



2nd NCR (National Capital Region) Interoperability Forum

On September 14-15, 2011, The National Capital Region held the **2nd NCR Interoperability Forum at the Silver Spring Civic Center in Silver Spring, Maryland**. This Forum was made possible by funding from the Interoperable Emergency Communication Grant Program (IECGP) to the state of Maryland, and contracted support from The Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory (JHU/APL) and the All Hazards Consortium (AHC). This 2-day Forum was a follow-up to the September 2010 NCR Forum.

The event was well attended by over 240 people including state and local government representatives in the NCR (National Capital Region – The District of Columbia and surrounding counties and municipalities in Maryland and Virginia), to discuss key topics related to “interoperability” including policy, governance structures, key projects, present and future technologies, common standards and “actionable” best practices. These topics were led by the NCR’s Statewide Coordinators (SWICS) consisting of Josh Jack from the District of Columbia, Ray Lehr from Maryland, and Chris McIntosh from Virginia.

The event also included key Federal personnel including Coleman Mehta, Chief of Staff, Office of Emergency Communications (DHS) as a special guest speaker to provide a current state of interoperability within the Office of Emergency Communications, and James Arden Barnett, Rear Admiral (Ret.), Chief, Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau from the Federal Communications Commission.

Other attendees included those providing key interoperability solutions within the NCR such as academia including Towson (EMMA/Osprey), University of Maryland CATT Lab (RITIS/CAPWIN), John Hopkins University/APL (NCR Video). Latest technology was also provided in a sponsor area including Motorola, AT&T, Televate, Skyline, Vidsys, Activu, Hughes, Mutualink, and Alcatel-Lucent.

Held originally in 2010, this government forum serves as a regional planning and coordination meeting designed to help introduce and coordinate government efforts throughout the NCR. The 2011 Forum built upon the 2010 forum's efforts by incorporating new issues and further develop discussions on challenges and opportunities to achieve the long-term vision of a regionally coordinated effort.

Major Themes for the Forum included:

- **Regional governance** for networks and applications.
- **Regional radio systems** technical coordination:
 - Programming "key" sharing
 - Sharing of programming/technical documentation
 - Process for planning and communication of exercises
 - "fail-soft" testing/site outages/upgrades
 - Subscriber programming cycle
 - Encryption coordination
 - Trunking system ID/ALIAS management/synchronization
- Strategic and tactical **communications planning** issues with federal entities
- **Broadband**: What is the latest nationally? How should the NCR implement it? Who is in control?
- **MD 700MHz** programming and operations: How do state/local agencies get involved?
- **GIS information/data interoperability** and systems integration: What projects can be integrated easily? What level of integration has already been accomplished? What are the current approaches, best practices and solutions being implemented?
- **Video**: What is the latest on the UASI funded effort to share video? How can private sector systems in the NCR be integrated to share information?
- **Radio**: How can we achieve a broader regional system? What are the new solutions?
- **CAD/RMS**: What are the technical and governance issues surrounding the integration of these systems to share information?
- **911/Next Gen**: What is current state of technology? Funding? Recent deployments?
- **Social Media**: What are the best practices in Emergency Management? What are practical uses and/or examples of social media being employed today?

A complete agenda of the event is attached that outlines the specific topics, speakers, and breakout sessions.

Through the leadership of Jack Markey, Director, Division of Emergency Management, Frederick County, this initiative was able to utilize funding from IECGP and engage John Hopkins University-Applied Physics Laboratory and the All Hazards Consortium in a partnership to plan and coordinate this event within a short seven (7) week timeframe. Steven Emanuel, CIO, Montgomery County Maryland enabled the group to utilize the Civic Center in Silver Spring as the perfect venue for an event this size.

An Executive Steering Committee (ESC) developed the overall workshop strategy, providing guidance on key topics and speakers, and provided advice with respect to the event topics. This year's ESC committee members include:

- **Ray Lehr**, Statewide Interoperability Director, State of Maryland
- **Jack Markey**, Director, Division of Emergency Management, Frederick County, Maryland
- **Lisa Thompson**, Radio System Manager, Arlington Virginia
- **Jayson Loveless**, IT Network Manager, Prince Georges County, Maryland
- **Steven Emanuel**, CIO, Montgomery County, Maryland
- **Joshua Jack**, CIO/SWIC, Homeland Security & Emergency Mgmt. Agency, District of Columbia
- **Chris McIntosh**, Statewide Interoperability Coordinator, Office of Veterans Affairs and Homeland Security
- **Wayne McBride** Special Assistant to Public Safety Director, Prince Georges County, Maryland
- **Wanda Gibson**, Director of the Department of Information Technology, Fairfax County, Virginia
- **Dale Johnson**, Radio Systems Manager, City of Alexandria, Virginia
- **John Contestabile**, Assistant Program Manager, JHU/APL
- **Tom Moran**, Executive Director, All Hazards Consortium

A great deal of information was exchanged, discussed and presented throughout this very successful event. Twenty-two (22) breakout sessions with fifty-nine (59) different speakers provided various views on the different topic areas. For more information about this event and others similar events, please contact Tom Moran at the All Hazards Consortium at 410-707-3698, or tom.moran@ahcusa.org.

TESTIMONIALS PROVIDED

The NCR Interoperability Forum was a great venue for meeting and networking with leaders from throughout the NCR. I would highly encourage all interested parties to participate. Alan Lee Univ of MD, CapWIN Field Services Manager

Thank you to those who organized the 2nd Annual Interoperability Forum. It is through relationships built in advance that we as emergency managers will find successes in utilizing communications technologies and best operational practices. These relationships are developed through well organized and highly interactive gatherings such as the NCR Interoperability Forum. Clay Stamp, Assistant County Manager - Public Services and Emergency Services Director, Talbot County Maryland

Interoperability is 10% hardware and 90% human factor. To be a play maker on any game day response, the communications professionals must continually network with their neighboring communication practitioners. The annual NCR Interoperability Forum supports this essential practice. John Freeburger NCRCIG ~ Montgomery

Keeping up in a changing world today is hard; forums like this from AHC make it more possible.

I look forward to the next conference. It was a great event.

James W. Dundas, Jr. Manager, Business Development Northrop Grumman Information Systems Powerful experience, came away with a better understanding of public safety initiatives in the region.

As agencies are suffering from great fiscal constraints, gathering so many individuals and sharing such a large knowledge base in a nice venue was quite an accomplishment. Great job!
PO3 Chris Johnson, Radio Systems Manager, Montgomery County Department of Police

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Wednesday, September 14, 2011			
7:30 am to 8:30 am	Registration / Coffee & Pastries / Networking - Atrium		
8:30 am to 9:00 am	Opening Remarks – Great Hall	Welcome – Great Hall	
	John Contestabile , Assistant Program Manager, Homeland Security, JHU/APL	Jack Markey , Director, Division of Emergency Management, Frederick County	
9:00 am to 9:15 am	Office of Emergency Communications (OEC) Update – Great Hall		
	Special Guest Speaker: Coleman Mehta , Chief of Staff, Office of Emergency Communications, U.S. Department of Homeland Security		
9:15 am to 9:35 am	Opening Keynote Address: James Arden Barnett, Jr. , Rear Admiral (Ret.), Chief, Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau, Federal Communications Commission – Great Hall		
9:35 am to 10:00 am	Break		
10:00 am to 10:30 am	“The Case for an Information Sharing Strategy” – Great Hall		
	Chris McIntosh , Interoperability Coordinator, Office of Veterans Affairs and Homeland Security, Virginia		
10:30 am to 12:00 pm	MD/VA/DC Statewide Interoperability Programs – Great Hall		
	Moderator: John Contestabile , Assistant Program Manager, Homeland Security, JHU/APL		
	Panelists Include:		
	Josh Jack , CIO/SWIC, District of Columbia		
		Lori Stone , Maryland Interoperability Program Management Office, Maryland State Police	
		Chris McIntosh , Interoperability Coordinator, Office of Veterans Affairs and Homeland Security, Virginia	
12:00 pm to 1:00 pm	Group Lunch		
	Welcome by Isiah Leggett , County Executive, Montgomery County, Maryland		
1:00 pm to 2:30 pm	NCRnet Governance	WebEOC Regional Issues	Regulatory Issues
	Colesville Room	Ellsworth East Room	Spring Room
Break Out Session	Regional governance discussions related to the regional fiber network [NCRnet] and applications running on that	This discussion covers current state of the Emergency Management Agency’s [EMA] use of	What is the latest regarding the Federal Communications

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One	<p>network [such as video/GIS/ conferencing] and where do we go from here to move forward.</p> <p>Moderator: E. Steven Emanuel, Chief Information Officer, Department of Technology Services, Montgomery County, Maryland</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <p>Wanda Gibson, Director of the Department of Information Technology, Fairfax County, Virginia</p> <p>Gail A. Bohan, Director of Information Technology, City of Fairfax</p> <p>Edward Donald, Engineer, Radio and Wireless Systems, Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority</p> <p>John Contestabile, Assistant Program Manager, Homeland Security, JHU/APL</p>	<p>the software tool WebEOC, how it is presently being used within the region and how it might be better utilized.</p> <p>Moderator: Joshua Jack, CIO/SWIC, District of Columbia</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <p>Chris Voss, Director, Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security, Montgomery County, Maryland</p> <p>Kerry Payne, Deputy Operations Chief, Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency, District of Columbia</p> <p>Roy B. Shrouf, CEM, Deputy Coordinator, Fairfax County Emergency Management</p>	<p>Commission [FCC] regarding narrow banding, rebanding and the proposed broadband network.</p> <p>Moderator: Ray Lehr, Interoperability Coordinator, Maryland</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <p>Charles Bryson, Director, RCC</p> <p>David Furth, Deputy Chief Public Safety and Homeland Security, Federal Communications Commission</p>	
2:30 pm to 2:45 pm	Break			
2:45 pm to 4:15 pm Break Out Session Two	<p>Maryland Issues</p> <p>Spring Room</p> <p>Lori Stone, Maryland Interoperability Program Management Office, Maryland State Police and</p> <p>John Contestabile, Assistant Program Manager, Homeland Security, JHU/APL</p>	<p>District of Columbia Issues</p> <p>Ellsworth East Room</p> <p>Joshua Jack, CIO/SWIC, District of Columbia</p>	<p>Virginia Issues</p> <p>Ellsworth West Room</p> <p>Chris McIntosh, Interoperability Coordinator, Office of Veterans Affairs and Homeland Security, Virginia</p>	<p>NCR Projects & Solutions Briefings</p> <p>Colesville Room</p> <p>Hear the latest on a variety of ongoing NCR projects and how they address governance structure/issues and operational procedures. Related case studies will be presented by the private sector identifying solutions and how the application of their products in various settings across the country have performed. Learn about the opportunities and challenges these projects have faced and the directions these technologies are headed in the future.</p> <p>Moderator: Tom Moran, Executive Director, All Hazards Consortium</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <p>Kevin Lee Lewis, Director of Washington County Division of Emergency Services, Operations Chair for Washington, Allegany, Garrett Interoperability Network, WAGIN</p>

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	<p>Clay B. Stamp, Director, Talbot County Department of Emergency Services, Maryland Eastern Shore Interoperability Network, MESIN</p> <p>James W. Morentz, Ph.D., Homeland Security Technology Consultant, SAIC, Unified Incident Command and Decision Support Project, UICDS</p> <p>Lieutenant Samuel Hood III, Baltimore Police Department, "Interagency Video Sharing"</p>
4:15 pm to 4:45 pm	<p>Day 1 Closing Discussion – Great Hall</p> <p>John Contestabile, Assistant Program Manager, Homeland Security, JHU/APL</p> <p>Jack Markey, Director, Division of Emergency Management, Frederick County</p> <p>Tom Moran, Executive Director, All Hazards Consortium</p>
4:45 pm	Day One Adjourn
Thursday, September 15, 2011	
7:45 am to 8:15 am	Coffee & Pastries / Networking - Atrium
8:15 am to 8:45 am	<p>Using Social Media for Interoperable Communication – Great Hall</p> <p>Kim Stephens, Senior Associate, ABT Associates</p>
8:45 am to 9:45 am	<p>Panel Discussion: Regional Implementation of Broadband – Great Hall</p> <p>Moderator: John Contestabile, Assistant Program Manager, Homeland Security, JHU/APL</p> <p>Josh Jack, CIO/SWIC, District of Columbia</p> <p>Ray Lehr, Interoperability Coordinator, Maryland - MSP</p> <p>Chris McIntosh, Interoperability Coordinator, Office of Veterans Affairs and Homeland Security, Virginia</p>
9:45 am to 10:15 am	Break

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<p>10:15 am to 11:30 am</p> <p>Break Out Session Three</p>	<p>Video</p> <p>Ellsworth Room</p> <p>Discussions on the latest NCR UASI funded effort to share video and address how we can integrate private sector systems into the NCR video sharing platform.</p> <p>Moderator: Joshua Jack, CIO/SWIC, District of Columbia</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <p>John Contestabile, Assistant Program Manager, Homeland Security, JHU/APL</p> <p>Edward Jones, Advance Traffic Management Systems, Prince Georges County TRIP Center</p> <p>Richard R. Dye, CHART Systems Administrator, Maryland State Highway Administration Statewide Operations Center</p> <p>Harvey Alexander, District of Columbia, Department of Transportation</p>	<p>CAD/RMS</p> <p>Spring Room</p> <p>This session discusses the current status of interoperability between computer aided dispatch/records management systems [CAD/RMS], will identify current technical and governance issues related to these systems, and ascertain the direction/actions needed to address these issues.</p> <p>Moderator: Eddie Reyes, Deputy Chief, Alexandria Police Department</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <p>Marier Upshur, MS, PMP, CAD/RMS Program Manager, Maryland State Police and Keith Bishop, Project Manager, Interact Public Safety Systems</p> <p>Scott Scheurich, DEH Project Manager, Fairfax County</p> <p>Teddy Kavaleri, Office of Unified Communications, DC 911/311, CIO, District of Columbia</p>	<p>Social Media</p> <p>Colesville Room</p> <p>This session covers how social media is currently being used today by EMA and other public safety agencies, what are some of the best practices using social media, and discussions on where to go from here in leveraging the social media tool to benefit Emergency Management and Public Safety.</p> <p>Moderator: Dr. Alan R. Shark, D.P.A., FASAE, CAE, Executive Director, Public Technology Institute and Associate Professor, Rutgers University School of Public Affairs & Administration</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <p>Kim Stephens, Senior Associate, ABT Associates</p> <p>James E. Hamilton, AEM, Emergency Preparedness Manager, Cecil County Department of Emergency Services</p>
<p>11:30 am to 12:30 pm</p>	<p>Group Lunch</p>		
<p>12:30 pm to 2:00 pm</p> <p>Break Out Session Four</p>	<p>Geographic Information Systems (GIS)</p> <p>Colesville Room</p> <p>Information/data interoperability and systems integration session will discuss the latest NCR UASI funded effort to use vUSA as an integration platform for the region, what level of integration has been accomplished, and what the current best practices being implemented.</p> <p>Moderator: Mark Helmken, Director, The Center for GIS at Towson University</p>	<p>Radio Systems</p> <p>Ellsworth East Room</p> <p>Discussions include existing state of key sharing, re-banding, encryption coordination, trunking system ID coordination, and “light squared” issues. Identify best practices needed to move forward.</p> <p>Moderator: Phil Lazarus, SHA</p>	<p>700 Mhz BroadBand Update</p> <p>Spring Room</p> <p>Discussions on the latest nationally [to include legislative proposals], how should the NCR implement it, and who is involved.</p> <p>Moderator: Wayne McBride, Special Assistant to Public Safety Director, Prince Georges County</p> <p>Panelists:</p>

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	<p>Panelists:</p> <p>Barney Krucoff, Maryland State Geographic Information Officer, Department of Information Technology</p> <p>Brian Crumpler, GIS Manager, Virginia Department of Emergency Management</p> <p>Robert Horne, Technology Officer, Washington Regional Threat and Analysis Center (WRTAC), District of Columbia</p> <p>Michael J. Fischer, Director of Operations, Maryland Emergency Management Agency</p>	<p>Communications Division, Asst. Division Chief - Engineering and Tech Support</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <p>Nick Meacher, Communications Analyst, L-3 Communications, Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority</p> <p>Chris Johnson, Radio Systems Manager, Montgomery County Police Technology Division</p> <p>Sergeant Alan Felsen, Montgomery County Police Technology Division – Mobile Systems</p>	<p>Ken Boley, Principal, The Interoperability Group</p> <p>Eddie Reyes, Deputy Chief, Alexandria Police Department</p> <p>Bob Pavlak, Engineering, DC Office of Unified Communications</p> <p>Greg Urban, Deputy CIO, State of Maryland, Maryland Department of Information Technology</p>	
2:00 pm to 2:15 pm	Break			
<p>2:15 pm to 3:30 pm</p> <p>Break Out Session Five</p>	<p>Nextgen/911</p> <p>Spring Room</p> <p>Discussions of the current state of the transition to next generation 911 technology, funding opportunities, recent deployments in the region and where do we need to go from here.</p> <p>Moderator: Jack Markey, Director, Division of Emergency Management, Frederick County, Maryland</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <p>Roger Hixson, Technical Issues Director, National Emergency Number Association</p> <p>Dorothy A. Spears-Dean, Ph.D., Public Safety Communications</p>	<p>Continuity of Operations (COOP)</p> <p>Ellsworth East Room</p> <p>In this session, EMA Continuity of Operations Planning [COOP] staff will brief on the status of governmental COOP efforts, how it relates to the NCR, ramifications for the region, efforts to involve the private sector and next steps moving forward.</p> <p>Moderator: Russell Strickland, Project Manager, National Security Technology Department, JHU/APL</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <p>Markus Rauschecker, J.D., Continuity Planner, District of Columbia Homeland Security and Emergency Management</p>	<p>NCR Regional Communication Exercise Planning</p> <p>Colesville Room</p> <p>This session will provide the opportunity for governmental communications providers to participate in developing the next regional communications exercise projected, to be held in the Spring/Summer of 2012.</p> <p>Moderator: John Contestabile, Assistant Program Manager, Homeland Security, JHU/APL</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <p>Wayne McBride, Special Assistant to Public Safety Director, Prince Georges County</p> <p>Chris Voss, Director, Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security, Montgomery</p>	<p>NCR Projects & Solutions Briefings</p> <p>Ellsworth West Room</p> <p>Hear the latest on a variety of ongoing NCR projects and how they address governance structure/issues and operational procedures. Related case studies will be presented by the private sector identifying solutions and how the application of their products in various settings country-wide has performed. Learn about the opportunities and challenges these projects have faced and the directions these technologies are headed for in the future.</p> <p>Moderator: John Molnar, Director, Program Management Office, All Hazards Consortium</p>

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	<p>Coordinator, Virginia Information Technologies Agency</p> <p>Teddy Kavaleri, Office of Unified Communications, DC 911/311, CIO, District of Columbia</p> <p>Brian M. Josef, Assistant Vice President, Regulatory Affairs, CTIA-The Wireless Association</p>	<p>Agency</p> <p>Ted Costin, Director, Preparedness Division, Virginia Department of Emergency Management</p>	<p>County, Maryland</p> <p>Steve Taylor, Project Manager, JHU/APL</p> <p>Jamie C. Quarrelles, MPA, MEP, Chief, Training and Exercise Division, District of Columbia Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency</p>	<p>Panelists:</p> <p>Roddy Moscoso, Executive Director, Capital Wireless Information Net (CapWIN), University of Maryland</p> <p>Taran L. Hutchinson, MATOC Facilitator, Metropolitan Area Transportation Operations Coordination Program, Regional Dashboard</p> <p>Michael VanDaniker, Visualization Programs Manager, University of Maryland CATT Laboratory, Regional Integrated Transportation Information System, (RITIS)</p>
3:30 pm to 4:00 pm	<p>The Future of Interoperability – What’s Next for the NCR? – Great Hall</p> <p>Jack Markey, Director, Division of Emergency Management, Frederick County, Maryland</p>			
4:00 pm	<p>Adjourn</p>			