



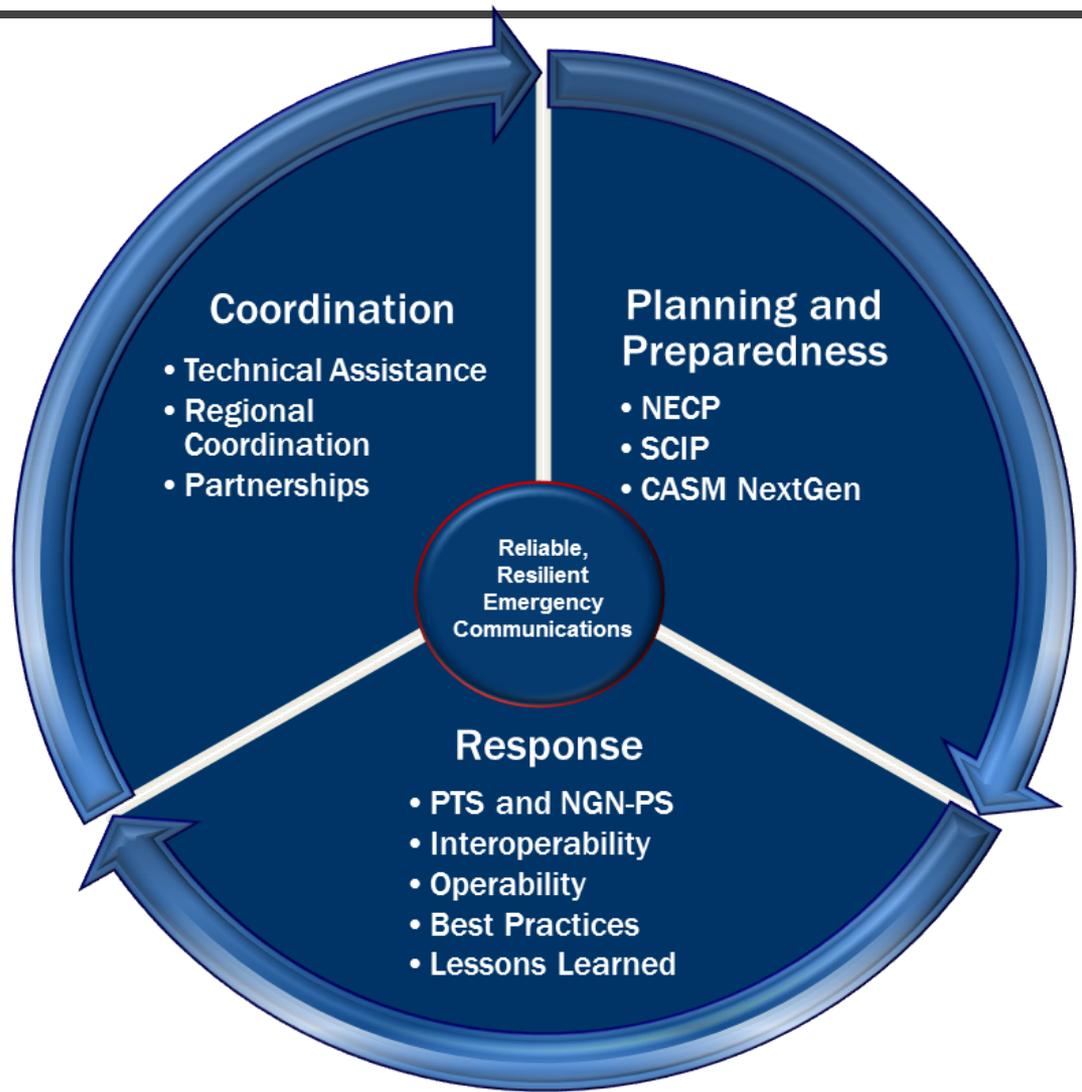
# Homeland Security

## The Office of Emergency Communications and the Future of Public Safety Communications

PSCR Broadband Conference  
June 4, 2014 – 8:30-9:00 AM

Ron Hewitt  
Director  
Office of Emergency Communications

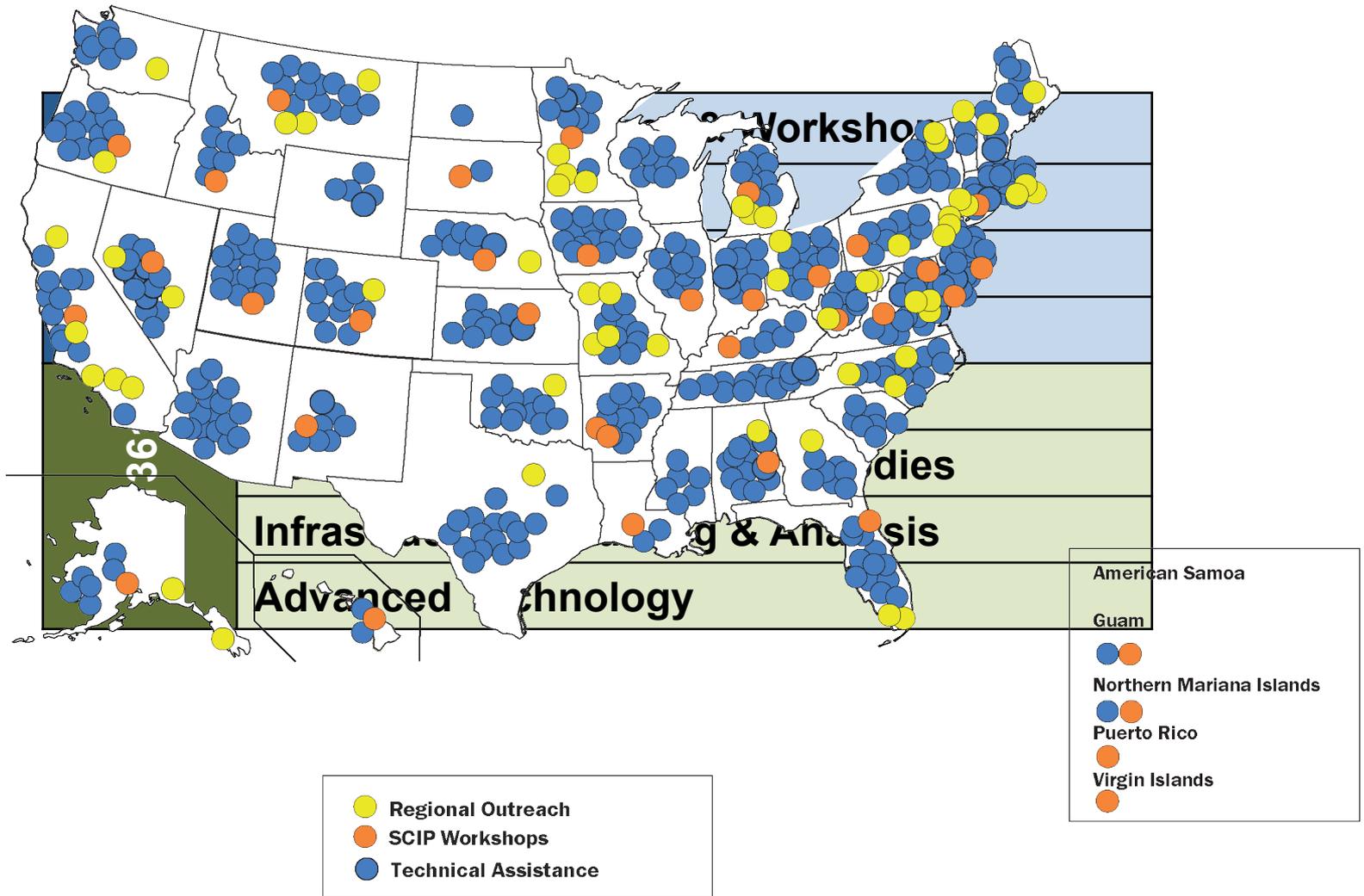
# Success through OEC's mission



The Office of Emergency Communications (OEC) supports and promotes communications capabilities used by emergency responders and government officials to keep America safe, secure, and resilient.



# OEC's Widespread Support

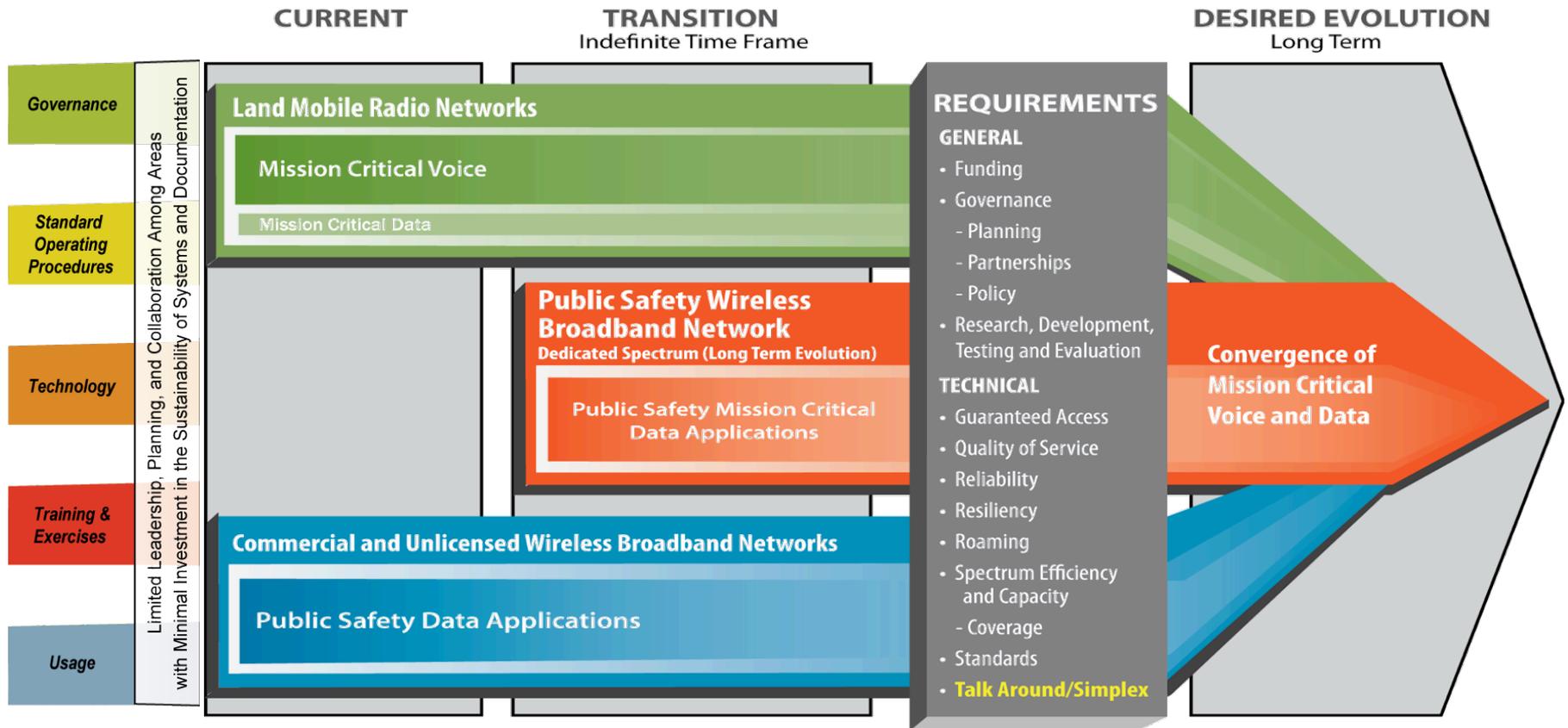


# Impact of OEC Services

	Event	OEC Support	Impact
	Joplin, MO Tornado (2010)	<b>Auxiliary Communication Technical Assistance</b>	Trained amateur radio operators, or auxiliary communicators were able to fill communications gaps and offer assistance when the storm hit.
	Hurricane Irene (2011)	<b>Communications Unit Leader (COML) training course</b>	In the midst of the storm and aftermath, COMLs ensured emergency communications systems were operating continuously and effectively
	Hurricane Sandy (2012)	<b>Interoperable Emergency Communications Grant Program (IECGP) / Priority Services</b>	States reported that funds had been used for training (COML / COMT) and planning efforts (TICPs / Field Guides) which improved their coordination and response to the storm. 32,000 calls were successfully placed via GETS and WPS.
	Boston Marathon Bombing (2013)	<b>Statewide Interoperability Communications Plan (SCIP) workshop / Regional Coordination / Priority Services</b>	The SCIP was used in the preparation for the Boston Marathon, and subsequent response to the bombings. RC coordinated interoperability frequency channels between Rhode Island and Massachusetts to ensure a channel for use by Boston officials. More than 400 calls were successfully placed via GETS and WPS.



# New Technologies, Same Interoperability Challenge



Mar 2011 v. 3.0

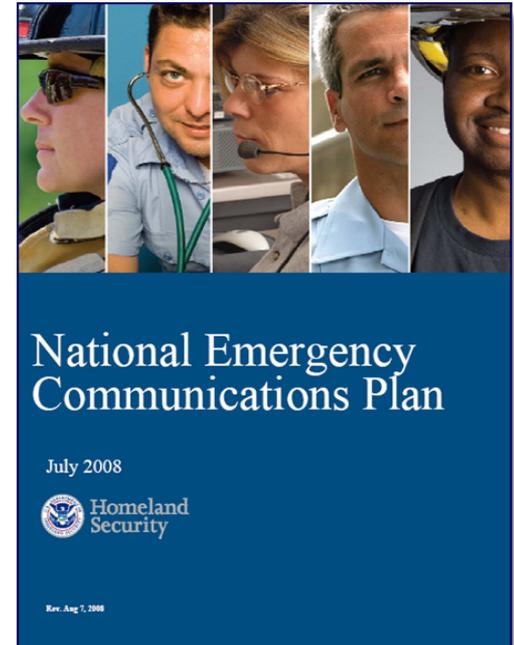


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# National Emergency Communications Plan

- Released in July 2008, the NECP is the Nation's single dedicated strategic plan for emergency communications nationwide.
- OEC conducted assessment of key capabilities & performance in more than 2,800 counties, focusing on:
  - Frequency of training, SOPs, NIMS, and use of interoperability solutions
  - Maturity of governance and planning structures
  - Communications system quality and continuity
- Title 18 requires OEC to “periodically update” the NECP in coordination with F/S/L/T/T agencies and the private sector.

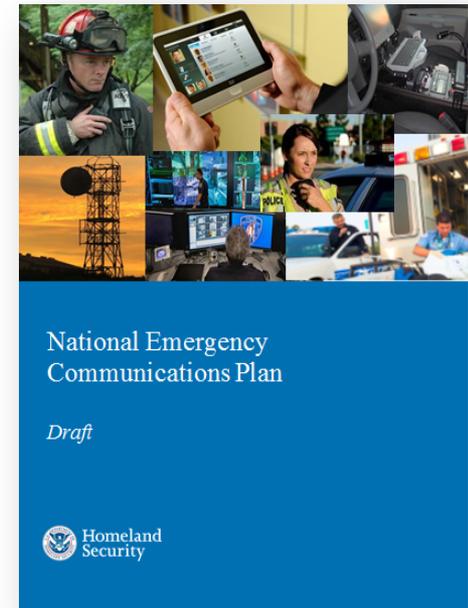


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# NECP Update Process

- Stakeholder-driven process that included more than 325 stakeholders at all levels of government and the private sector
- Coordinated with all major public safety partnerships & associations (SAFECOM, APCO, NCSWIC, IAEM)
  - Included all public safety disciplines, emergency management agencies, 9-1-1/PSAPs, and tribal nations
- Reviewed by DHS sector coordinating councils, including the communications and information technology
- Federal coordination through One DHS and ECPC
  - ECPC: Federal departments and agencies involved in emergency communications (e.g., DOD, DOJ, DOT, DOS, DOC)
  - DHS components: S&T, FEMA Alerts & Warning, DHS Operations, CBP



# Strategic Goals

- **Governance and Leadership:** Enhance decision-making, coordination, and planning for emergency communications through strong governance structures and leadership
- **Planning and Procedures:** Update plans and procedures to improve emergency responder communications and readiness in a dynamic operating environment
- **Training and Exercises:** Improve responders' ability to coordinate and communicate through training and exercise programs that use all available technologies and target gaps in emergency communications
- **Operational Coordination:** Improve responders' ability to coordinate and communicate through training and exercise programs that use all available technologies and target gaps in emergency communications
- **Research and Development:** Coordinate research, development, testing, and evaluation activities to develop innovative emergency communications capabilities that support the needs of emergency responders





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