



Executive Summary
SAFECOM Emergency Response Council Meeting
June 29, 2011 • San Diego, CA

On June 29, 2011, the SAFECOM Emergency Response Council (ERC) met to discuss critical and emerging issues affecting the public safety community and to leverage expertise in the nationwide effort of improving interoperable emergency communications among Federal, State, local, and tribal stakeholders. Meeting attendees included Federal representatives from the Department of Commerce (DOC), Department of Homeland Security (DHS), including the Office of Emergency Communications (OEC) and Office for Interoperability and Compatibility (OIC); Department of Justice (DOJ); Federal Communications Commission (FCC); and local guests from San Diego, California.

Key outcomes of the June 2011 ERC Meeting included:

- A shared understanding of current OEC, OIC, and SAFECOM activities
 - OEC Director Chris Essid provided information regarding reductions to the FY 2011 DHS Preparedness Grant Program and the FY 2012 US Budget.
 - OIC Director Karen Ray shared the status of current OIC projects, including the Project 25 (P25) Compliance Assessment Program, Technology for Critical Incident Preparedness Conference, and Video Quality in Public Safety initiative.
 - Public Safety Communications Research (PSCR) Program Project Manager Dereck Orr updated the group on the PSCR's current efforts, including P25 Compliance testing and the 700 MHz Public Safety Broadband Demonstration Network activities. He also provided an update on the newly established NIST Visiting Committee on Advanced Technology (VCAT), a Federal Advisory Committee Act subcommittee.
- Updates on communications interoperability accomplishments and future plans:
 - The Federal Broadband Panel included Chris Essid, OEC; Joseph Heaps, DOJ; and Anna Gomez, DOC.
 - Key outcomes included an overview of DHS Innovation Day and the recent White House Broadband Forum, insights around Federal grant funding and the National Broadband Network, a summary of how Federal Bureau of Investigation applications are used to support public safety, and continued commitment from Federal partners to work with public safety community in the pursuit of a nationwide broadband network for public safety.
 - The Public Safety Community Broadband Panel included Harlin McEwen, International Association of Chiefs of Police; Gregg Riddle, Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials (APCO); Doug Aiken, National Public Safety Telecommunications Council (NPSTC); Bill Schrier, Operator Advisory Committee (OAC).
 - Key outcomes included an overview of the Public Safety Spectrum Trust, NPSTC Broadband Working Group's current initiatives and priorities, a summary of the recent APCO Broadband Summit and overview of the work of the APCO Broadband Committee, and an update on the progress of OAC and the public safety broadband waiver jurisdictions.
 - OEC Branch Chief Rich Reed provided a narrowbanding update and demonstrated how to utilize the Narrowband License Status Tool (http://publicsafetytools.info/start_nb_status.php) and data. Jeannie Benfaida, FCC, provided an overview of narrowbanding, including contact information for additional resources and questions. She encouraged all States to have plans in place for how they will narrowband, despite the potential lack of funding.
 - Ralph Barnett, OEC, presented a status update on the OEC case studies and 10-Year Anniversary of 9/11 Story.
- Validation of key recommendations for inclusion in the Public Safety Communications Evolution (PSCE) Brochure:
 - Chris Essid and Ryan Oremland, OEC, and Chief Charles Werner, SAFECOM Vice-Chair, discussed OEC's decision to use the PSCE Brochure as part of the next National Emergency Communications Plan update. SAFECOM members suggested key recommendations to include in the PSCE brochure.



Additional topics covered at the SAFECOM ERC Meeting included:

- Global Positioning System (GPS) Interference: Gary Pasicznyk, NPSTC, provided an overview of the topic, followed by Geoff Stearn's LightSquared presentation and a summary of the preliminary testing results. Jim Kirkland, Trimble, shared insights into the GPS Industry's stance on the interference issues and detailed the industry's concerns with the current and proposed LightSquared network.
- Intrinsically Safe Standards for Portable Radios: Paul Szoc, NPSTC, outlined NPSTC's efforts on behalf of public safety to minimize the potential technological and financial impacts of the new Intrinsically Safe standard, as well as how SAFECOM members can stay informed on the subject.

Upcoming SAFECOM Events

- December 6-7, 2011: ERC Meeting; Atlanta, Georgia

About the SAFECOM Emergency Response Council

SAFECOM is an emergency communications program of OEC and OIC. Through collaboration with emergency responders and policymakers across all levels of government, SAFECOM works to improve multi-jurisdictional and intergovernmental communications interoperability. The SAFECOM ERC is comprised of members from national associations representing the emergency response community and intergovernmental officials, public safety at-large members representing emergency responders in the field across the Nation, and contributing Federal agencies.