



Statewide Communications Interoperability Plan Progress Update

Short Term Goal S1 – Conventional MARC Repeater Coverage: Coverage of the state of Wisconsin with a series of conventional repeater systems to allow for a Mutual Aid Radio Channel (MARC) for use by all public safety disciplines.		
Objective S.1.1: Ensure MARC and IFERN coverage in each county that currently does not have it. Support repeater MARC bases/control stations or control links for dispatch centers, voting receiver systems for MARC repeaters, and base stations on other mutual aid channels including WISPERN, IFERN, ICALL/ITAC, and VCALL/VTAC.	Complete	65 of 72 counties (90%) have a MARC repeater. All counties that requested a MARC repeater received one with grant funding.
		In 2008, the Interoperability Council recommended requiring all MARC repeaters to be upgraded with automated ID in order to avoid conflicts with other MARC repeaters. A grant opportunity was made available to upgrade any MARC repeater and 33 counties were awarded funds for upgrades.
Objective S.1.2: A concerted effort is needed to ensure that all public safety agencies in the state have the common mutual aid channels programmed in their radios.	Complete	Grant funds were used to reprogram 16,000 radios. By the end of the grant program, an estimated 88% of radios were programmed with a minimum of ten mutual aid channels.
Objective S.1.3: Train on the proper use of these channels.	Complete	Training on proper use of channels was a requirement of all grants. Grant recipients were eligible for training funds. Use of MARC channels was incorporated into exercise guidance in 2010.
Objective S.1.4: Each county dispatch center should have access to a MARC repeater and an IFERN and WISPERN base. The short-term goal of this plan is to continue the build out of mutual aid channels throughout the state.	Partial	29 dispatch centers received funding for IFERN base stations to support the expansion of MABAS.
Objective S.1.5: Eliminate frequency usage conflicts on statewide mutual aid channels by encouraging agencies that are currently using one of the mutual aid frequencies for local usage to move their operation to another frequency.	Partial Discontinued	All jurisdictions with identified frequency conflicts were offered funding for reprogramming to resolve those conflicts. A small number of jurisdictions received funding for this effort. The objective of eliminating frequency conflicts on statewide mutual aid channels was later dropped because other interoperability initiatives were considered higher priority.
		In 2010 and 2011, usage conflicts of MARC 1 were mitigated along WI and IL border by the Mutual Aid Frequency Coordinating Group resulting in improved MARC communications for WI.
Objective S.1.6: Develop and Implement a method to incorporate National Frequency Naming Protocol in Wisconsin.	Complete	2011 planning and adoption of standard interoperability channel naming protocols in the re-published in the Mutual Aid Frequency Plan has fostered improved user ability to access common interoperability channels.
		National VMED 29 was adopted for EMS use in Wisconsin.

Short Term Goal S2 - Expand access to Mutual Aid Channels: Provision for additional mutual aid radio channels for simplex (end user radio to end user radio) communications in support of multi-discipline operations co-located at a single site/incident.		
Objective S.2.1: Support replacement of mobile and portable radios that are not software re-programmable to VHF trunking compatible equipment. VHF Radios should include a minimum of 20 (24 recommended) mutual aid channels.	Complete	Grant funds were used to replace more than 15,000 radios. New radios were required to be programmed with the minimum number of mutual aid channels.
Objective S.2.2: Utilize CASM tool to identify gaps in interoperability and radios that need replacement	Partial	Regional Interoperability Coordinators are inputting data into CASM on behalf of agencies. The data is voluminous and labor intensive. Work is ongoing.
Objective S.2.3: Research and create a methodology to migrate agencies with common channels from wide to narrow band in a coordinated manner.	Complete	Regional SCIP Implementation Councils supported by Regional Interoperability Coordinators fostered information sharing and outreach to promote migration planning. The Interoperability Council adopted a migration window of April to November 2011 for interoperability channels. Maps and ICTAP Tools showing FFC licensing status are used to monitor progress.
Short Term Goal S3 - Patching of Independent Systems: Patching methods, including using radio over internet protocol (RoIP) technologies to enable the patching of agency conventional radio channels with other agency radio channels. This also connects dispatch centers to foster redundancy and a methodology to back up center operations by another dispatch center.		
Objective S.3.1: Make continued use of gateway technology, such as ACU-1000 units, to provide tactical interoperability where it is needed. Units will be supported and deployed based upon regional needs.	Complete	2 ACU-2000 gateways deployed as part of Strategic Technology Reserve. Gateway training being delivered at Interoperability Symposium.
Objective S.3.2: Implement the Radio over Internet Protocol (RoIP) methodology-used to connect (minimally) county dispatch centers together via a patching system on the state BadgerNet telephone network. It is envisioned that this capability will be supported through the useful life of existing independent conventional radio systems.	Partial Discontinued	18 county dispatch centers and 2 State Patrol dispatch centers in west central part of the state were connected via RoIP in 2006. 12 additional county dispatch centers, 2 additional State Patrol dispatch centers, and the State EOC were added in 2008.
		In 2010, stakeholders met to update the Statewide Communications Interoperability Plan and they recommend revised initiatives that dropped expansion of the RoIP project. The revised initiatives were adopted by the Interoperability Council in the Fall, 2010.

Short Term Goal S4 - User Procedures and Standards: Develop and document multi-discipline standards for training, exercises, and operational procedures that will support the use of mutual aid frequencies (specific recommendations will be further detailed in future SIEC plans).		
Objective S.4.1: Utilize the Feedback Summary on the 2007 listening sessions to complete, approve, and publish the WSPSCS SOPs.	Partial	In January 2009, the Mutual Aid Frequency Coordinating committee was chartered by the Interoperability Council and that committee has been charged with finalizing the SOP. The SOP is in draft and under review as the MFCG Administrative Manual.
Objective S.4.2: Create a standardized Wisconsin Interoperability Training Course.	Complete	An exercise requirement for MARC usage was put into place for homeland security grants beginning in FY2009. WISCOM train-the-trainer and user training videos were developed in 2011.
Short Term Goal S5 – Maintain Equipment Functional Specifications: Enhance Functional Specifications for equipment that fosters interoperability.		
Objective S.5.1: Create Functional Specifications for Interoperable Data Communications.	Partial	Attempts to coordinate with FCC Waiver recipients in Wisconsin are ongoing. A request for technical assistance for SCIP Goal development is pending with the DHS Office of Emergency Communications with support anticipated in 2012.
Objective S.5.2: Establish encryption policy and procedures for WSPSCS SCIP and SOP.	Nearly Complete	An encryption policy for WISCOM and VTAC 36 is drafted and under review.
Short Term Goal S6 – Create Strategic Technology Reserves: Create a comprehensive, state of the art, Strategic Technology Reserve.		
Objective S.6.1: Implement a Mobile Communications Center maintained by WEM.	Complete	Mobile communications vehicle has been purchased, outfitted, and deployed by Wisconsin Emergency Management. In 2011, a WISCOM mobile “Site on Wheels” (SOW) was approved and contracted for with delivery anticipated 2nd quarter 2012. The SOW has a small cache of WISCOM/Interoperability channel radios.
Objective S.6.2: Utilize CASM tool to identify gaps in Wisconsin’s Strategic Technology Reserve and create plans to upgrade if necessary. The mobile command posts and mobile communications centers will be properly NIMS resource typed.	Not started	

Short Term Goal S7 - Integrate Interoperability Planning		
Objective S.7.1: Conduct analysis and act to remove all procedural conflicts and gaps between WI SCIP and adjoining state plans.	Complete	Planning has occurred through the FEMA Region V Regional Emergency Communications Working Group. The analysis has produced a document that identifies common interoperability channels between WI and our border states. This template is under consideration for National Council of Statewide Interoperability Coordinator adoption.
Objective S.7.2: Conduct analysis and act to remove all procedural conflicts and gaps between WI SCIP, UASI and Regional Plans. Parallel efforts will be made with safety and security elements of the major transit systems such as intercity bus service providers, ports, and passenger rail operations within the state.	Partial	WI Regional Interoperability Coordinators are leading county Tactical Interoperable Communications Plan (TICP) development. The standard template will enable planning between stakeholders. Transportation providers are considered in the State Agency and County TICPs.
Objective S.7.3: Conduct analysis and act to remove all procedural conflicts and gaps between WI SCIP and other WI statewide plans.	Nearly Complete	The Mutual Aid Frequency Coordination Group is incorporating Wisconsin Emergency Management's Emergency Police Service Communication Plan, and non-EMS user Communications Plans into the MFCG Administrative Manual in order to harmonize planning.
Objective S.7.4: Conduct analysis and act to remove all procedural conflicts and gaps between WI SCIP and Federal and Canadian plans.	Ongoing	In 2009, a memorandum of understanding was signed with the US Department of Interior opening up avenues for interoperable communications with DOI and other federal entities. In 2009 and 2010, participation in cross border workshops has provided analysis and input to recommended federal action needed to address US and Canadian Interoperable communications issues. Efforts on behalf of states will be ongoing by the National Council of Statewide Interoperability Coordinators and the DHS Office of Emergency Communications.
Objective S.7.5: Create a Policy Maker and Practitioner Orientation Program on Concepts of Interoperability.	Complete	A 1-1.5 hour presentation has been developed and successfully given to the Wisconsin Counties Association, Police and Fire Chief Association, Emergency Management conferences, USDA Field Office training, etc.
Long-term Goal L1 – Implement Statewide Communications: Implement a common statewide radio communications system that interfaces a statewide P25 VHF trunking system with all independent trunking systems.		
Objective L.1.1: Provide mobile coverage. Establish the VHF backbone to serve 95% of the state.	Nearly Complete	70 of 80 WISCOM are active, exceeding the goal of 75% activation by July 2011.
		95% mobile coverage goal achieved.
		Testing of the system is underway, final acceptance accepted by summer 2012.
Objective L.1.2: Expand the coverage capability of the backbone system.	Just underway	4 counties and 1 municipality are implementing WISCOM for level 3/5 usage. The implementation plans include additional sites for enhanced local capacity and coverage.
Objective L.1.3: Expand the systems to serve portables, to provide for growth to support additional users and subscribers.	Just underway	Nearly 200 agencies and 4,000 radios are registered on the system. An open grant program is expected to bring on more than 3,000 new radios in the first half of 2012.