



The Crisis in Public Safety Communications

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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 day-to-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

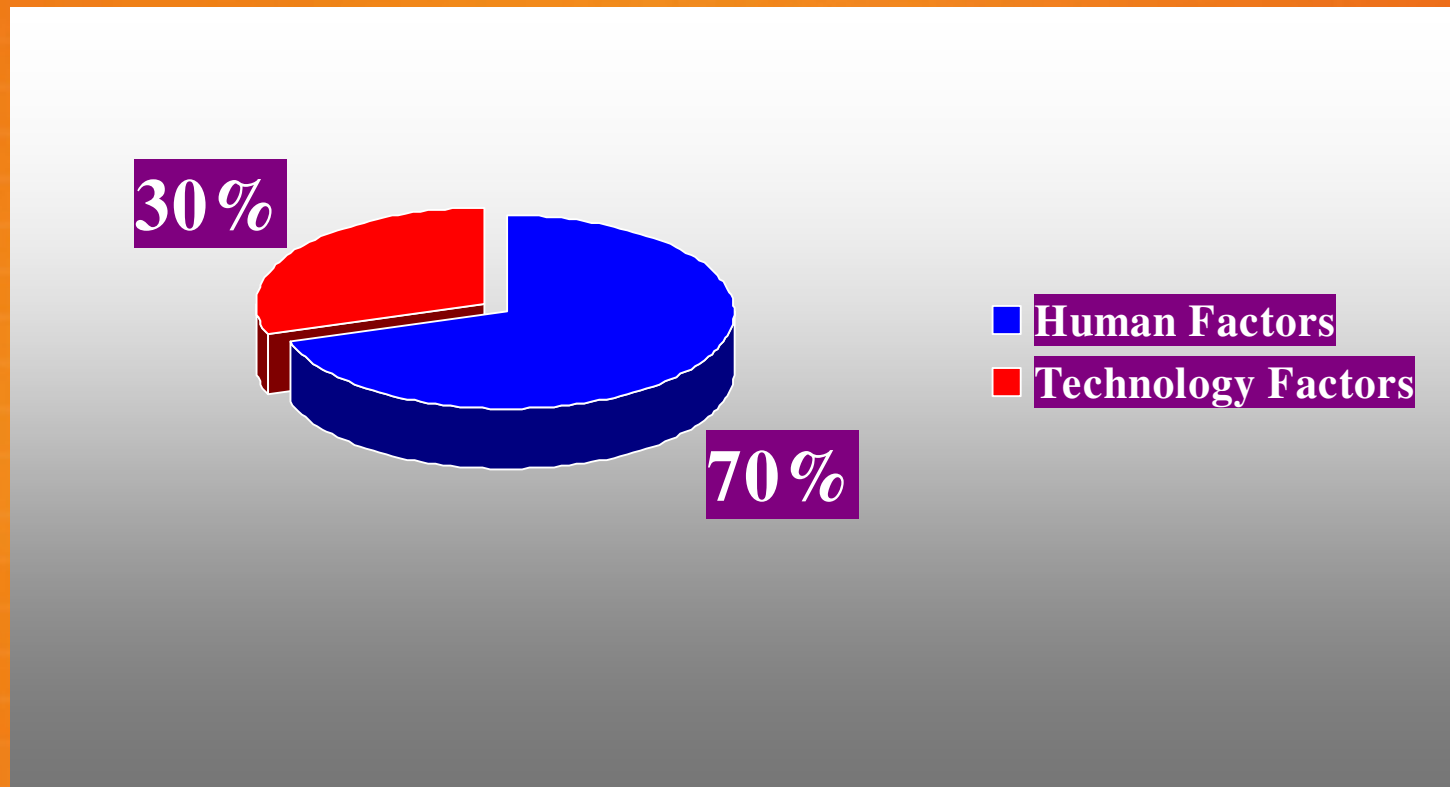
Needs / Challenges

- 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

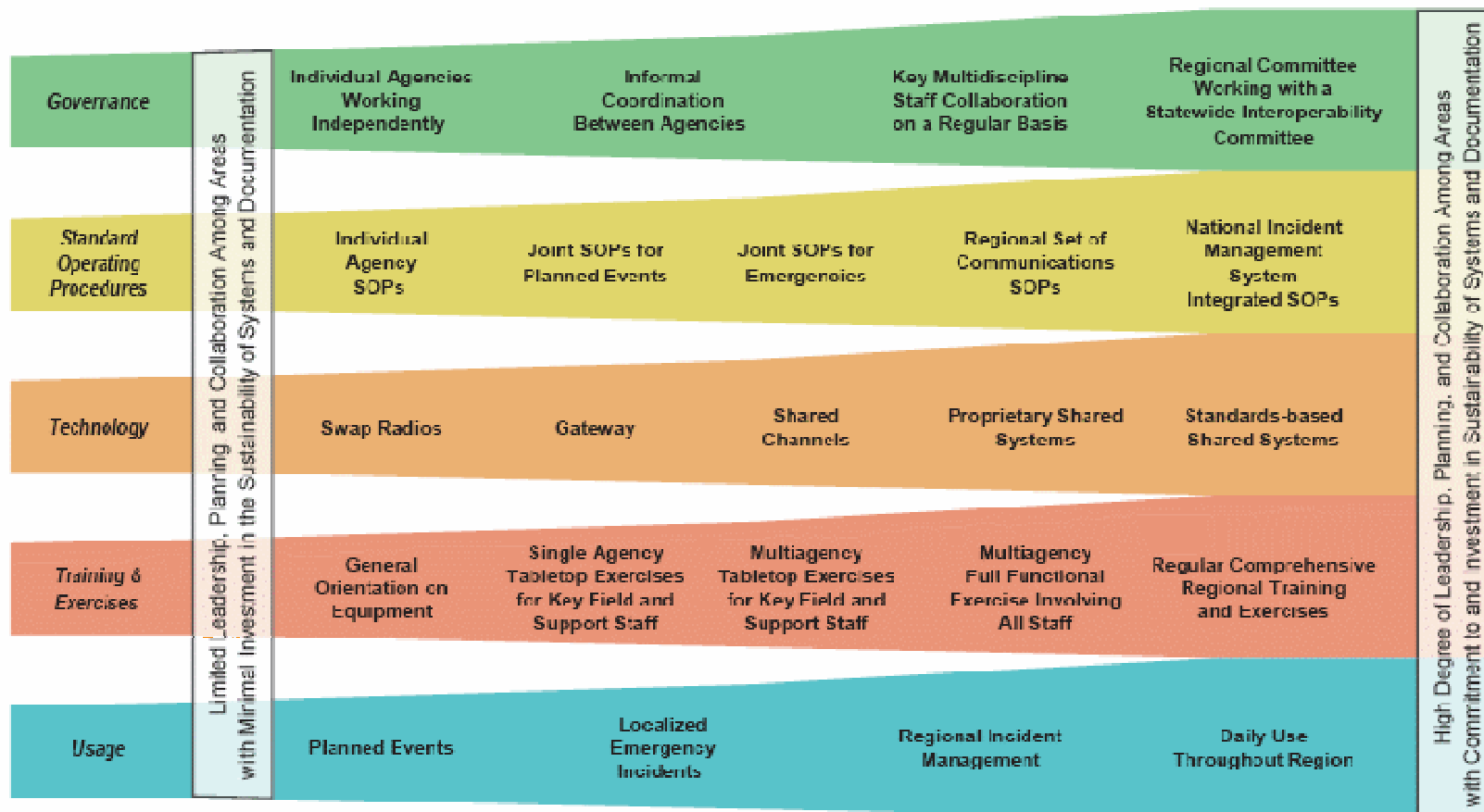


Achieving Interoperability

Interoperability Continuum



Interoperability Continuum



Minimal Level



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)

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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

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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



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Govt. Efforts – What Works?

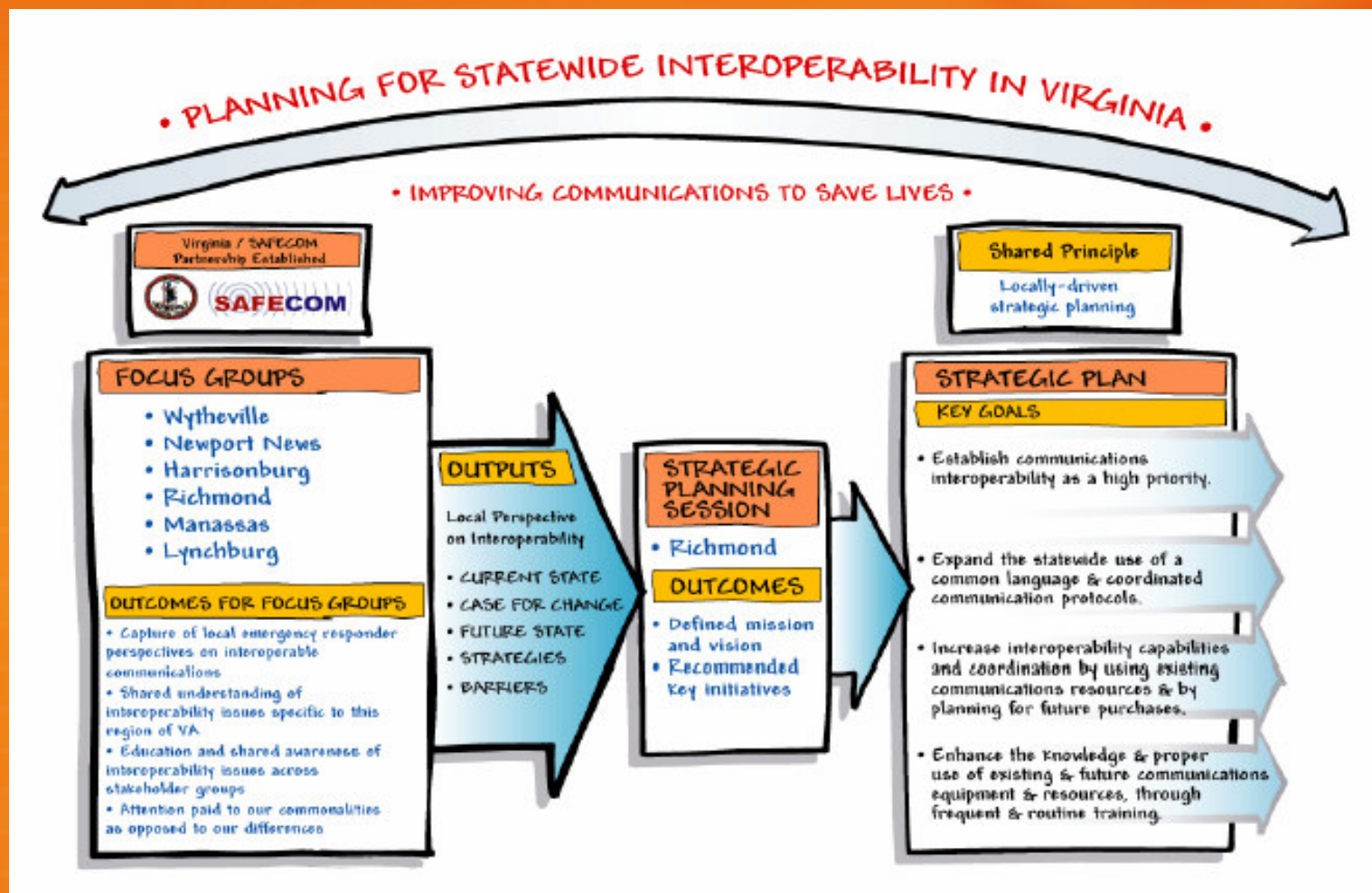


SAFECOM Program

- **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**

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Statewide Communications Interoperability Planning (SCIP)



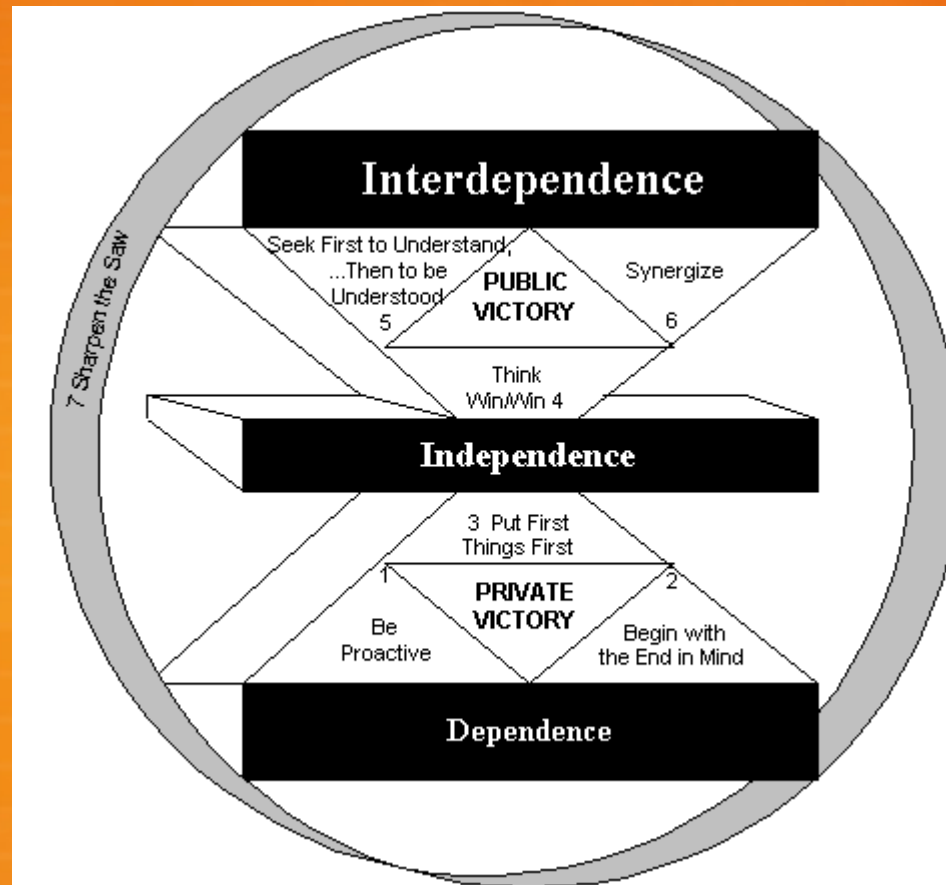
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What Needs Improvement?

- **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”**

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How to get there?



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Bringing it all Together



Questions?