 2012 NPSTC Local Control Report on public safety issues with LTE deployments. The final report was approved by the Governing Board and published on October 13, and has also been transmitted to the FirstNet Public Safety Advisory Committee (PSAC).
- ▶ The Deployable Systems Working Group is a joint effort of the Department of Homeland Security and Canada's Centre for Security Science to study public safety LTE deployable assets that will operate along jurisdictional boundaries. Approximately 90 volunteers from Canada and the U.S. participate in this working group. The Working Group is reviewing the new Incident Commander Deployable Systems Checklist and has completed the Broadband Deployable System Report outline. A focus group is now meeting to finalize the operational capabilities to technical challenges and the operational requirements documents.

The documents and reports referred to in this summary are available on the [NPSTC website](#) for your viewing.

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