



KANSAS ADJUTANT GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT
2800 SOUTHWEST TOPEKA BOULEVARD
TOPEKA, KANSAS 66611

**STATE OF EMERGENCY AND INTEROPERABLE
COMMUNICATIONS IN KANSAS
REMARKS OF COLONEL CHRIS STRATMANN
NOVEMBER 7, 2014**

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

Good Morning and thank you for the opportunity to be here today.

I am Colonel Chris Stratmann, Chief Information Technology Officer for the Adjutant General's Department, Kansas National Guard.

This morning I'll be covering the state of Interoperable and Emergency Communications in Kansas. Over the last several years we have seen a vast improvement in public safety communications capabilities and with the advent of new technologies and programs we will continue to realize increased interoperability and information sharing. The growth in these capabilities, however, will require enhanced coordination at the state level.

Since it has been some time since the committee was last briefed on this topic, I'd like to provide background information that will bring us up to today.

In 2007, Kansas received Department of Homeland Security funds under the Public Safety Interoperable Communications or "PSIC" grant program. This grant helped finance the development and buildout of a statewide interoperable radio communications system. This radio system provides first responders across the state a fully interoperable platform that allows for communications between agencies and jurisdictions previously unavailable. The grant required the designation of both a governing body and single coordinator position. The governing body, the Statewide Interoperable Executive Committee, or "SIEC", was created by Executive Order 07-27 and a Statewide Interoperable Coordinator, or "SWIC", was hired as a full-time position within the Adjutant General's Department. Executive Order 07-27 is included as Attachment A and the current membership of the SIEC is included as Attachment B. A second grant, the Interoperable Emergency Communications Grant Program, or "IECGP" was awarded to Kansas and allowed for the funding of the SWIC, two Communications Trainers and interoperable communications-related training and exercises. This three-person office is referred to as the Office of Emergency Communications or "OEC".

The primary agencies involved in the buildout of this statewide system were the Kansas Department of Transportation, the Kansas Highway Patrol and the Adjutant General's

Department. An existing KDOT radio system “backbone” was leveraged to facilitate the buildout of the state-wide interoperable public safety radio system. This allowed the three aforementioned agencies along with the SIEC and SWIC to successfully coordinate resources and manpower and complete the system in approximately five years.

As the grant periods came to a close, funding was sought to sustain the Interoperability Coordinator and Trainer positions. Ultimately, it was agreed upon that KDOT would fund these positions with an inter-agency transfer on a year-to-year basis beginning in state FY13. Also in FY13, two deployable communications units designed to augment the fixed radio system, and three technician operators were transferred from KDOT to the Adjutant General’s Department.

Today, the Kansas Statewide Interoperable Communications System, or KSICS, is complete and covers almost 100% of the state geography. There are near 1200 distinct agencies and jurisdictions and over 28,000 users on the system. It is recognized nation-wide as one of the most successful and complete public safety radio systems and is often referred to as a model to emulate by DHS.

Over the last year, the Department of Transportation and the Statewide Interoperable Executive Committee have begun discussing options regarding the long-term sustainment of the system. KDOT has announced plans to issue a Request for Proposal seeking consulting services to professionally value the system and offer options regarding future funding and structure. Along these lines, the Kansas Adjutant General’s Department believes that the Kansas Legislative Research Department should be engaged in exploring the future governance structure of public safety communications policy and assets in similar states and report that information back to this committee and the Statewide Interoperable Executive Committee. Together, we could begin the work of designing a plan for effective public safety communications governance to meet the needs of Kansas.

The importance of a more defined and robust public safety communications governance structure is further amplified by the last item I would like to brief this morning and that is the Public Safety Broadband Network known as FirstNet.

In February of 2012, Congress created the First Responder Network Authority (also known as FirstNet) as an independent authority within the National Telecommunications and Information Administration to provide emergency responders with a nationwide, high-speed, wireless broadband network dedicated to public safety use. The creation of FirstNet addresses one of the last unanswered recommendations of the 9/11 Commission regarding interoperable communications by calling for a ubiquitous, prioritized data-sharing capability.

As you can imagine, FirstNet is an extremely complex and ambitious undertaking and it is just now in its beginning stages of planning and outreach. Kansas has received a grant award totaling \$2.3M over a three-year period to prepare for FirstNet. We are currently entering the second year of this grant. Authorized grant fund uses include outreach employees, materials, and travel, and Kansas has utilized the funds for all of those items up to this point. Mid-way through this year, we anticipate beginning the “data collection” phase where we will ascertain the anticipated number of users, their specific needs and the required coverage for the state.

Each state will also have an "Initial Consultation" directly with FirstNet so that they may learn first hand what the issues and concerns are for the state. Kansas anticipates having that FirstNet Initial Consultation in April 2015. Invitations were sent to respective leaders in both the House and Senate and each designated one representative for the consultation. (Rep. Kevin Jones from the House and Sen. Mike Petersen from the Senate)

The Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee, Office of Information Technology Services and OEC have taken on the bulk of FirstNet coordination and governance activities. As a result of the FirstNet grant and its provisions, the Office of Information Technology Services, the Kansas Native American Affairs Office and a representative from the 911 Coordinating Council were all added to the SIEC. A graphic of the Public Safety Broadband/FirstNet governance structure for Kansas is included in Attachment C.

The timelines for FirstNet efforts have been fluid, but they do appear to be moving forward in a deliberate manner with the needs of each state at heart. Once FirstNet meets with all states and territories, they will then draft a formal Request for Proposal for actual buildout of the national system. It is estimated that we are probably about two years out from that RFP being issued. Upon issuance of the proposal and review by the state, we will have 90 days to determine if we will accept the plan as offered by FirstNet, or "opt out". Opting out means that the state has rejected the FirstNet plan and will build a system on our own. You will notice that NOT having a system within the state is not an option. Each state will accept the FirstNet proposal or build their own. The opt-out option was primarily included for states that had already embarked on wireless data for public safety projects.

As illustrated by the two major areas highlighted previously, I'd like to re-emphasize the pressing need to examine and enhance the current governance structure of public safety communications efforts within Kansas. While efforts to this point have been successful and all involved entities should feel proud of what we've accomplished; the uncertain future of the KSICS radio system, the vastness of wireless public safety broadband and the overall growth and requirement for public safety information sharing, will require a more clearly defined, dedicated and integrated approach. We feel that by recognizing the valuable role of the system as an integral part of our statewide security architecture; and by recommending the completion of a study to determine the best governance structure for public safety communications, the committee can directly influence the successful future of public safety communications to meet the needs of Kansas.

Thank you. I'll be followed by Angee Morgan, Deputy Director for Emergency Management.

Respectfully submitted by:

Colonel Chris Stratmann
Chief Information Technology Officer
Kansas Adjutant General's Department
7 Nov 2014

Attachment A

EXECUTIVE ORDER 07-27

WHEREAS, Kansas recognized the importance of public safety and protection of public and private property throughout the state; and

WHEREAS, efficient emergency response is paramount to the safety of Kansas' citizens and visitors, and for the protection of public and private property throughout the state; and

WHEREAS, emergency responders commonly rely upon radio frequencies and technologies that are often not interoperable; and

WHEREAS, the lack of communications interoperability has the potential to create inefficiencies during emergency response and disaster recovery efforts; and

WHEREAS, interoperable public safety communications between and within jurisdictions is critical to the mission of public safety; and

WHEREAS, the attainment of interoperable communications requires statewide coordination and leadership.

NOW, THEREFORE, pursuant to the authority vested in me as Governor of the State of Kansas, I hereby establish the Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee ("SIEC") with the following purposes and charges:

1. Conduct an assessment to better understand the current baseline of communications interoperability in the State of Kansas.
2. Identify and recommend future technologies that will enhance the communications interoperability capability within the State of Kansas.
3. Create a Statewide Communications Interoperability Plan.
4. Manage implementation of the Interoperability Plan.
5. Create statewide best practices, policies, procedures, and protocols for communications interoperability.
6. Provide training opportunities related to communications interoperability for all necessary and authorized public safety practitioners.
7. Provide that the SIEC shall be comprised of a representative who has been given authority to represent the following agencies or organizations:
 - a. Kansas Adjutant General
 - b. Kansas Highway Patrol
 - c. Kansas Department of Transportation
 - d. Kansas Sheriff's Association
 - e. Kansas Association of Chiefs of Police
 - f. Kansas State Association of Fire Chiefs
 - g. Kansas Emergency Management Association
 - h. Kansas State Board of Emergency Medical Services
 - i. Kansas Chapter of Association of Public Safety Communications Officials
8. Provide that the SIEC may designate other members as it believes would further its mission.
9. Provide that the SIEC membership shall be for open-ended terms, and the Chair and Vice-Chair shall be selected by the members on an annual basis.
10. Direct the Kansas Adjutant General to provide staff support for the SIEC.
11. Members of the SIEC shall not receive compensation, subsistence, allowance or associated expenses. Officers or employees of state agencies who are appointed to the SIEC as part of their duties shall be authorized to participate on the SIEC and may claim subsistence, allowance, mileage or associated expenses as permitted by law.

This document shall be filed with the Secretary of State as Executive Order No. 07-27 and shall become effective immediately.

December 20, 2007

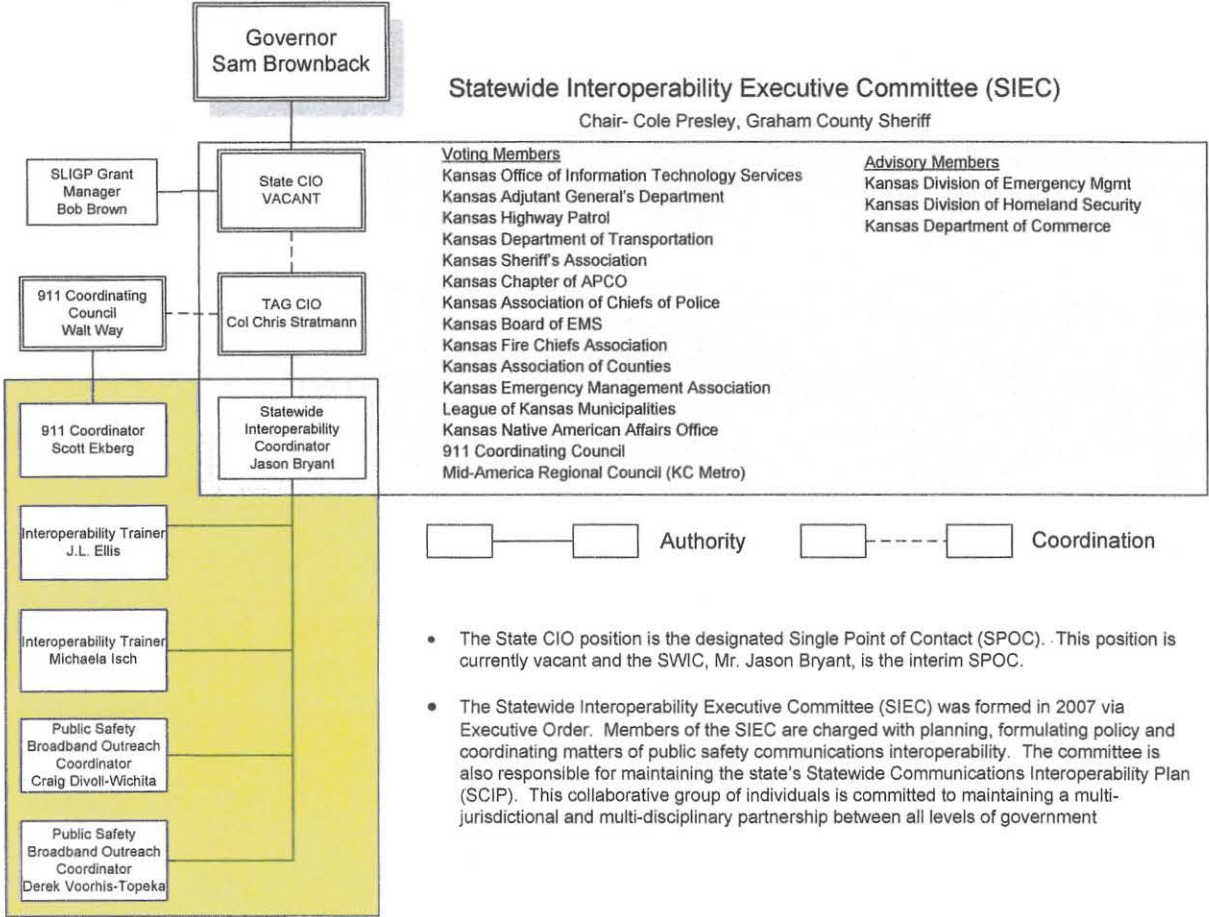
Attachment B

Current Membership of the Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee

Agency/Association	Representative
Kansas Adjutant General	MG Lee Tafanelli
Kansas Highway Patrol	Col Ernest Garcia
Kansas Department of Transportation	Secretary Mike King
Kansas Office of Information Technology Services	VACANT
Kansas Sheriff's Association	Cole Presley (Chair)
Kansas Association of Chiefs of Police	Dick Heitschmidt
Kansas State Association of Fire Chiefs	Bob McLemore
Kansas Emergency Management Association	John Stradal
Kansas Association of Counties	VACANT
League of Kansas Municipalities	Sam Budreau
Kansas State Board of EMS	Kerry McCue
Kansas Chapter of APCO	Michele Abbott (Vice Chair)
Kansas Native American Affairs Office	Chris Howell
Kansas 911 Coordinating Council	Rusty Griffin
Mid-America Regional Council	VACANT
Kansas Department of Commerce	Stanley Adams (non-voting)
Kansas Division of Emergency Management	Angee Morgan (non-voting)

Attachment C

Interoperability and Public Safety Broadband Governance for Kansas Current as of 27 Oct 2014



Office of Emergency Communications (OEC)



Interoperable and Emergency Communications



**Colonel Chris Stratmann
Chief Information Technology Officer
7 November 2014**

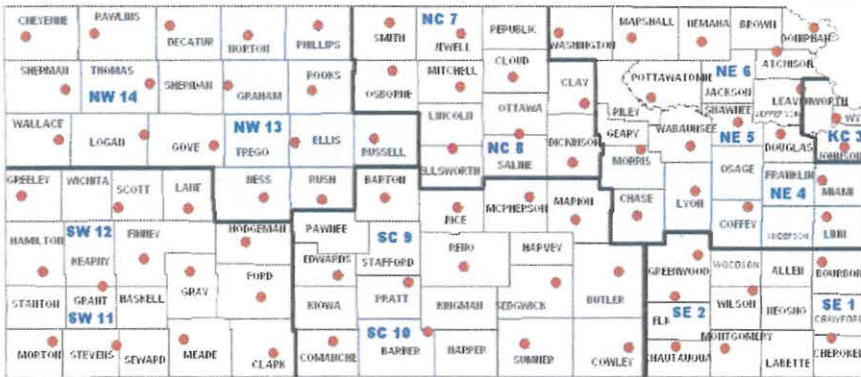


Communications on Wheels (COW)





KSICS Tower Sites



1200 Agencies and 28,000 Users



What Is FirstNet?



A Dedicated Public Safety Wireless Broadband Network



Interoperable and Emergency Communications



**Colonel Chris Stratmann
Chief Information Technology Officer
7 November 2014**