

# ***Project SAFECOM***

***OMB e-Government Initiative for  
Wireless Public SAFETy Interoperable COMMunications***

***Federal Wireless Users Group (FWUG)***

***April 15, 2002***

## **OMB e-Government Initiatives...**

**OMB, WORKING WITH CIOs FROM ACROSS THE GOVERNMENT, IDENTIFIED AND IS SUPPORTING 24 e-GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES TO IMPROVE SERVICES AND OPERATIONS, AND REALIZE SAVINGS**

- **The initiatives are in one of four categories—**
  - **Government to Government (G2G)**
  - **Government to Citizen (G2C)**
  - **Government to Business (G2B)**
  - **Internal Operations**
  
- **Mark Forman, the OMB Assistant Director–Information Technology and Electronic Government, is driving these initiatives**
  
- **Mr. Forman has stated his determination to produce real results from these initiatives and that redundant government IT projects will not be approved**

***THE PRESIDENT’S MANAGEMENT COUNCIL ESTABLISHED  
WIRELESS INTEROPERABILITY FOR PUBLIC SAFETY AS A PRIORITY***

- **The eGov Task Force specified that, as a result of Project SAFECOM—**
  - Public safety personnel shall be able to communicate with other local, state, and federal in the event of an emergency or other public safety response event
  
- **The Task Force indicated that the efforts of the Project SAFECOM partners shall be focused on specific results, including—**
  - Effective, interoperable communications throughout government
  - Integration across levels of governments
  - Saving lives through quicker response and coordination
  - Realized cost savings through standardization and sharing
  
- **Treasury was named the managing partner, with partners from across the Federal Government: DOJ, DOD, FEMA, USCG, USDA, DOI, National Guard, NTIA**
  
- **Partners include state/local agencies and organizations**

## **PROJECT SAFECOM FACES SEVERAL CHALLENGES**

- **Extremely large, multi-faceted problem to tackle**
- **Extensive interagency/intergovernmental coordination required**
- **Resistance to change in business operations, concerns about loss of control**
- **Trading off degree of interoperability achieved with business ops changes**
- **Little support for funding needs, very low priority among funded IT projects**
- **Accounting for legacy operations/maintenance and future transition costs**
- **Disparate, insufficient standards and spectrum resources add to complexity**

***PROJECT SAFECOM WILL BE BASED ON A SET OF CORE PRINCIPLES***

- **Coordination and partnership as critical success factors**
- **Shared resources, shared responsibility from among partners**
- **Existing communities of interest to serve as key leverage points**
- **Respect for sovereignty of federal, state, and local governance**
- **Focus on requirements-driven interoperability solutions**
- **Menu of solutions suitable to specific requirements**
- **Standards-based systems development efforts where appropriate**
- **Inclusion of commercial service solutions as applicable**
- **Solutions and implementation that promote sound fiscal stewardship**

**PROJECT SAFECOM IS A PRUDENT SOLUTION GIVEN OTHER ALTERNATIVES**

**Status Quo: Standalone Systems**

**Federalism: Single Network**

**WHAT IT IS NOT...**

- ...the continuation standalone systems
- ...undue duplication of network infrastructures
- ...limited coordination of federal interoperability
- ...limited federal to state/local interoperability

**PROJECT SAFECOM**

- Coordinates federal narrowband implementation efforts
- Requires input and ownership from across Federal Government
- Ensures a right-sized set of shared networks emerges
- Sets stage for federal interoperability
- Establishes interoperability links between federal and state/local networks

**WHAT IT IS NOT...**

- ...a single federal network serving local, state, and federal governments
- ...a stop to ongoing narrowband efforts
- ...a controlling entity that dictates or mandates build-out of federal, state, or local networks

**VISION — PUBLIC SAFETY PERSONNEL BEING ABLE TO COMMUNICATE WITH OTHER LOCAL, STATE, AND FEDERAL PERSONNEL IN THE EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY OR OTHER PUBLIC SAFETY RESPONSE EVENT**

Two Components to Project SAFECOM

**Federal Implementation**

- Narrowband Implementation
- F2F Interoperability Implementation
- Federal-wide Coordination
- Continuation of Ongoing Efforts

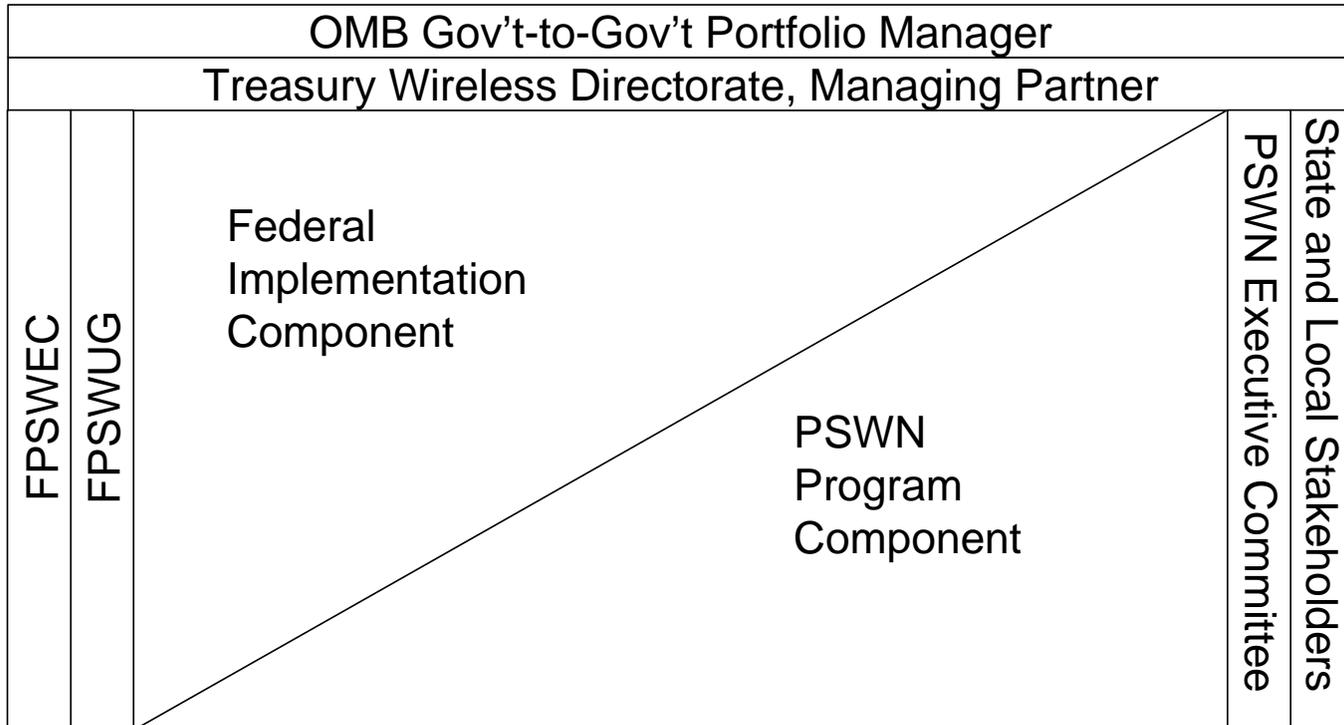


**PSWN Program**

- Federal Assistance
- State Assistance
- F2S Interoperability Implementation
- Develop Best Practices and Standard Approaches to improve interoperability

- **Coordination that allows development of a right-sized number of spectrally efficient systems**
  - **Implementation of federal-to federal (F2F) interoperability in areas where it is appropriate**
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- **Aggressive assistance to federal and state agencies**
  - **Implementation of federal-to-state (F2S) interoperability links**

**OMB WILL PROVIDE PROJECT OVERSIGHT, TREASURY CIO’S OFFICE WILL BE THE MANAGING PARTNER, AND NEW AND EXISTING BODIES WILL MAKE UP THE PROJECT SAFECOM PARTNERSHIP**



**PROJECT SAFECOM PARTNERS HAVE AGREED ON KEY POINTS**

- **Three clear goals:**
  - Saving lives through immediate public safety communication and coordination
  - Effective public safety and emergency support communications to enable the National Emergency and Incidence Response Plan of the government
  - Realize cost savings through standardization and information sharing
  
- **Definition of interoperability:**
  - “Immediate mission-critical communications between users of different wireless systems who need to communicate for public safety purposes, be they first response, day-to-day, or task force.”
  
- **The federal mandate to narrowband is a separate but related issue, and serves as an enabler to significantly improve interoperability**

## ***PROJECT SAFECOM WILL BUILD ON THE PLATFORM OF SUCCESS AND MOMENTUM ACHIEVED BY THE PSWN PROGRAM AND ITS PARTNERS***

- A roadmap for implementing interoperability, known as “Public Safety WINS: Wireless Interoperability National Strategy”
- A scorecard to measure the interoperability status of the states
- 14 states having achieved either mature or established status



***PROJECT SAFECOM HAS ESTABLISHED TWO ACTIVITIES TO IMPROVE THE STATE OF INTEROPERABILITY NATIONWIDE—INTEROPERABILITY CHANNEL EXECUTIVE ORDER AND FEDERAL-TO-STATE/LOCAL LINKAGES***

## ***A FEDERAL WIDEBAND INTEROPERABILITY EXECUTIVE ORDER MANDATING INTEROPERABILITY CHANNELS WILL PROVIDE IMMEDIATE IMPROVEMENTS IN PUBLIC SAFETY COMMUNICATIONS***

- **This Executive order will require federal agencies to install common interoperability frequencies in their mobile and portable radio equipment**
  
- **The order will also—**
  - Target existing wideband channels because majority of public safety responders' equipment is only capable of wideband use
  - Require the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) to develop rules that permit access to frequencies by non-federal public safety agencies
  - Direct NTIA to coordinate with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to establish rules for unencumbered access to interoperability frequencies by non-federal agencies
  - Require that Project SAFECOM, in coordination with NTIA, develop rules for operational use of the frequencies
  - Require the Department of State and NTIA to coordinate frequencies with Canada and Mexico
  
- **This Executive Order will be targeted for issuance within a 7 month timeframe**

## *Next Steps...Federal-to-State/Local Linkages...*

### **FEDERAL-TO-STATE/LOCAL SYSTEM LINKAGES IS DESIGNED TO CREATE INTEROPERABLE COMMUNICATIONS ACROSS ALL LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT**

- **Four objectives have been established to address this activity:**
  - Select initial set of states/regions for implementation of federal-to-state/local interoperability solutions
  - Analyze potential interoperability solutions for each region
  - Select a mutually agreeable architecture for implementation in each region
  - Procure and implement equipment and infrastructure
- **These objectives will be pursued in close coordination with federal, state, and local partners in the selected locations**
- **Federal-to-State/Local implementation will be accomplished in four phases:**



- **Six regions have been selected for initial implementation—Michigan, L.A. County/LAX, Arizona, Illinois, Alaska, and Virginia—due to their cross-cutting representation of implementation factors**