



New York

Statewide Communication Interoperability Plan (SCIP) Implementation Report

July 28, 2009



**Homeland
Security**



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Successes and Challenges

State evaluation of successes and challenges

OEC is required to report to Congress on progress on SCIP implementation and would like to highlight success stories and remaining challenges. In the table below, please highlight three to five SCIP Implementation success stories since your SCIP was approved in April 2008. In addition, please identify two to three challenges. Use as much space as needed to identify and describe the successes and challenges.

Please note that the information you submit on your successes and challenges will be made publicly available, unless this information is sensitive. If you wish to report on progress and/or challenges, but such information might be sensitive, please advise us so that we can consult with you on how it could be redacted from the public. Be advised that only the information contained in this table will be subject to being made available to the public.

Successes (3-5): Identify the success and describe why it is significant or important to overall statewide interoperability efforts.

1. Developed a Statewide Communications Interoperability Plan (SCIP) to determine the emergency communications gaps within the State for purposes of fixing emergency communication problems.
2. Provided TIC Plan development assistance for all five UASIs to be compliant with the national TICP template. TICP will assist each of the UASIs to compliant with the NECP Goals.
3. Initiated a CASM development program throughout the State that will make available a data base of Interoperability frequencies for coordination & planning purposes.
4. Conducted COML Training within the State to have specifically trained leadership during incidents of extreme emergencies
5. Successfully conducted a Governance Conference that brought in representatives from each of New York State's 62 Counties, 5 UASIs, Neighboring States & Canada. The focus was to derive a collective input to guide the New York State's governance structure.

Challenges (2-3): Identify the challenge and describe how it has/will make SCIP implementation difficult.

1. A permanent full time Interoperability Coordinator (IC) has not been acquired. The Acting IC can only perform the job of the IC to implement SCIP functions with little if any authority to make policy on Statewide Interoperability.
2. The SIEC has a good functioning membership but a weak governance structure having very limited ability for establishing Interoperability policy. It is anticipated that an Executive Order will be established to validate & confirm their position within the State's governance structure.

State Overview

Overview of the State and its interoperability challenges

New York has a population of 19,306,183 citizens, which is roughly 6.4 percent of the population of the United States. Thirty-eight percent of the State's population resides north of the New York City metropolitan area. New York has the second largest number of foreign-born residents, nearly 4.2 million New York State residents, 21.6 percent of the population, are foreign-born. New York is home to 12 tribal nations.

New York is approximately 49,500 square miles. Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Canada border the State. Several mountain regions are found within the State, the most prominent being the Adirondack and Catskill ranges. There are also several rivers within the State, the Hudson River and Mohawk River being the most notable. New York also borders two of the Great Lakes: Lake Ontario and Lake Erie. New York is also home to two open water ports to the Atlantic Ocean: the Harbor of New York and the St. Lawrence Seaway.

The State is divided into 62 counties and 11 district regions. A total of 1,065 local governments operate across New York. In addition, there are 543 State and local law enforcement agencies employing nearly 95,000 officers. New York also contains 865 fire districts, with 1,857 fire departments and fire brigades that operate at the Federal, State, and local levels. More than 150,000 first responders work within New York.

New York's climate presents the public safety community with significant challenges in keeping the State safe and secure. The State experiences substantial amount of snowfall, flooding, and severe wind and storms, which can inhibit response times.

Critical infrastructure and key resources are located throughout the State. Due to the sensitive nature of this information, not all critical infrastructure and key resources are listed in the Statewide Communication Interoperability Plan (SCIP). The State contains approximately 7,200 critical infrastructure assets across seventeen sectors. Most of these assets are categorized in these three sectors: Commercial Facilities, Transportation, and Government Facilities. A few specific examples of these critical infrastructure assets include the Statue of Liberty, the Empire State Building, Grand Central Terminal, the State Capitol, Niagara Falls, international bridges, and six operating nuclear power plants.

Vision and Mission

Overview of the interoperable communications vision and mission of the State

The New York SCIP has a timeframe of **three years (October 2007 – September 2010)** and will be updated annually during that time.

Vision: The State of New York will have the right people, procedures, technology, and training programs implemented to communicate anytime, anywhere, and with anyone to satisfy the unique needs, requirements, and expectations of first responders, public safety, and public service personnel during day-to-day operations and during natural and man-made disasters to ensure critical services are delivered to se in need.

Mission: The State of New York will provide guidance and support to municipalities throughout the State to assist them in securing and delivering the most effective resources in the form of interoperable communications equipment, guidelines, training, and funding to first responders, public safety, and public service personnel for day-to-day operations and during natural and man-made disasters.

New York identified a series of goals and initiatives to improve interoperability that focus on each category of the SAFECOM Interoperability Continuum: Governance, Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), Technology, Training and Exercises, and Usage.

Urban Areas

Overview of the Urban Areas in the State and to what extent they are mentioned in the SCIP

The March 12, 2008 release of the State of New York SCIP identified and defined the two (2) UASI Regions that existed in the State. These are:

- New York City
- The City of Buffalo

Since the March 12, 2008 release of the SCIP, three (3) additional UASIs have been established in the State. The three (3) new UASIs are comprised of:

- The City of Albany;
- The City of Syracuse; and
- The City of Rochester.

The State has requested funding via the Interoperable Emergency Communications Grant Program (IECGP) to develop and implement Tactical Interoperable Communications Plans (TICPs) in the three (3) recently established UASIs and to develop, implement, and maintain full-scale training and exercise programs within the Regions.

The two (2) UASI's identified and defined in the March 12, 2008 release of the SCIP have existing TICPs, which are updated regularly and have been validated through an exercise evaluated by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). The SCIP includes goals and corresponding initiatives that directly address recommendations from the TICP Scorecards. The SCIP indicates that the two (2) TICPs and scorecard recommendations were consulted during the development of the SCIPs short- and long-term objectives.

SIIEC/UASI Governance Update:

New York's Public Safety Interoperable Communications Governing Body, the Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee (SIIEC), currently includes three (3) representatives from agencies participating in the New York City TICP and one (1) representative from an agency participating in the Buffalo TICP.

The SIIEC is currently investigating the option of appointing representatives from the newly established UASIs to serve on the Board.

Governance

Overview of the governance structure and practitioner-driven approaches

New York appointed an Interim Governance Board to develop the SCIP. The Board is comprised of members from emergency service, emergency medical services (EMS), fire service, law enforcement, and tribal nation communities. Effective October 2007, the SWN Advisory Council, legislatively created in 2004, assumed the responsibilities of the Interim Governance Board and the existing members of the Interim Governance Board became the SIEC. The members of the SIEC serve as Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) for the State’s interoperable communications initiatives.

The SIEC is responsible for:

- Assisting in the development and implementation of an integrated communications system;
- Consulting with and advising the New York State Office of The Chief Information Officer Office for Technology (CIO/OFT) regarding State purchases of information and communications technology;
- Making recommendations to State-elected leaders concerning the availability and reliability of communications; and
- Submitting an annual report that includes recommendations regarding an integrated statewide emergency communications system.

At the State, county, and local levels, multi-jurisdictional and multi-disciplinary governance bodies carry out interoperable communications planning and coordination. For instance, counties in western and central New York established joint interoperable communications planning committees. New York will also appoint three (3) Regional Interoperability Managers, who are charged with a variety of interoperable communication duties in their respective jurisdictions. Their primary function will be as the liaison and communications expeditor between stakeholders at the county and local levels and the Interoperability Coordinator.

The State of New York Division of the Budget Office allocated funds to establish the Office of the Statewide Interoperability Coordinator, which operates under the direction of the CIO/OFT. The Interoperability Coordinator serves as the Chair of the SIEC and is responsible for implementing, maintaining, and administering the SCIP.

The Acting Interoperability Coordinator is:

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Governance Initiatives

The following table outlines the strategic governance initiatives, gaps, owners, and milestone dates New York outlined in its SCIP to improve interoperable communications.

Initiative	Gap	Owner	Milestone Date	Status <i>(Complete, In Progress, Not Started)</i>
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Initiative	Gap	Owner	Milestone Date	Status (Complete, In Progress, Not Started)
Hire a full-time Statewide Interoperability Coordinator.	An acting Interoperability Coordinator has been assigned; however, a full-time Interoperability Coordinator does not exist.	The State of New York Division of the Budget Office	December 2008 Due to a State hiring freeze. New expected date; September 2009	In Progress. Currently seeking appointment for permanent Interoperability Coordinator.
Leverage the existing governance bodies at the State, county, and local levels to establish Regional Task Forces to plan, administer, and coordinate interoperable communications initiatives.	Continual flow of Interoperability development with SWIC input	The State of New York SIEC and the Acting Interoperability Coordinator in conjunction with the Chairpersons of each RPC.	September added time needed to December 2009	In Progress and under expanded development. Regional Taskforce Meetings have commenced and continue to be included as a regular agenda item in all three RPCs.
Implement clear roles, responsibilities, and reporting relationships between the SIEC, Regional Task Forces, and other governance bodies.	The original Governance Charter, roles, responsibilities, and reporting relationships continue to evolve in response to the changing needs, wants, and expectations of stakeholders.	Office of the Statewide Interoperability Coordinator (SWIC) & SIEC	March 31, 2008 With a revised governance structure, an extension will be needed to December 2009	In Progress and under regular review and revisions. A new Charter for the SIEC under reevaluation
Identify the three Regional Managers responsible for implementing strategic and tactical plans to ensure that interoperable public safety equipment and procedures are in use on a daily basis throughout and between the regions.	Continual flow of Interoperability development with SWIC input	Office of the SWIC	May 1, 2008 Managers have been appointed	Completed: Each of the RPCs is being segmented into interoperability subcommittees to ensure optimal identification and alignment with the unique interoperable communications needs of the public safety community within each region.
Complete usage gap analysis in each of the three regions.	Need to continuously	Office of the SWIC, SIEC,	December 2009	In Progress. Further review

Initiative	Gap	Owner	Milestone Date	Status (Complete, In Progress, Not Started)
	monitor and identify gaps as well as appropriate actions and responses.	and Regional Taskforces.	On going	of each RPC Region is necessary to incorporate PSIC equipment implementation.
Complete Regional Action Plans.	Develop TICP for all UASIs	Three RPC Chairpersons (Regional Managers), the Office of the SWIC, and SIEC.	October 2009	In Progress. Dependant on the gap analysis above. TICP for new UASIs need to be exercised
Review and appraise the gap analysis in comparison with Federal, State, county, and local operational needs and requirements.	Further analysis needed to determine existing gaps.	Office of the SWIC, State Emergency Management Office (SEMO), Office of Homeland Security (OHS), and State Preparedness Steering Committee	December 31, 2009 On Going	In Progress
Conduct an annual SCIP review to update the plan for the first three years.	Need to capture and track new content.	Office of the SWIC	(1) October 2008 (2) July 2009 (3) September 2010	In Progress On Going

Standard Operating Procedures

Overview of the shared interoperable communications-focused SOPs

A variety of SOPs exist at the State, county, local, and individual agency level within New York. In major metropolitan areas of the State or localities where interoperability needs and capabilities are greatest, SOPs address interoperability and are well documented. For instance, New York City contains comprehensive SOPs within their TICP. New York City instituted a Citywide Incident Management System (ICS) to handle all major incidents and planned events. This system is fully compliant with National Incident Management System (NIMS) and SEMO standards.

Aside from these major metropolitan areas, most localities across the State have not developed comprehensive SOPs that address interoperability. Furthermore, there are a few integrated multi-jurisdictional and multi-disciplinary SOPs found within the State. Depending on the locality, SOPs may address interoperability only as it applies to incident response, channel allocation, or interoperability between disciplines within the same locality.

Established mutual-aid agreements exist between many jurisdictions across the State and with neighboring States and Canada. These plans typically address major incidents and events. For instance, Erie and Niagara counties have cross border agreements with Canada to respond to incidents near the border. The SCIP states that interoperability is addressed superficially in mutual-aid agreements; however, localities have agreed on ways to communicate when responding collaboratively to events and incidents. New York is also a member of the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC), which is a State-to-State mutual-aid compact that offers Governors the opportunity to assist one another in times of disaster or emergency. As a member of EMAC, New York receives requests for assistance that are issued by other member States. These mutual-aid requests may be for personnel, equipment, special skills, or capabilities.

New York utilizes NIMS as the State’s command and control protocol to use when coordinating the State’s response to natural and man-made disasters. However, across the State, only a small percentage of the SOPs are fully NIMS-compliant. The two New York UASI regions that have adopted TICPs have NIMS-compliant SOPs. New York has circulated a NIMS implementation strategy for State agencies, counties, tribal nations, and local jurisdictions. The goals of the strategy include ensuring that there is an ability to “establish communication processes, procedures, and protocols that will ensure effective interoperable communications among emergency responders, 911 centers, and multi-agency coordination systems such as Emergency Operations Centers (EOCs).”

SOP Initiatives

The following table outlines the SOP strategic initiatives, gaps, owners, and milestone dates New York outlined in its SCIP to improve interoperable communications.

Initiative	Gap	Owner	Milestone Date	Status (Complete, In Progress, Not Started)
Develop a baseline of existing SOPs.	Lack of knowledge about existing SOPs.	Office of the SWIC, three RPCs/Regional Taskforces, and Taskforce Managers	December 2009	In Progress On Going
Conduct analysis of the baseline SOPs to identify integration opportunities.	There are few integrated multi-jurisdictional and multi-disciplinary SOPs.	Office of the SWIC	December 2009	In Progress. Dependant on baseline of SOPs On Going.
Develop a Statewide NIMS-compliant SOP platform.	A small percentage of the SOPs across the State are fully NIMS compliant.	Office of the SWIC	December 2009	In Progress. Dependant on analysis of the baseline of existing SOPs. On Going
Develop, test, and implement an integrated platform of NIMS-compliant	Need to develop NIMS-	Office of the SWIC	October 6, 2009	In Progress. Awaiting the

Initiative	Gap	Owner	Milestone Date	Status (Complete, In Progress, Not Started)
SOPs.	compliant SOPs and subsequent training programs.			IECGP results. On Going
Implement a process audit and process-improvement program to regularly evaluate and improve the SOPs and emergency-readiness exercises.	Part of an on going continuous improvement program and is integrated with the gap analysis.	Office of the SWIC	December 2009	In Progress On Going
Refine the SOPs that comprise the NIMS-compliant platform.	Still being reviewed	Office of the SWIC	December 2009	In Progress
Perform revalidation testing of the NIMS-compliant platform.	Still under review.	Office of the SWIC & RPC Chairs	April 21, 2010	In Progress. Dependant on completing the implementation of the NIMS-compliant SOP platform.
Conduct semi-annual meetings to review the SOP portfolio, evaluate its effectiveness, and recommend revisions to the Governance Board.	Not yet determined	SIEC and the Office of the SWIC & RPC Chairs	Semi-annually	In Progress On Going
Develop, implement, and continuously improve an all-hazards command and control structure that pools resources from the Federal, State, local, and tribal bodies to execute daily operations and to respond to natural and man-made disasters.	Regional Analysis.	Office of the SWIC & RPC Chairs	December 2010	In Progress On Going

Technology

Overview of the technology approaches, current capabilities, and planned systems

New York State agencies and first responder entities employ a variety of stand-alone radio systems for day-to-day and emergency voice communications. These systems use various technologies, modes of operation and frequency bands, to include analog, digital technology, conventional and trunked modes of operations, and frequencies in the very high frequency (VHF)-low band, VHF-high band, ultra high frequency (UHF), and 800 MHz. As a result, achieving statewide interoperability among first responders remains both a technical and operational challenge.

New York agencies use a variety of approaches to achieve interoperability including deploying gateways, mobile command vehicles, console patches, and in some cases, 911 center relay communications. The State also uses land line, cellular telephones, and satellite technology.

To enable law enforcement agencies and other first responders to interoperate, the New York Statewide Law Enforcement Telecommunications Committees established interoperability channels in the VHF band. The State reserved the frequency 155.370 MHz as the interoperability channel for use by law enforcement agencies and frequency 45.88 MHz for fire services. Further, the State utilizes the 155.715 MHz frequency as a statewide common channel for interagency Emergency Medical Services (EMS) disaster/MCI coordination.

In addition, all 800-MHz systems in the State use the ICALL/ITAC channels in accordance with the 800-MHz Regional Plans approved by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) for RPCs 8, 30, and 55.

New York faces interoperability issues ranging from coverage gaps; obsolete technology; the inability to service and maintain infrastructure and subscriber equipment; and most significantly, the lack of interoperability between Federal, State, and local agencies and public safety services.

The New York City metropolitan area and the Buffalo-Erie-Niagara area developed TICPs and New York State entered into agreements to enhance interoperability in these urban areas and four others within the State. Based on its common border with Canada, New York also focuses on achieving interoperability with Canadian law enforcement and other public safety entities.

Finally, New York is creating a Strategic Technology Reserve (STR) with six mobile command vehicles and a cache of other interoperable communications equipment, which will ensure the continuity of voice and data communications during incidents.

The following tables list the major systems in New York and include those used for solely interoperable communications, large regional systems specifically designed to provide interoperability solutions, and large wireless data networks.

State System Name	Description	Status
<p>New York Statewide Wireless Network (SWN)</p> <p>This Project was discontinued</p>	<p>This is a cross-band/cross-platform 700-MHz, 800 MHz, and legacy system (VHF, UHF) Statewide LMR network.</p> <p>SWN will employ IP-based gateways to enable interoperability with legacy/disparate systems and will use OpenSky technology provided by M/A-COM. The system will be used by all State agencies and, through partnership agreements, federal and local entities may also join the SWN.</p>	<p>In progress Discontinued</p> <p>On January 14, 2009 the State's contract with the project vendor was terminated for failure to remediate deficiencies.</p>

Regional System Name	Description	Status
New York City metropolitan Area Radio Networks	<p>The interoperable communications systems currently utilized in the New York City Metropolitan area operate in the VHF, UHF, 800 MHz Old-Block and NPSPAC, and 4.9 GHz bands.</p> <p>All of the components of these system currently support the State's interoperable communications initiatives and shall be leveraged (likely via IP gateways) to improve communications in the future.</p>	<p>In Progress. On Going</p> <p>The existing 800-MHz systems are undergoing the rebanding process, and each system's status differs.</p> <p>The New York City UHF network is subject to the FCC's narrowband requirements. NYPD Project still to be determined</p>
Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) System	<p>The MTA system currently operates in the VHF Band. The MTA is currently licensing 800 MHz spectrum for future growth.</p> <p>The following is cancelled: The current plan is for the MTA is to upgrade their system to meet the SWN baseline system coverage and provide in-building, in-train, and tunnel coverage.</p>	<p>The MTA's VHF system is in operation today.</p> <p>The MTA's 800-MHz initiatives are in progress (Concept and Design Phase).</p> <p>Furthermore, the MTA is a full (level three) SWN Partner. SWN Project Cancelled</p>
Port Authority of New York and New Jersey (PANYNJ) System	<p>The existing PANYNJ system utilizes the 800-MHz National Public Safety Planning and Advisory Council (NPSPAC) portion of the band.</p> <p>As part of the PSIC Grant Program initiatives, the PANYNJ is deploying U-TAC/I-TAC spectrum and equipment to cover the Port Authority Trans-Hudson underground rail system. As a result of implementing these frequencies and system, endusers shall be able to communicate in via the UHF and 800-MHz Bands.</p>	<p>The PANYNJ 800-MHz system is in operation today.</p> <p>As cited, this initiative is included within the State's interoperable communications gap analysis and interoperable communications integration initiative</p> <p>OK.</p>
New York City Transit System	<p>New York City Transit (NYCT) utilizes an 800 MHz trunked system. Further, NYCT utilizes a UHF system to provide radio coverage in the subways.</p>	<p>In Progress and Operational.</p> <p>This system is included within the State's interoperable communications gap analysis and interoperable communications integration initiative.</p> <p>This system is undergoing the 800-MHz re-banding program. OK</p>
Command and Control UHF Network	<p>UHF network is considered New York City's public safety entities' primary interoperable network.</p> <p>The system also supports several National Law Enforcement Channels, New York State Police Mutual Rapid Deployment, and NPSPAC mutual</p>	<p>In Progress and Operational.</p> <p>This system is included within the State's interoperable communications gap analysis and interoperable communications integration initiative.</p> <p>OK</p>

Regional System Name	Description	Status
	aid channels (I-CALL/I-TACS). Specific frequencies are not specified.	
New York City Wireless Network (NYCWIn)	This is a broadband wireless network designed to improve first-response capabilities by supporting secure mobile and fixed applications.	In progress; deployment phase. On Going
Westchester County UHF Trunked System	This is a UHF narrowband trunked radio system for police, fire, EMS, and Countywide agencies.	In Progress; Operational. OK The current initiative involves investigating the build out of an 800-MHz National Public Safety Telecommunications Council (NPSTC) mutual-aid system.
Nassau County UHF Trunked System	This is a T-band, digital and trunked turnkey radio system operating on the 500 MHz frequency band.	In progress; Operational. On Going
Statewide Interoperable Data Communications Platform	The Statewide Interoperable Data Communications Platform system shall provide users in the federal, State, local, and tribal communities with access to common sets of information in a common way. The Platform will consist of two (2) key components: shared databases and shared applications.	In Progress. The State of New York is currently in the concept and design phases of developing a Statewide Data Interoperability Roadmap. On Going

Technology Initiatives

The following table outlines the technology strategic initiatives, gaps, owners, and milestone dates New York outlined in its SCIP to improve interoperable communications.

Initiative	Gap	Owner	Milestone Date	Status (Complete, In Progress, Not Started)
Create statewide inventory of critical communications assets. CASM Project	Need to inventory and analyze interoperable communications assets.	Office of the SWIC & Statewide Interoperability Program Office (SIPO)	December 2009	In Progress On Going
Complete long-term strategy to integrate critical legacy systems.	Still under analysis	Office of the SWIC	September 2010	In Progress On Going
Complete acquisition of Interoperable Communications System using Public Safety Interoperable Communications (PSIC) funding.	Per requirements of the PSIC Grant Program.	Office of the SWIC/OHS & Grant Awardees	December 2009 September 2010	In Progress On Going
Deploy and accept Interoperable Communications System using PSIC funding.	Per requirements of the PSIC Grant Program.	Office of the SWIC/OHS & Grant Awardees	December 2009 September 2010	In Progress On Going
Re-band the 800 MHz spectrum and coordinate usage plans with adjacent	Re-banding is still in	The three RPCs/Regional	In accordance with the FCC's	In Progress On Going

Initiative	Gap	Owner	Milestone Date	Status (Complete, In Progress, Not Started)
regions.	progress.	Taskforce regions	and 800 MHz Transition Administrator's (TA) schedule.	
Deliver final plans for administering narrowband General-Use Channels in the 769-775 MHz and 799-806 MHz bands to the FCC.	All 3 regional Plans have been sent to FCC.	The three RPC/Regional Taskforce regions	Under the discretion of the FCC.	In Progress On Going Region 8 & 55 Plans have been approved
Modernize New York City's Emergency 9-1-1 system.	As needed	New York City	Ongoing beyond 2010	In Progress On Going
Procure six mobile communications vehicles and a cache of interoperable communications equipment to allow for the restoration of public safety communications following a disaster.	Restoration of Public Safety Communications in the event of a natural or manmade disaster.	Office of the SWIC and Disaster Preparedness Commission SEMO	Dependant upon the release of the PSIC funds September 2010.	In Progress On Going
Upgrade primary radio communications system to a digital-based narrowband-capable system.	Present system needs to be changed.	Suffolk County Fire Rescue4	Dependant upon the availability of the 700 MHz General Use Channels.	In Progress On Going
Deploy the Citywide Radio Network (CRN) to improve first responder dispatch capabilities and interoperable communications utilizing an independent wireless backbone that links to New York City's 800 MHz trunked radio system.	Need to improve first responder dispatch capabilities and interoperable communications.	New York City	Ongoing beyond 2010	In Progress On Going
Expand New York City's UHF radio channels to provide wide-area coverage several miles outside of city limits.	Coverage limitation	New York City	Dependant upon the FCC's approval of frequencies in the usage areas. Ongoing beyond 2010	In Progress On Going
Enhance and build-out 800 MHz trunked radio system by resolving the lack of coverage between above- and below-ground voice communications.	Coverage limitation	Port Authority of New York/New Jersey	Ongoing beyond 2010	In Progress On Going

Training and Exercises

Overview of the diversity, frequency, and inter-agency coordination of training and exercises

To ensure that training is accomplished through the State, OHS initially formed a State Preparedness Steering Committee that met monthly to plan and discuss common concerns. The Training and Exercise Division established a multiagency exercise committee to support the design, development, coordination, and evaluation of exercises at the State, regional, and local levels. This committee also developed the State's multi-year training and exercise plan that is updated on an ongoing basis and revised annually.

Since this time, the Steering Committee has appointed the Disaster Preparedness Commission (DPC) to administer these programs.

The DPC is comprised of the commissioners, directors/chairpersons from 23 State agencies/offices and one (1) volunteer organization, the American Red Cross. Among its responsibilities are the preparation of State disaster plans, directing State disaster operations and coordinating those with local government operations, and coordinating federal, State and private recovery efforts. The current DPC Chairperson is John Gibb, SEMO. There also exists a committee comprised of representatives from numerous agencies that oversees the training programs. At present, Catherine Lowinski, OHS, is the leader of this committee.

Training

The maturity level of training and exercise programs varies throughout the State. SEMO and OHS coordinate some training events for various Federal, State, local agencies and volunteer organizations. In these trainings, various emergency response specialists are familiarized with other disciplines in an effort to provide a level of cross training and networking with other emergency responders. Interoperability communications is exercised in these trainings between and among participants at the State level. However, most local governments and State agencies regularly conduct their own training events, which are mainly single-agency and single-jurisdictional training and exercise programs.

OHS conducts multi-jurisdictional and multi-agency training programs to provide public safety and first responders with the knowledge, skills, tools, and techniques required for terrorist acts and natural disasters. These trainings are given in classroom settings and through a variety of exercises of real-world situations.

Because New York is a home-rule State, local jurisdictions have control over many of their training activities and conduct local training, including vendor-provided training on interoperable communications equipment.

New York has prioritized training of NIMS for first responders. In 2006, more than 700 local trainers were trained in ICS 700/100/200. In 2007, OHS funded more than 140 deliveries of ICS 300 or 400 statewide. Two ICS 300 courses were offered in every county in 2007 and ICS 400 courses were delivered regionally. ICS training is being extended to include ICS function-specific training, specifically Communications Unit Leader (COML) training and interoperable communications practices critical to the development of State, regional, and local ICS capabilities. ICS training is available both online and through classroom training sessions coordinated by SEMO and the State Office of Fire Prevention and Control. In addition, 10 regional workshops on NIMS implementation were held in 2006 and 2007.

Exercises

New York, through OHS and SEMO, conducts regularly scheduled exercises with both State and local government entities engaged in EMS, fire service, and law enforcement. OHS supported 47 exercises in 25 jurisdictions throughout the State in 2007. OHS also supports multi-agency and multi-jurisdictional exercises throughout New York. The scope and nature of these exercises include interoperable communications as a component. Local and regional exercises incorporate Federal, State, local, and tribal agencies that interact with the exercise host. Exercises are used to test plans and training and include seminars, workshops, tabletops, games, drills, functional exercises, and full-scale exercises.

Training and Exercises Initiatives

The following table outlines the training and exercises strategic initiatives, gaps, owners, and milestone dates New York outlined in its SCIP to improve interoperable communications.

Initiative	Gap	Owner	Milestone Date	Status (Complete, In Progress, Not Started)
Develop a baseline of existing training and exercise programs.	Lack of knowledge about existing training and exercise programs.	Office of the SWIC	November 5, 2008 September 2010	In Progress On Going
Integrate efforts with OHS and SEMO to collectively plan, implement, and administer multi-jurisdictional and multi-disciplinary training and exercise programs.	Most counties conduct single-agency and single-jurisdictional training and exercise programs.	Office of the SWIC/OHS & SEMO	January 31, 2009 September 2010	In Progress On Going
Leverage the existing training and exercise components of the NIMS Multi-Agency Coordination System (MCS) and UASI TICPs to develop fully NIMS-compliant training and exercise programs.	A small percentage of the training and exercise programs carried out by counties and agencies comply with the NIMS ICS and HSEEP standards.	UASI Regions, RPC/Regional Taskforce regions, with input from the Office of the SWIC.	May 31, 2009 September 2010	In Progress On Going
Implement international (i.e., Canada), interstate, and intrastate training and exercise programs.	Has not been addressed w/Canadian Officials	Office of the SWIC & Canada IC	December 2009 September 2010	In Progress On Going
Develop, test, and implement an integrated platform of emergency readiness exercise programs statewide.	On agenda for UASIs to be done	Office of the SWIC	December 2009 September 2010	In Progress On Going

Initiative	Gap	Owner	Milestone Date	Status (Complete, In Progress, Not Started)
Conduct manager and supervisor, end-user, and service training on the deployed interoperable communication system(s).	On end User's agenda	Office of the SWIC	September 2010	In Progress On Going
Develop training and exercise documentation.	On Statewide Agenda	Office of the SWIC	August 10, 2010	In Progress On Going

Usage

Overview of the testing of equipment and promotion of interoperability solutions

After the attacks on September 11, 2001, all public safety and first responders in New York became aware of the importance of employing technical and operational interoperable communications practices on a daily basis.

The regular usage of technical and operational interoperable communications practices varies throughout the State. Large metropolitan areas, specifically New York City, the City of Buffalo, and the City of Rochester, utilize interoperable communications practices for planned events and localized emergency incidents. Few State, county, and local agencies engage in regional incident management on a daily basis.

New York has an outreach program that promotes interoperability. The Regional Taskforce Managers and the SWN Outreach Office is charged with the responsibility of conducting public safety interoperable communications outreach activities with the Federal, State, county, local, tribal nation, non-governmental organization (NGO), and military communities.

Goals of these outreach activities include:

- Achieving greater participation and support from the public safety, public service, NGO, tribal nation, military, and Federal government communities for interoperable communication initiatives.
- Continually identifying new stakeholders to adapt to the changing needs of existing stakeholders and obtain support for interoperable communications initiatives beyond 2010.
- Continually obtaining and incorporating multi-disciplinary input from jurisdictions throughout the State.

Usage Initiatives

The following table outlines the usage strategic initiatives, gaps, owners, and milestone dates New York outlined in its SCIP to improve interoperable communications.

Initiative	Gap	Owner	Milestone Date	Status (Complete, In Progress, Not Started)
Complete Regional Usage Action Plans.	Provide a mechanism to	Office of the SWIC and the	June 30, 2009 September	In Progress

Initiative	Gap	Owner	Milestone Date	Status (Complete, In Progress, Not Started)
	ensure that interoperable public safety equipment and procedures are in use on a daily basis throughout and between the regions.	three RPCs/Regional Taskforces	2010	√
Present and review the Usage Action Plans with EMS, fire service, law enforcement, tribal nation, NGO, Federal, and military stakeholders.	Ensuring that the Usage Action Plans are in alignment with the needs, wants, and expectations of the public safety community.	Office of the SWIC and the three RPCs/Regional Taskforces	July 31, 2009 September 2010	In Progress √
Implement Regional Usage Action Plans to improve the usage of public safety interoperable communications technology and practices.	Provide a mechanism to ensure that interoperable public safety equipment and procedures are in use on a daily basis throughout and between the regions.	Office of the SWIC and the three RPCs/Regional Taskforces	November 1, 2009 September 2010	In Progress √
Conduct continuous public safety interoperable communications outreach activities with the State, county, local, tribal nation, NGO, Federal, and military communities.	Provide a mechanism to ensure that the products and services implemented under the State's public safety interoperable communications program remain properly aligned with the changing needs, operational and technical requirements, and expectations of	Office of the SWIC and the three RPCs/Regional Taskforces	Ongoing	In Progress √

Initiative	Gap	Owner	Milestone Date	Status (Complete, In Progress, Not Started)
	the public safety communities.			

New York State Interoperable Emergency Communications Grant Program (IECGP)

Overview of New York's IECGP Projects

The State of New York has been allocated \$7,835,108 in federal funding for FY2008 to assist in implementing the interoperable communications initiatives defined in the SCIP.

In accordance with the application filing requirements, the State prepared and delivered to DHS OEC & FEMA the **IECGP FY2008** funding requests in July, 2008 and is currently in the process of releasing funds.

Please refer to the table, which follows, for the scope of the projects under the FY2008 IECGP.

IECGP Project Title	Project Scope	Owner	Milestone Date	Status (Complete, In Progress, Not Started)
Town of Highlands	Conduct planning and study for the erection of three (3) towers to link the Town with Orange County 911.	Town of Highlands	Dependent on the release of the IECGP funds. The State is now processing the release of funds to the awardees.	Not Started √
Westchester County	Inventory interoperable communications assets and develop, test, and implement FOG and COML training programs.	Westchester County	Dependent on the release of the IECGP funds. The State is now processing the release of funds to the awardees.	Not Started √
Genesee County	Engage a consultant to assess the need to provide for a regional alerting system.	Genesee County	Dependent on the release of the IECGP funds. The State is now processing the release of funds to the awardees.	Not Started √
Nassau County	Prepare and implement interoperable communications training and exercise program.	Nassau County	Dependent on the release of the IECGP funds. The State is now processing the release of funds to the	Not Started √

IECGP Project Title	Project Scope	Owner	Milestone Date	Status (Complete, In Progress, Not Started)
			awardees.	
Orange County	Prepare and implement interoperable communications plans and SOPs.	Orange County	Dependent on the release of the IECGP funds. The State is now processing the release of funds to the awardees.	Not Started √
New York City	Conduct strategic and tactical communications plan for the World Trade Center Complex (WTC).	New York City	Dependent on the release of the IECGP funds. The State is now processing the release of funds to the awardees.	Not Started √
Monroe County	Prepare and implement a six (6) county regional SOP and training and exercise program.	Monroe County	Dependent on the release of the IECGP funds. The State is now processing the release of funds to the awardees.	Not Started √
Chautauqua County	Prepare and implement an Interoperable communications plan, training and exercise programs, and SOPs countywide and with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.	Chautauqua County	Dependent on the release of the IECGP funds. The State is now processing the release of funds to the awardees.	Not Started √
Sullivan County	Prepare and implement an Interoperable communications plan, training and exercise programs, and SOPs countywide and with Delaware and Ulster Counties.	Sullivan County	Dependent on the release of the IECGP funds. The State is now processing the release of funds to the awardees.	Not Started √

New York State's FY 2009 Interoperable Emergency Communications Grant Program (IECGP) Programmatic Review & Feedback

IECGP Investment Justification	Federal Funds Requested	Status
Portfolio Narrative & Budget	-	Approved → July 2009

Management & Administration –State Level	\$209,994.00	Approved→ July 2009
1. Regional Urban Area Interoperable Communications Initiatives	\$3,301,480.88	Approved→ July 2009
2. Alignment to IECGP priority Groups & NECP Goal Compliance	\$2,846,523.54	Approved→ July 2009
3. Local Communication System Upgrades & Build-out Initiatives	\$934,374.00	Approved→ July 2009
Total Award	\$6,999,813.00	Approved→ July 2009

In accordance with the IECGP Guidance and Application Kit, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has approved New York’s IECGP Investment Justification (IJ). A notice has been issued to the applicant and the funds have been released. The Office of Emergency Communications (OEC) and FEMA reviewers examined the State’s IJ and offer the following feedback on the portfolio and projects for consideration.

Portfolio Feedback

Overall, the reviewers agreed that the proposed projects addressed many of the policy and training aspects outlined in Fiscal Year (FY) 2009 IECGP Priority Groups and demonstrated clear alignment with the Statewide Communication Interoperability Plan (SCIP). The reviewers commented that the IJ was strong because the portfolio was well organized and it addressed all of the required criteria. They also commended the IJ for its balance of statewide and regional projects.

However, the reviewers could not reconcile the portfolio budget to the individual project budgets. This budget alignment would have enabled the reviewers to determine which projects involved the individual local agencies identified in the portfolio budget. There was also a discrepancy between the *calculated* State supported share subtotal in the portfolio budget and the *actual* subtotal; the difference is \$209,994.00, indicating that the State may have accounted for Management and Administration (M&A) twice in the portfolio budget. In addition, the total proposed portfolio budget is equal to the State’s award amount; however, the proposed project budgets do not equal the proposed portfolio budget and over allocate funds by \$292,559.42. New York should ensure that it is reporting the correct award amount, which is \$6,999,813.00.

The reviewers also commented that the overview of the governance structure could have been stronger if it had been explained in greater detail. The reviewers inferred from the narrative that the Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee was not established by executive order or legislation and has no authority in New York; considering that governance is an IECGP priority, the reviewers would have liked to have known whether or not the committee has authority and how New York plans to address this issue.

Strategic Interoperable Communications Initiatives Beyond 2010

The purpose and scope of this Section is to identify emerging public safety interoperable communications initiatives the State of New York is planning since submitting the latest revised version of the SCIP on March 12, 2008.

Strategic Initiatives

In addition to the short-term goals defined in the SCIP, the State has identified the following long-term strategic interoperable communications goals to pursue beyond 2010:

- Develop and implement of a Statewide Data Interoperability Roadmap;
- The integration of voice and data interoperable communications networks in major metropolitan area, both in above and below-ground transit systems;
- The implementation of mutually beneficial spectrum coordination policies, methodologies, and processes with Canada in the 700 and 800-MHz bands; and
- The development and implementation of a Continuous Improvement (CI) plan to ensure that the products and services implemented under the State's interoperable communications programs remained properly aligned with the changing needs, operational and technical requirements, and expectations of all stakeholders.

The nexus between disparate communications and interoperable communications is seamless cross-band interoperability across all operational platforms and technical components.

New York State is destined to achieve its interoperable communication Vision and Mission by continuing to pursue the goals and objectives presented in the SCIP and by defining, measuring, analyzing, and responding to project and product performance metrics.