



# State of Louisiana Communications Interoperability Assessment

May 1, 2008



## Chief Mike Morgan

- Current Fire Chief of Costa Mesa in Orange County, California
- Former Assistant Fire Chief for LA County
- A member of:
  - Public Safety Wireless Advisory Committee
  - Public Safety Wireless Network Executive Committee
  - SAFECOM Advisory Group



## Chief Morgan's Visit

- Met with SIEC Chair, GOHSEP Director & Staff, DPS Staff (State Police and Radio Communications) on 3 April 2008
- Met with the following groups on 4 April 2008
  - Law Enforcement
  - OEP Directors
  - SIEC
  - Raytheon
  - Fire Service
- Observed the LA National Guard Disaster Response Exercise on 5 April 2008



## Findings on Overall System

- “The State of Louisiana has taken a “can-do” approach to achieving optimal level communications interoperability since the occurrence of Hurricane Katrina.”
- It is evident that the SIEC “has taken a proactive approach to the overall improvement of public safety communications for emergency responders and emergency response agencies.”
- The SIEC and prime movers within the State appear to be recognizing and attempting to address all five critical elements defined by the SAFECOM Interoperability Continuum.



1. The chair of the State SIEC, and statewide shared-system prime movers from GOHSEP, Louisiana State Police (LSP), and Department of Public Safety Communications (DPSC) have a thorough understanding of, and are moving toward a clear and correct vision for optimal level, statewide communications interoperability.

Recommendation: This group continue to play an active role



2. Governance, project management, and governance policies lack formalization, funding, and execution.

Recommendation: Ensure Executive Order or legislation is established that will define and fund the governance body.

3. Governance and project management may not adequately represent all major stakeholders.

Recommendation: Establish subcommittees and focus groups that represent operational requirements



4. Governance and project management *struggle to cultivate political and stakeholder support*, determine system planning-requirements, provide education to stakeholder groups, and build statewide consensus and support.

Recommendation: Provide routine briefings to elected and appointed officials; have a single point of contact



5. In some cases the statewide shared-system build-out is perceived as a LSP project and not a State sponsored first responder communications asset.

Recommendation: Conduct outreach programs

6. Low levels of confidence exist regarding continued State funding of user-fees and equipment.

Recommendation: Establish permanent funding mechanism





7. Standard Operating Procedures (SOP's) for interoperable communications in the State have not been developed

Recommendation: Draft and implement SOP's and ensure that all stakeholders are thoroughly represented.

8. Technology options, although well understood by prime movers, are not clearly represented to major stakeholders and local first responders.

Recommendation: Make technology education a part of outreach and publications



9. Coverage and capacity requirements for the statewide shared-system need further research, clarification, planning, and design.

Recommendation: Direct research to identify operational requirements and define appropriate coverage needs and capacity requirements.

10. Equipment training and systems exercises are insufficient for first responders.

Recommendation: Establish a Training Subcommittee and develop a training program and materials



11. Usage of systems and equipment has not expanded in all areas of the State from utilization at planned events to daily use.

Recommendation: Encourage daily usage to foster familiarity and seamless proficiency.



“This is the most productive meeting I participated in on interoperable communications in two years.”

Sheriff Ricky Edwards



## Technology Committee Report PSIC Grant Recommendations

- Technology Committee met with GOHSEP on August 2, 2007
- Established the following priorities
  - 700 MHz Infrastructure Expansion - \$10 million
  - Subscriber Units and Consoles - \$7 million
  - Emerging Technology - \$2 million

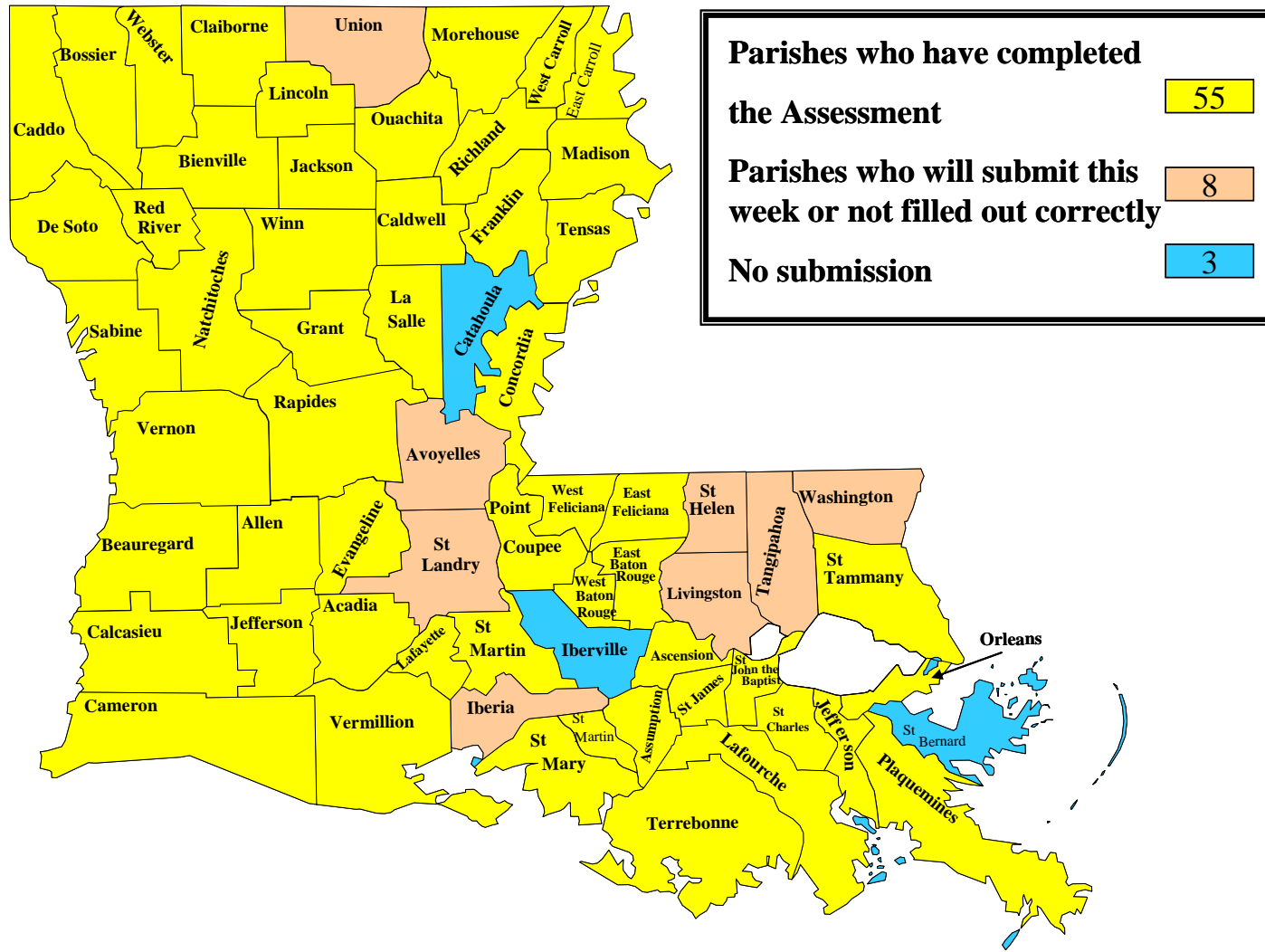


## PSIC Peer Review

- The peer reviewers provided feedback on Louisiana's Plan and Investments and commented that "this SCIP is well done" and "addresses all the necessary areas **and is overall an exceptional product. It is a model plan**".
- Overall, reviewers thought that the Investment Justification as a whole contained strategic program management to support sustainable programs. This is a well-written and well-reasoned Investment Justification that **could be used as a best practice and commendable example for other States.**



## 700MHz Needs Assessment





Questions?