NCSWIC®

2019

Public Safety Strategic Collaboration Meeting
Miami, Florida
November 5-7, 2019

Wednesday, November 6, 2019

NCSWIC Executive Summary

Statewide Interoperability Coordinator Academy

Prior to the Biannual National Council of Statewide Interoperability Coordinators (NCSWIC) meeting, the NCSWIC Governance Committee hosted the first Statewide Interoperability Coordinator (SWIC) Academy on Monday, November 4, 2019 (Figure 1). The Academy is designed to welcome new SWICs, provide them with background on NCSWIC and the SWIC position, review available Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) resources, and share best practices and lessons learned from veteran SWICs. During the full NCSWIC meeting, Brad Stoddard, Michigan, and NCSWIC Governance Committee Chair, and other Academy participants shared feedback on the benefits of the Academy's smaller group sessions and the variety of resources shared among SWICs. Participants also appreciated learning how the SWIC position and its support structure differs in each state. Feedback from the first Academy will be incorporated into future sessions.

Figure 1: New SWICs participate in the first SWIC Academy

NCSWIC Executive Committee Meeting

On Monday, November 4, NCSWIC Executive Committee (EC) members convened to review 2019 committee progress and discuss future strategic planning, including incorporating National Emergency Communications Plan (NECP) activities. Ralph Barnett, III, CISA, and John Miller, New Jersey, Acting NCSWIC Chair, opened the meeting and welcomed members. Mr. Stoddard presented proposed updates to NCSWIC's goals and objectives (Table 2) and requested a vote of approval. Derek Nesselrode, Kentucky, motioned to approve the updates with Jeff Pierce, South Dakota, seconding the motion. Committee leads then provided updates on current initiatives. Mr. Miller provided an overview of the NECP implementation process, highlighting the responsibility of the SWICs and SAFECOM to help implement NECP goals, objectives, and success indicators. Over the summer, the NECP team worked with SAFECOM and NCSWIC leadership to divide the success indicators among CISA's various stakeholder groups. Each NCSWIC committee was assigned different activities that support NECP success indicators. Discussions on the activities took place during the in-person committee meetings.

Members held an open discussion on NCSWIC's relationship with SAFECOM following the establishment of the SAFECOM Executive Board. Topics included the lack of SWIC participation on committees, high SWIC turnover, and the need to continue collaborating with SAFECOM. Further discussions will be held with SAFECOM regarding the need for collaboration. Mr. Miller closed the meeting noting the number of overlapping meetings for the week and requesting the invitational travel email be delivered earlier in the future to ensure adequate time for SWIC travel approval.

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Introductions

Mr. Miller welcomed participants to Miami and thanked members for their continued efforts to advance NCSWIC's collective priorities. He also introduced the newest SWICs (Table 1). CISA's Acting Assistant Director for Emergency Communications, Vincent DeLaurentis, thanked the SWICs for continuing to develop and promote emergency communications products to aid state, local, tribal, and territorial (SLTT) agencies with planning for incidents, most notably the COMM-X

Region	State	SWIC
V	Wisconsin	Erik Viel
VI	Louisiana	Travis Johnson (Acting)
VIII	Wyoming	Nathan Smolinski (Deputy)
IX	Arizona	Morgan Hoaglin (Deputy)
IX	American Samoa	Vinnie Atofau (Acting)
X	Oregon	William Chapman
X	Washington	Jose Zuniga (Acting)

Table 1: New SWICs since April 2019

Portal and various Exercise in a Box products. He also applauded the launch of the SWIC Academy, highlighting its success and encouraging new SWICs to contact other SWICs and their Coordinators to build strong relationships throughout the program. Additionally, he announced CISA's release of the updated NECP on September 25, 2019, following the endorsement of NCSWIC and SAFECOM during the April 2019 meeting in Pittsburgh. The updated NECP addresses emergency communications gaps, reflects benefits and challenges associated with new and emerging technologies, and provides guidance to drive the nation towards a common end-state of emergency communications.

Public Safety Communications during the World Scout Jamboree

David Neal, West Virginia SWIC, and R.C. Faulk, West Virginia Assistant SWIC, presented on communications planning and execution during the 2019 World Scout Jamboree, held July 21-August 2, 2019. The two-week-long event occurs every four years and was held in the United States for the first time since 1967, bringing more than 54,000 scouts, representing 171 countries, to Betchel Summit, West Virginia. During the event, Betchel Summit became the fourth most populated city in West Virginia due to the influx of scouts, staff, first responders, and other support personnel. Communications planning began in January and included the SWIC Office, State Homeland Security IT Manager, Command Post Operator, Scouts of America Communications Manager, West Virginia National Guard J6 Component Leader, and additional subject matter expert support, as needed. The group met weekly to establish various communications and channel plans. In total, 5 zones of 16 dedicated talkgroups per zone were provided. Over 650 radios were deployed, with 30 additional cache radios held as strategic reserve.
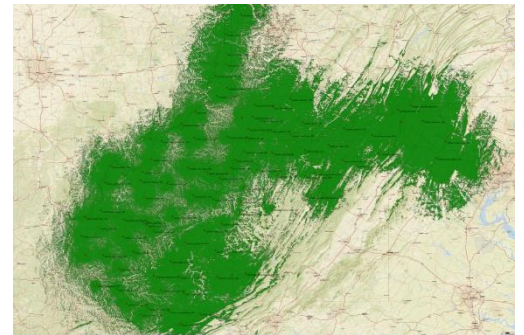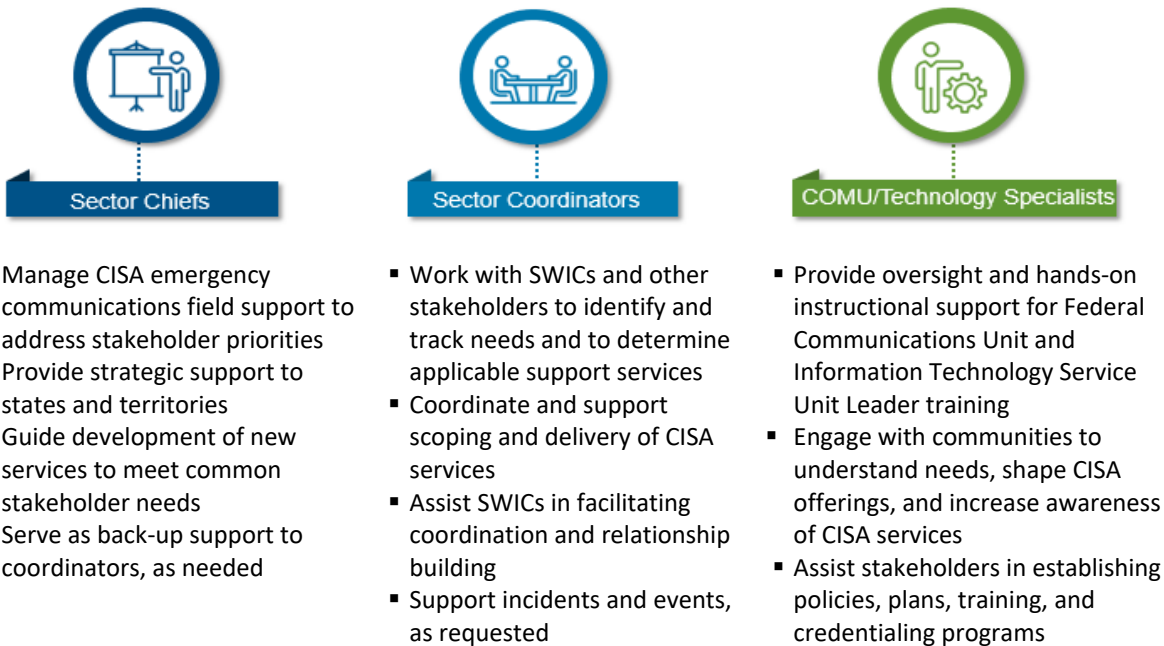
Figure 2 SIRN Coverage Map

Logistics for the Jamboree were complex, as it required management of five base camps, one mobile hospital, two National Guard units, and various fire and emergency response apparatuses. The planning team coordinated extensive planning efforts to ensure all 1,800 response personnel from various state, local, and federal agencies supporting the event had continuous operable and interoperable communications. This included the West Virginia Statewide Interoperable Radio Network (SIRN). Access to SIRN for civilian, public safety, and military personnel was already in place prior to the event, easing planning efforts. This provided the structure necessary to support the over 258,000 device

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connections recorded during the two-hour opening ceremony and the countless photos and updates scouts were encouraged to post on social media. Mr. Faulk concluded the presentation by highlighting the importance of building relationships and collaborating with state, local, and federal partners before, during, and after the event.

Interoperable Communications Technical Assistance Program Update

CISA Interoperable Communications Technical Assistance Program (ICTAP) representatives Linda Ward, Dick Tenney, Chris Essid, Marty McLain, and Steve Noel provided an update on the ICTAP Program, the Fiscal Year 2020 Statewide Communication Interoperability Plan (SCIP) process and Technical Assistance (TA) offerings. Established in 2019, the CISA emergency communications field force sector structure provides enhanced support to each sector: East (Regions I-III), Central (Regions IV-VII), and West (Regions VIII-X). Within each sector, the three positions (outlined below) are available to provide additional operational support to federal and SLTT partners. CISA is actively recruiting to fill current Emergency Communications Division vacancies.

Sector Chiefs	Sector Coordinators	COMU/Technology Specialists
▪ Manage CISA emergency communications field support to address stakeholder priorities ▪ Provide strategic support to states and territories ▪ Guide development of new services to meet common stakeholder needs ▪ Serve as back-up support to coordinators, as needed	▪ Work with SWICs and other stakeholders to identify and track needs and to determine applicable support services ▪ Coordinate and support scoping and delivery of CISA services ▪ Assist SWICs in facilitating coordination and relationship building ▪ Support incidents and events, as requested	▪ Provide oversight and hands-on instructional support for Federal Communications Unit and Information Technology Service Unit Leader training ▪ Engage with communities to understand needs, shape CISA offerings, and increase awareness of CISA services ▪ Assist stakeholders in establishing policies, plans, training, and credentialing programs

Additional updates in 2019 included the launch of strategic priorities support, tailored to provide support for priorities identified by states through the SCIP workshops, National Governors Association workshops, and the state performance markers. Examples of recently-executed support include governance planning, targeted outreach materials, Next Generation 911 strategic planning, Communications Unit program enhancement, cyber security awareness and planning, broadband planning, and technology assessments. SWICs interested in strategic priorities support, which are not counted against traditionally-requested TAs, should contact their CISA Emergency Communications Sector Coordinator.

NCSWIC Strategic Priorities

Mr. Miller and the NCSWIC Committee Chairs provided an overview of proposed 2020 work products coming out of the committee meetings held earlier in the week.

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NCSWIC Governance Committee
- Develop NCSWIC videos; publish *NCSWIC Fact Sheet*; launch SWIC Yearbook and Mentorship Program; compile Statewide Governance Examples

NCSWIC Planning, Training, and Exercise (PTE) Committee
- Develop *SWIC and State Training Officer Engagement Guide*; develop PTE promotional videos

Joint SAFECOM/NCSWIC Funding and Sustainment Committee
- Update *2015 Funding Mechanisms Guide*; develop *Funding Lifecycle Guide Appendix on Continuity of Operations Planning*

Joint SAFECOM/NCSWIC Technology Policy Committee
- Compile Identity, Credential, and Access Management case studies; develop *Toolkit for Emergency Communication Dependencies on External Infrastructure and Services*; develop *Overview of Public Safety Messaging Impacts on Interoperability*; gather resources for Deployment of Unmanned Aircraft Systems; outline Best Practices for Addressing Evolving Radio Frequency Interference Challenges

Additionally, Mr. Miller reviewed the new NCSWIC Goals and Objectives proposed by the NCSWIC Governance Committee and approved by the NCSWIC EC (Table 2).

NCSWIC Goals
1	Improved emergency communications and public safety communications interoperability throughout the nation
2	SWICs are key leaders and advocates in states and territories for public safety communications
3	Fully executed NECP goals and objectives

NCSWIC Objectives
1	Develop and provide resources and tools to be used by SWICs and public safety communities to further interoperability efforts
2	Educate lawmakers, policymakers, and stakeholders on the importance of policies supporting public safety communications
3	Equip, educate, and support SWICs in their roles as public safety communications coordinators
4	Promote the sharing of experiences and expertise among the NCSWIC community
5	Establish new, or maintain existing, committees to address specific issues or tasks
6	Identify and execute short- and mid-range strategic initiatives detailed within the NCSWIC Strategic Plan
7	Ensure alignment of subsequent guidance documents (i.e. Interoperability Markers, Grant Guidance)

Table 2: Newly Approved NCSWIC Goals and Objectives

NCSWIC Elections
Congratulations to Mr. Miller, elected as the new NCSWIC Chair, and Mr. Stoddard, elected NCSWIC Vice Chair.