



The Crisis in Public Safety Communications

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Chair, VA Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee

International Assoc. of Fire Chiefs Communications Committee

SAFECOM Executive Committee





Interoperability Defined

The ability of public safety agencies to talk to one another via radio communication systems – to exchange voice, data and/or video with one another on demand, in real time, when needed and WHEN AUTHORIZED.

Must be implemented into seamless dayto-day operations to be effective.

It does NOT mean the ability for everyone at an incident to be able to talk at will to everyone else.

Achieving Interoperability

ITS ALL ABOUT SPECTRUM!

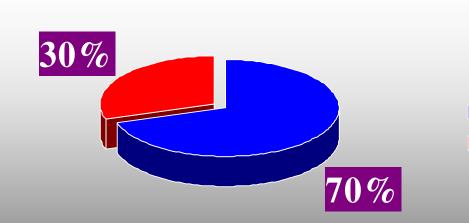
Achieving Interoperability

ITS ALL ABOUT TECHNOLOGY!

Achieving Interoperability Needs / Challenges

- Funding
- Radio Spectrum
- Standards (not technical specifications)
- Cultural Collaboration/Cooperation
- Regionalizing Interoperability
- New Technology Training & Support
- Practical/Realistic Drills or Exercises
- Changing the Way We Communicate (mindset)

Achieving Interoperability Human vs. Technology Factors



Human FactorsTechnology Factors



Achieving Interoperability Interoperability Continuum



Interoperability Continuum



Governance	ses mentation	Individual Agencies Working Independently	Informal Coordination Between Agencies		Key Multidiscipline Staff Collaboration on a Regular Basis	Regional Committee Working with a Statewide Interoperability Committee	Among Areas s and Documentation
Standard Operating Procedures	ration Among Areas	Individual Agency SOPs	Joint SOPs for Planned Events	Joint SOPs for Emergenoies	Regional Set of Communications SOPs	National Incident Management System Integrated SOPs	laboration Amon of Systems and
Technology	Planring and Collaboration / the Sustainability of Systems	Swap Radios	Gateway	Shared Channels	Proprietary Shared Systems	Standards-based Shared Systems	ming. Susta
Training & Exercises	the E	General Orientation on Equipment	Single Agency Tabletop Exercises for Key Field and Support Staff	Multiagency Tabletop Exercises for Key Field and Support Staff	Multiagency s Full Functional Exercise Involving All Staff	Regular Comprehensive Regional Training and Exercises	High Degree of Leadership. Plan with Commitment to and investment in
Usage	Limited Leadership, with Minimal Investment in	Planned Events	Localized Emergenc Incidents	y Y	Regional Incident Management	Daily Use Throughout Region	High Degree with Commitment to

Minimal Level

Interoperability Continuum

Optimal Level

Achieving Interoperability The Present Paradigm

IS DYSFUNCTIONAL!



Achieving Interoperability A Parallel Path

- Addressing present needs of mission critical voice
- Research and development of new technologies (Living Laboratories, proof of concept)

Public-Private Network (combining the two)

Achieving Interoperability Technology Ingredients



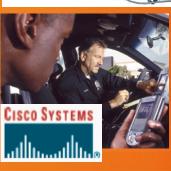












Achieving Interoperability
There is no "Silver Bullet"

No single technology can solve every interoperability problem

More often than not, more than one technology solution will be required to achieve effective interoperability

Technology alone cannot achieve interoperability Achieving Interoperability It's all about Relationships

Everything is influenced by relationships

Effective Leadership is achieved through effective interdependent relationships

Effective Governance can only be achieved by developing relationships at all levels – this is critically necessary and time consuming

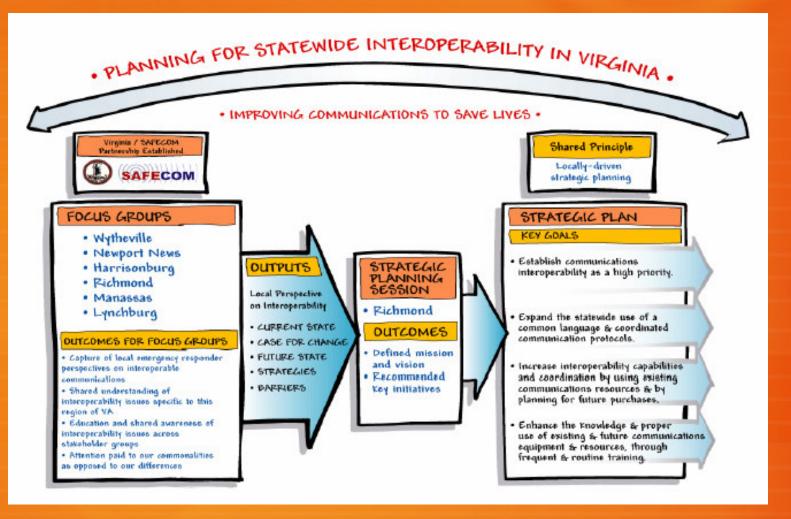
Achieving Interoperability Govt. Efforts – What Works?

SAFECOM Program



- Public Safety Practitioner Driven
- Interoperability Guidance for the Nation
- Interoperable Communications Grant Guidance
- Statewide Communications Interoperability Planning (SCIP)
- Development of Interoperability Tools/Products (Baseline)
- ICTAP (Interoperable Communications Technology Assistance Program)
- NIST Research, Testing and Reporting
- •COPS Interoperability Grant Training Programs

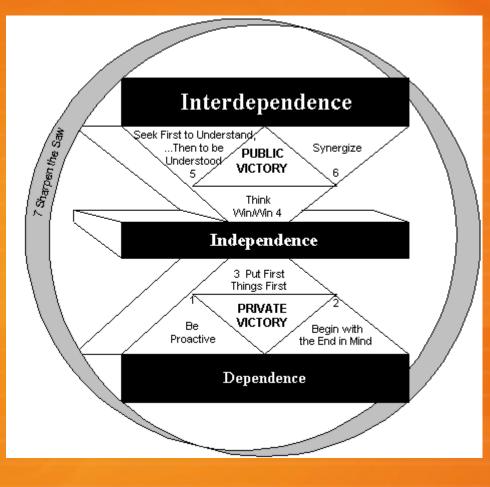
Achieving Interoperability Statewide Communications Interoperability Planning (SCIP)



Achieving Interoperability What Needs Improvement?

Additional funding to support SAFECOM Efforts
Additional radio spectrum/a new paradigm
Grant money for public safety interoperability
Long term development of performance standards
Addressing legacy radio issues
Establish "Living Laboratories/Pilot Programs"

Achieving Interoperability How to get there?



Achieving Interoperability Bringing it all Together



Questions?