

PSWN Program Overview— Saving Lives and Property Through Improved Interoperability

*The Homeland Security Lab of the
University of Maine Computer Science Department*

*Interoperability Heading Down the Right Road
November 6, 2002*

***TODAY'S BRIEFING WILL PROVIDE A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THE
PSWN PROGRAM AND THE ACTIVITIES IT IS UNDERTAKING TO
IMPROVE INTEROPERABILITY***

The briefing will—

- Overview the issue of interoperability
- Introduce the Public Safety Wireless Network (PSWN) Program
- Introduce the Wireless Public SAFETy Interoperable COMMunications Program (Project SAFECOM)
- Describe the program's interoperability assistance activities
- Provide steps that decision makers can take to improve interoperability

WHAT IS INTEROPERABILITY?

- Wireless interoperability is the ability to talk across radio systems on demand and in real time
- Wireless communications interoperability is necessary to—
 - Improve the ability of public safety officers to save lives and property
 - Facilitate rapid and efficient interaction among all public safety organizations
 - Provide immediate and coordinated assistance in day-to-day missions, task force operations, and mass-casualty incidents
- The events of September 11 have highlighted the necessity for effective public safety operations

Interoperability Is a Public Safety and Homeland Security Priority

WHAT IS THE PSWN PROGRAM?



- An initiative, jointly sponsored by the Departments of Justice and the Treasury, that ensures “no man, woman, or child ever loses his or her life because public safety officials cannot talk to one another”
- The PSWN Program is—
 - Dedicated to enhancing public safety communications interoperability at the local, state, federal, and tribal government levels
 - Fully funded by the federal government and thus has no affiliation with commercial entities
 - Involved in evolving homeland security initiatives such as FEMA’s grant distribution efforts and Project SAFECOM
 - Providing technical approaches and policy-oriented solutions through case studies, regional symposiums, pilot projects, and interoperability assistance

WHAT IS PROJECT SAFECOM?

- ✦ Project SAFECOM is a priority E-Government initiative established by the Office of Management and Budget; approved by the President's Management Council
- ✦ Government-to-Government (G2G) Objective: Make it easier for states and localities to participate as full partners with the federal government to provide citizen services

PROJECT SAFECOM HAS THREE TOP PRIORITIES

- ✦ Provide central coordination and reference materials for existing interoperability solutions
- ✦ Facilitate state/local access to resources and funding to implement interoperability solutions
- ✦ Identify practitioner requirements and develop strategic direction for Next Generation Solutions

The PSWN Program, as part of Project SAFECOM, conducts outreach and provides the lessons of its work to the solution set. We feel that PSWN's activities and research will set the stage for effective distribution of funds for effective interoperable solutions

THE PROGRAM HAS DEVELOPED A WEALTH OF KNOWLEDGE TO ASSIST THE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMUNITY

- Established an information clearinghouse that contains over 1,200 items and has responded to over 1,000 inquiries on interoperability over the past year alone
- Described 14 unique technical solutions to interoperability; provided advantages, disadvantages, and implementation techniques for 6 of these solutions
- Performed over 40 technical studies on pressing issues such as Voice-over-IP, 800 MHz systems, systems life-cycle development, and emerging commercial services
- Created 25 high-profile guides on a variety of timely interoperability issues, which have been distributed to more than 125,000 people
- Hosted more than 20 symposiums and conferences to raise education and awareness on the issue of interoperability
- Developed a national strategy that provides technical and policy solutions that, when taken together, provide a comprehensive resource for improving interoperability

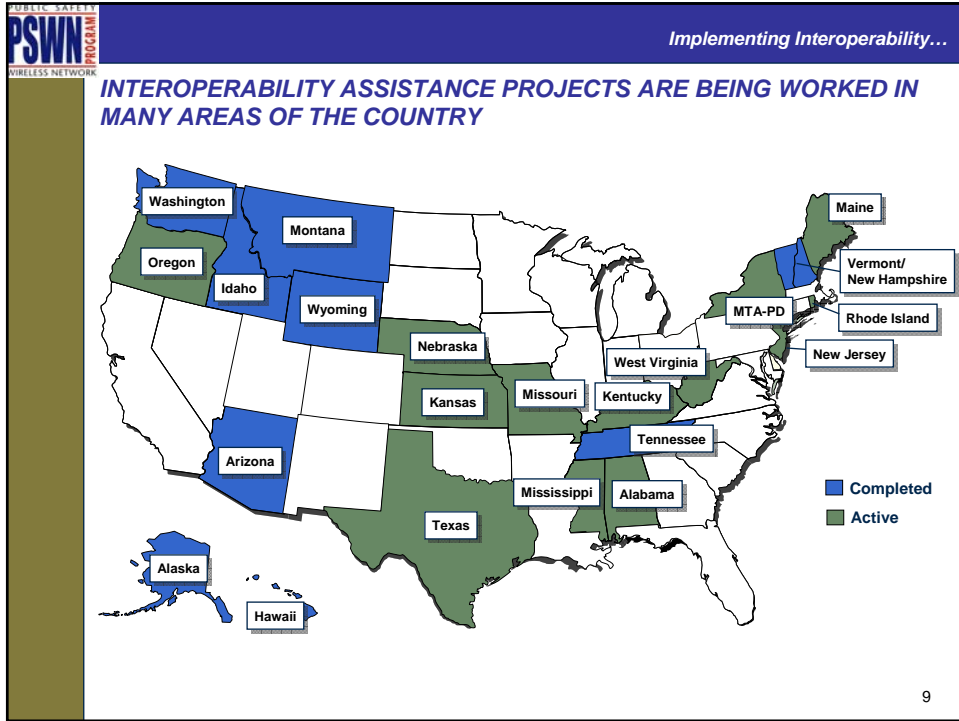
INTEROPERABILITY ASSISTANCE IS A TOOL USED BY THE PSWN PROGRAM TO HELP STATES INITIATE AND SUSTAIN INTEROPERABILITY AND SHARED SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS

The Assistance—

- Is focused on improving interoperability within a region or state
- Ranges from policy-related assistance to technical solution implementation
- Is not a grant, but technical/policy/planning assistance focusing on a specific issue or problem area with a specific goal in mind

It Gives States—

- A chance to “kick start” statewide interoperability and system development efforts
- The opportunity to create momentum around specific interoperability objectives
- Objective analysis and feedback from PSWN Program staff



PUBLIC SAFETY PSWN PROGRAM WIRELESS NETWORK *PSWN Program Interoperability Assistance...*

THE PROGRAM'S ASSISTANCE EFFORTS HAVE INVOLVED A RANGE OF ACTIVITIES FOCUSED ON IMPROVING INTEROPERABILITY

State	Nature of Assistance
Alaska	Committee analysis and recommendation, committee strategy, funding strategies, technical system development guidance
Arizona	Outreach and education strategy designed to cultivate statewide support for a statewide system development effort
Hawaii	Technology assessment and financial analysis to support a business case for the upgrade of a regional system
Idaho	Feasibility study for a statewide UHF trunked system for all public safety agencies in the state using existing UHF licenses
Mississippi	Committee analysis and recommendation, committee strategy, statewide system development strategy, 1-day symposium
Montana	Consolidated communications tower site
Tennessee	Committee analysis and recommendation, committee strategy, statewide system development strategy, 1-day symposium
Vermont/New Hampshire	Interstate communications strategy and implementation
Washington	Support to create an SIEC, including legal analysis, draft language and executive presentation
West Virginia	Executive order support, committee formation and strategy development, pre-planning survey design and analysis
Wyoming	RFP review and guidance and business case strategy for a statewide public safety communications system

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PUBLIC SAFETY PSWN PROGRAM WIRELESS NETWORK *PSWN Program Interoperability Assistance...*

THE PSWN PROGRAM RECENTLY INITIATED ASSISTANCE PROJECTS WITH AN ADDITIONAL TEN STATES AND ONE REGION

State	Nature of Assistance
Alabama	Local interoperability support, Invitation to Bid response review, and state–local resource sharing support
Kansas	Committee support, state-to-federal coordination, and state-to-locality outreach and communications
Kentucky	State system planning support, funding option identification, and emergency management exercise plan assessment
Maine	Interoperability work group support, strategic planning, and state-to-federal operational relations assistance
Missouri	Central statewide radio committee support, St. Louis metropolitan area interoperability solution assessment and implementation, and Kansas City area interoperability improvement recommendations
Nebraska	Executive board support including assessing funding opportunities, spectrum assistance, and short-term interoperability planning
New Jersey	Management assistance, outreach planning, and spectrum management support
New York City MTA-PD	Metropolitan Transportation Authority Police Department communications system analysis, operational requirements analysis, long-term strategy development to address the MTA-PD's communications requirements
Oregon	State interoperability executive committee and strategic planning support
Rhode Island	Interference analysis, Request for Proposal review, and statewide system strategic planning assistance
Texas	Program management office support, regional interoperability strategy development, and state-to-federal (e.g., U.S. Border Patrol, DEA) communications assistance

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PUBLIC SAFETY PSWN PROGRAM WIRELESS NETWORK *ME Interoperability Assistance...*

IN COORDINATION WITH STATE OFFICIALS, AN INTEROPERABILITY ASSISTANCE PLAN WAS ASSEMBLED FOR MAINE, WHICH INCLUDES THREE MAIN AREAS

- Interoperability work group support
- Strategic planning support
- Federal-to-state coordination and partnerships support

Preparation	Formal Assistance	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Initial meetings ▪ Initial assessment ▪ Project scope agreement 	Interoperability Work Group Support <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Organizational documents ▪ Management strategy ▪ Educational materials 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Meeting support
	Strategic Planning Support <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Stakeholder meetings ▪ High level gap analysis ▪ Work group strategy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Educational materials
	Federal-to-State Coordination and Partnerships Support <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Stakeholder meetings ▪ Operational documents ▪ Operational gap analysis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Educational materials ▪ Joint federal/state strategy

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time → Project Progression

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**DEVELOPING SOLUTIONS TO THE KEY ISSUE AREAS REQUIRES
DECISION MAKERS TO THINK OUTSIDE THE BOX**

- Local, state, federal, and tribal radio personnel and government leaders should examine new solutions to this old problem
- Government and non-government public safety entities need to plan and coordinate emergency response efforts to include the establishment of communications protocols and procedures
- All public safety personnel should think of the role they can play in improving interoperability in each of the following areas—
 - Coordination & Partnerships
 - Funding
 - Spectrum
 - Standards & Technology
 - Security



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