



Interoperability Cornerstones: The Interoperability Continuum

Summit on Implementing Wireless Communications

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“We’re from the Department of Homeland Security. You left your damn door unlocked.”



Public Safety Wireless Interoperability



Wireless interoperability is the ability of public safety service and support providers to talk with each other via voice and data:

- On demand
- In real time
- When needed
- When authorized

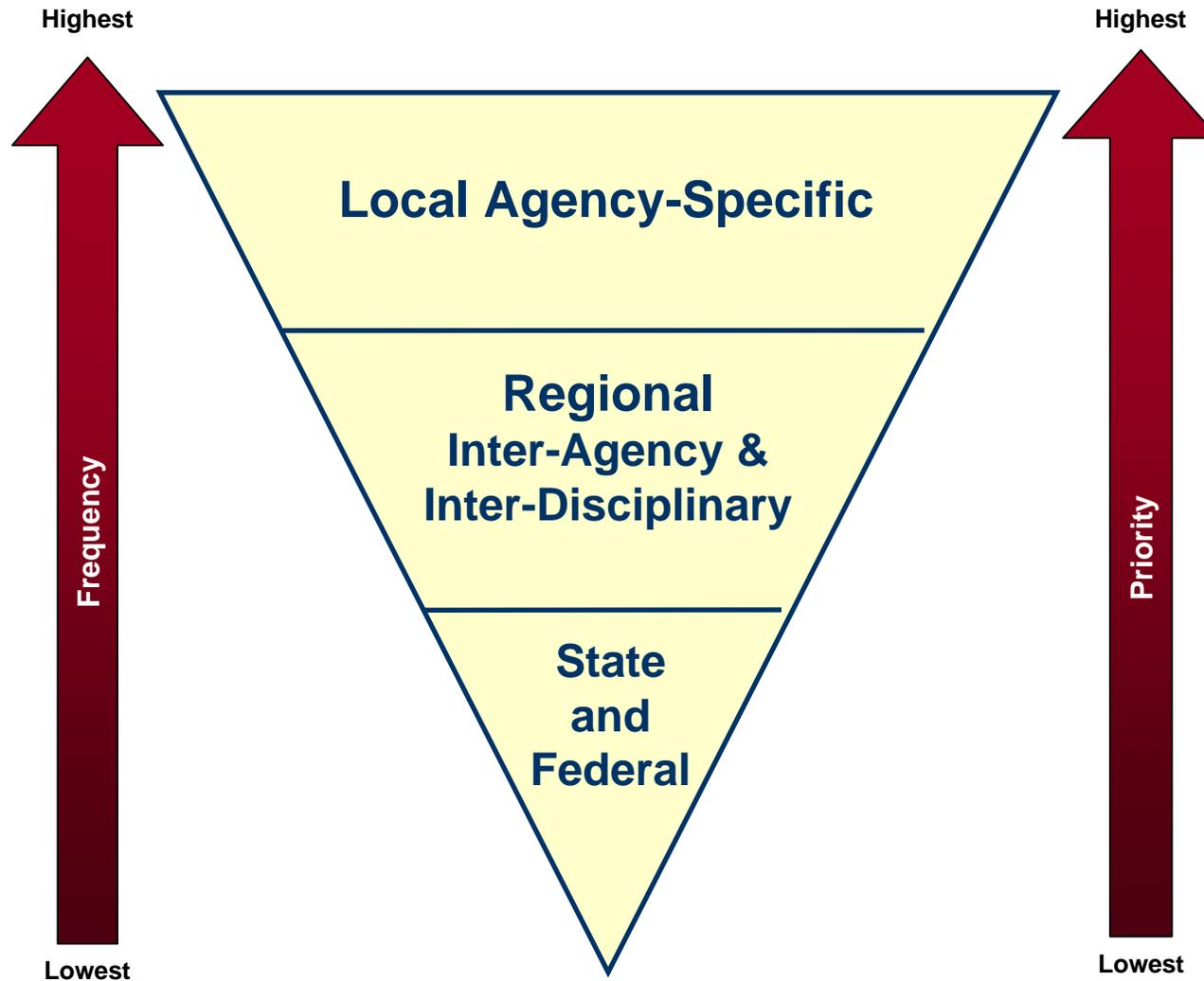


- Improves the ability of public safety practitioners to reduce the loss of life and property in emergency situations
- Facilitates rapid and efficient interaction among all public safety organizations
- Provides immediate and coordinated assistance in day-to-day missions, task force operations, and mass-casualty incidents



- First national program designed by public safety for public safety.
- SAFECOM makes it possible for the public safety community to leverage resources by promoting coordination and cooperation across all levels of government.

With its partners, SAFECOM is working to assure a safer America through effective public safety communications.

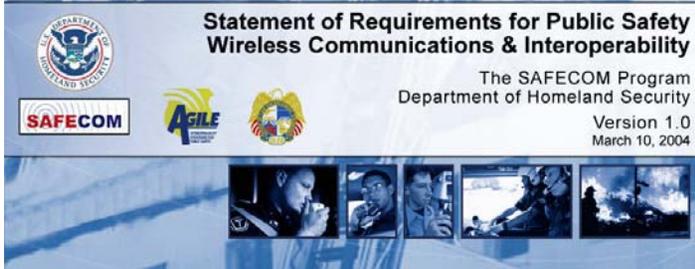
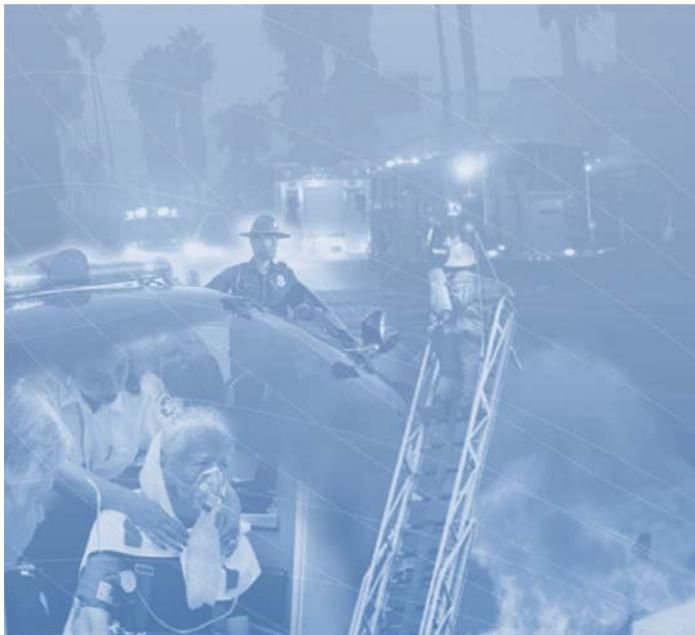




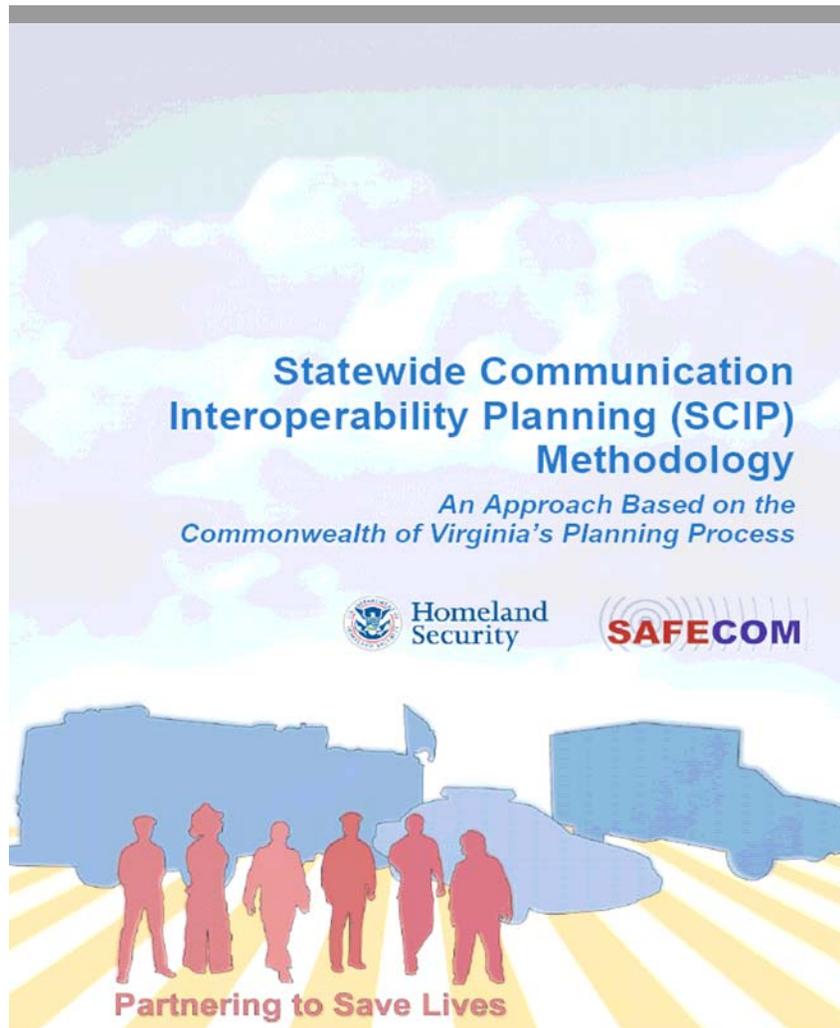
- Coordinated Grant Guidance
- Statement of Requirements (SoR)
- Statewide Communications Interoperability Planning (SCIP) Methodology
- RapidCom and the Interoperability Continuum

Public Safety Statement of Requirements (SoR)

- The SoR is a practitioner created set of communications requirements
 - It is a living document



- Version 1.0
 - Released in March 2004
- Version 1.1
 - Draft is complete; being vetted through Public Safety/NPSTC
- Version 2.0
 - Will begin to focus on quantitative requirements
 - Work is underway



SAFECOM recently released the Statewide Communications Interoperability Planning (SCIP) Methodology, a tool that outlines a step-by-step planning process for developing a locally-driven, statewide strategic plan to enhance communications interoperability.



RapidCom



In May 2004, Department of Homeland Security (DHS) announced the launch of RapidCom, an initiative to help improve capabilities for immediate, incident-level, interoperable emergency communications in ten high-threat urban areas.

The DHS Science and Technology (S&T) Directorate, through the SAFECOM program, led the effort, working in cooperation with federal partners such as the DHS Office for Domestic Preparedness (ODP), Department of Justice (DOJ) 25 Cities program, and National Institute of Justice (NIJ) CommTech program to provide the Rapid Emergency-Level Interim Communications Interoperability (RapidCom) initiative in the following urban areas—

Boston, Massachusetts

Chicago, Illinois

Houston, Texas

Jersey City, New Jersey

Los Angeles, California

Miami, Florida

National Capital Region

New York, New York

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

San Francisco, California

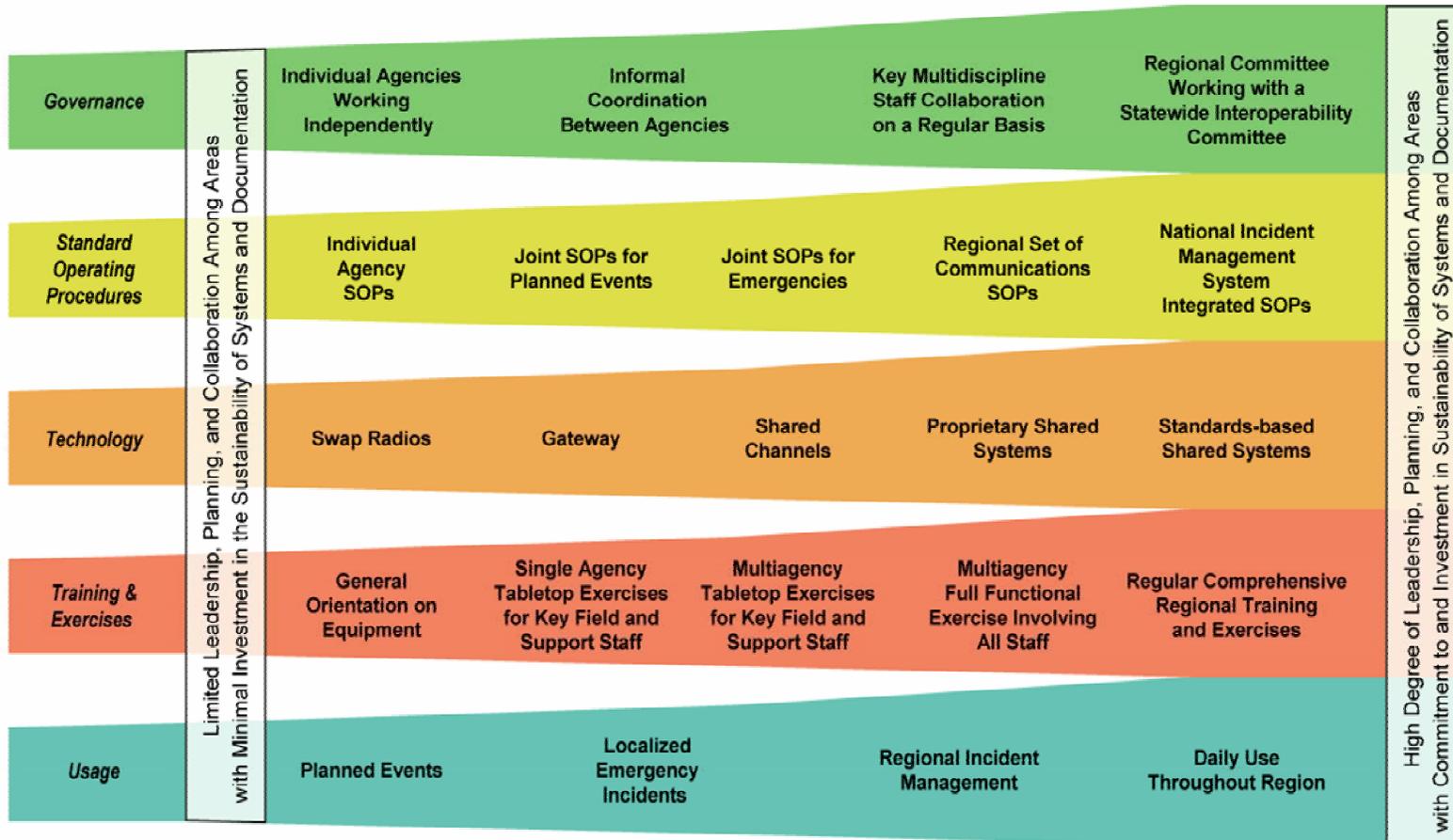
Key Findings

Although each of the RapidCom urban areas' needs varied based on the unique characteristics of the communities, common themes emerged throughout the initiative, including:

- RapidCom urban areas were overwhelmed by disparate federal programs offering a variety of uncoordinated assistance.
- RapidCom urban areas were interested in making more informed decisions and exchanging lessons learned and best practices with other RapidCom urban areas.
- RapidCom urban areas had procured equipment that was not yet fully operational. They were looking for planning tools to broaden awareness of current communications capabilities and help make their equipment operational.



Interoperability Continuum





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"Can you hear me now?"



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Security**



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