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Office of Interoperability
and Compatibility

Interoperability Program Overview

Enhancing Public Safety Through Interoperable
Communication Systems

National League of Cities, Congress of Cities and Exposition

December 3, 2004

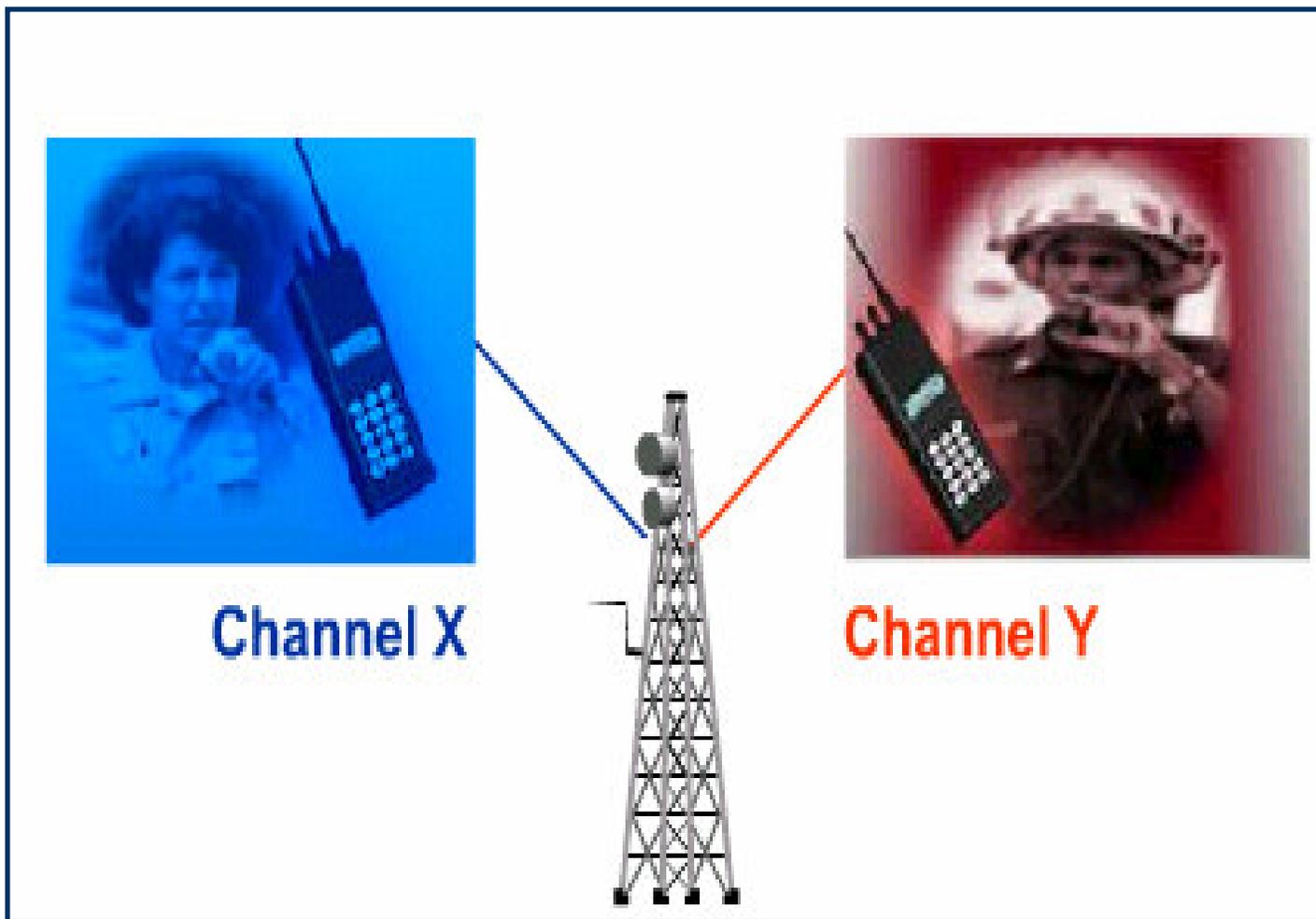
Juan Otero
Deputy Director, SAFECOM
Juan.Otero@dhs.gov



Public Safety Wireless Interoperability



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Public Safety Wireless Interoperability



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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



Why Is Interoperability Important?

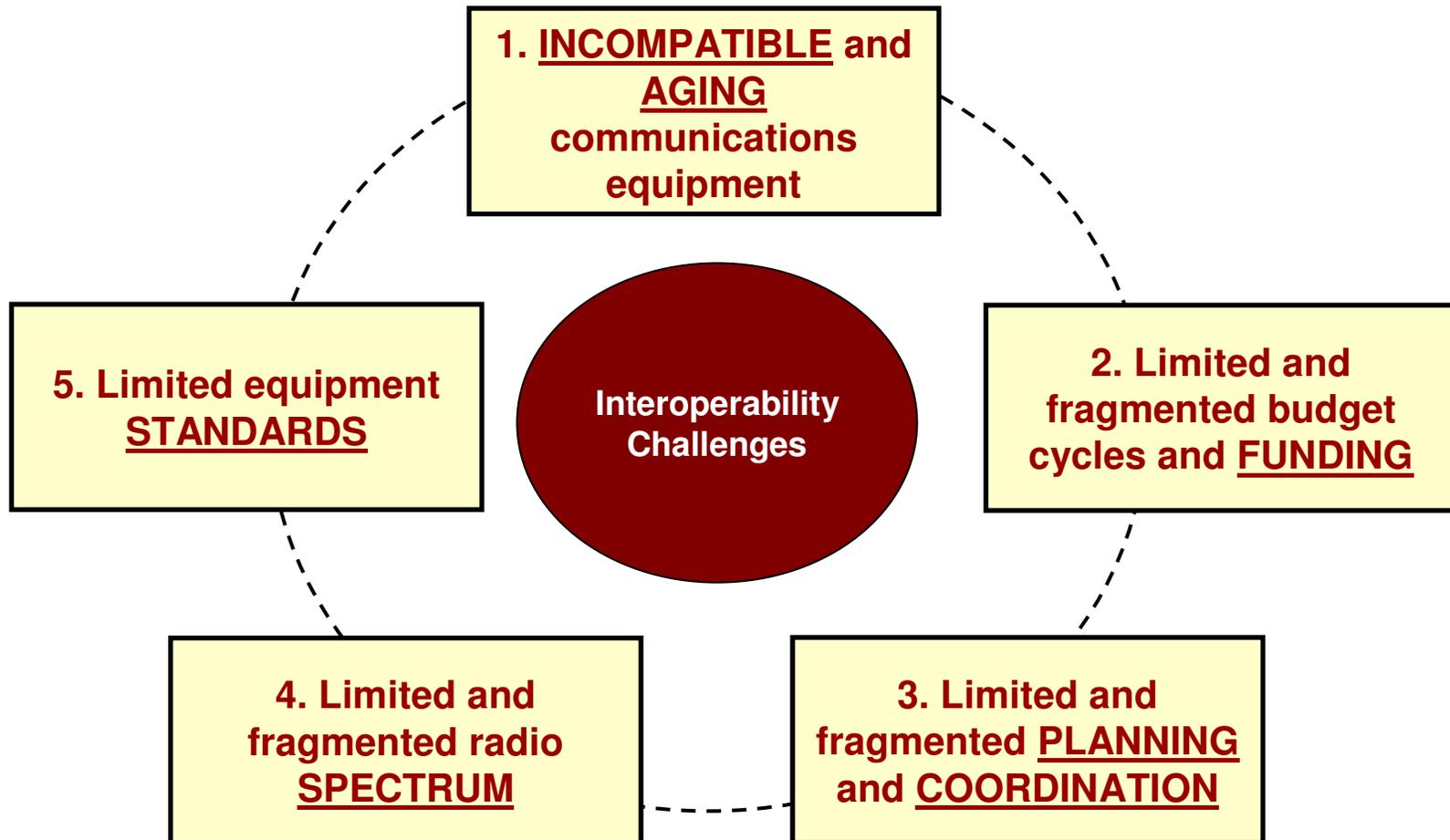


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- Improves the ability of public safety officers to save lives and property
- Facilitates rapid and efficient interaction among all public safety organizations
- Provides immediate and coordinated assistance in day-to-day missions, task force operations, and mass-casualty incidents



Current State of Interoperability: Five Key Challenges



These five issues were identified by the National Task Force on Interoperability in its February 2003 final report, Why Can't We Talk? Working Together to Bridge the Communications Gap to Save Lives.



SAFECOM Program



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SAFECOM serves as the umbrella program within the Federal Government to coordinate the efforts of local, state, federal and tribal public safety agencies working to improve public safety response through more effective, efficient, interoperable wireless communications.



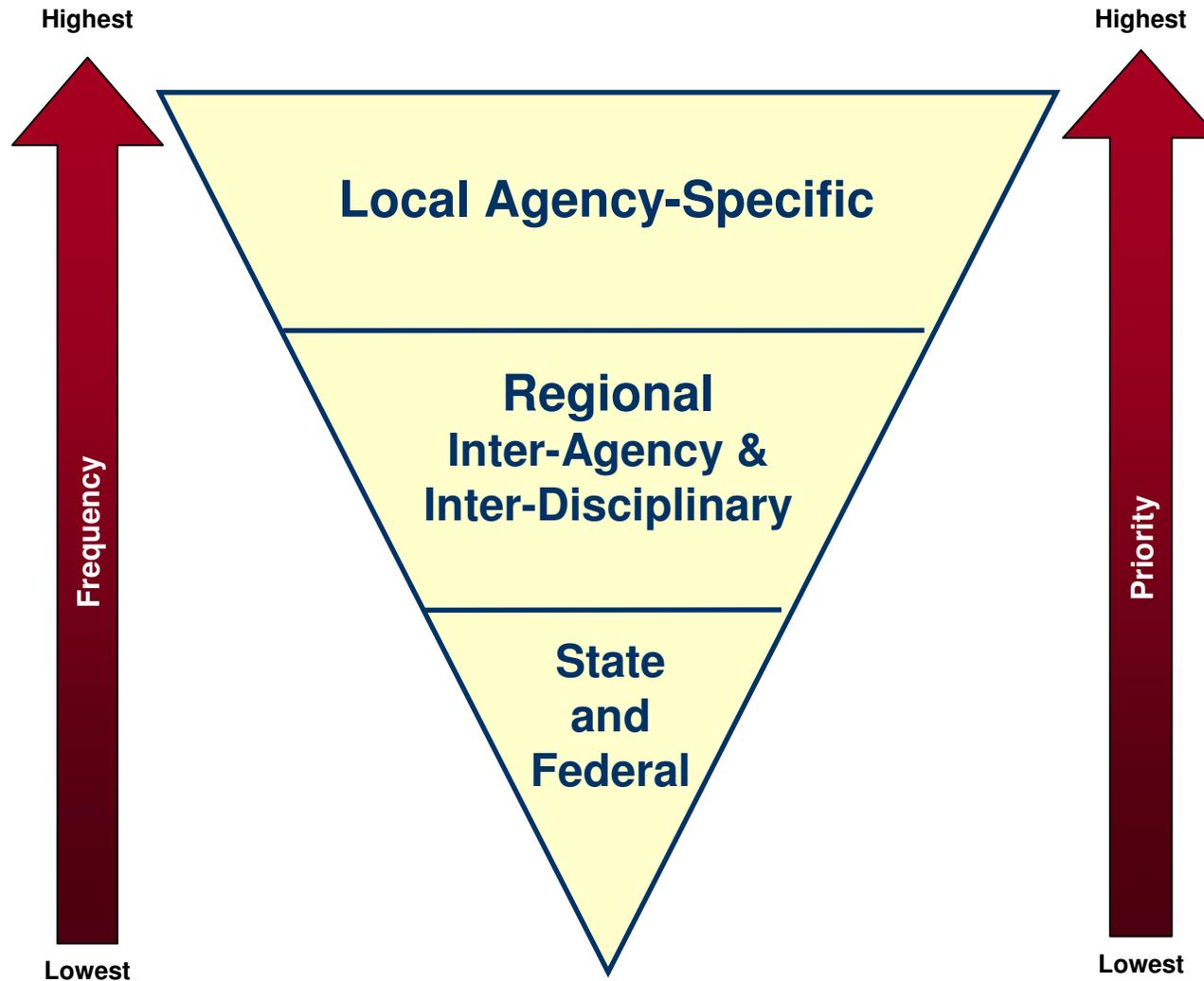
SAFECOM Program



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- 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.





Three Focus Areas



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- Architecture
- Standards
- Federal Coordination



SAFECOM Achievements



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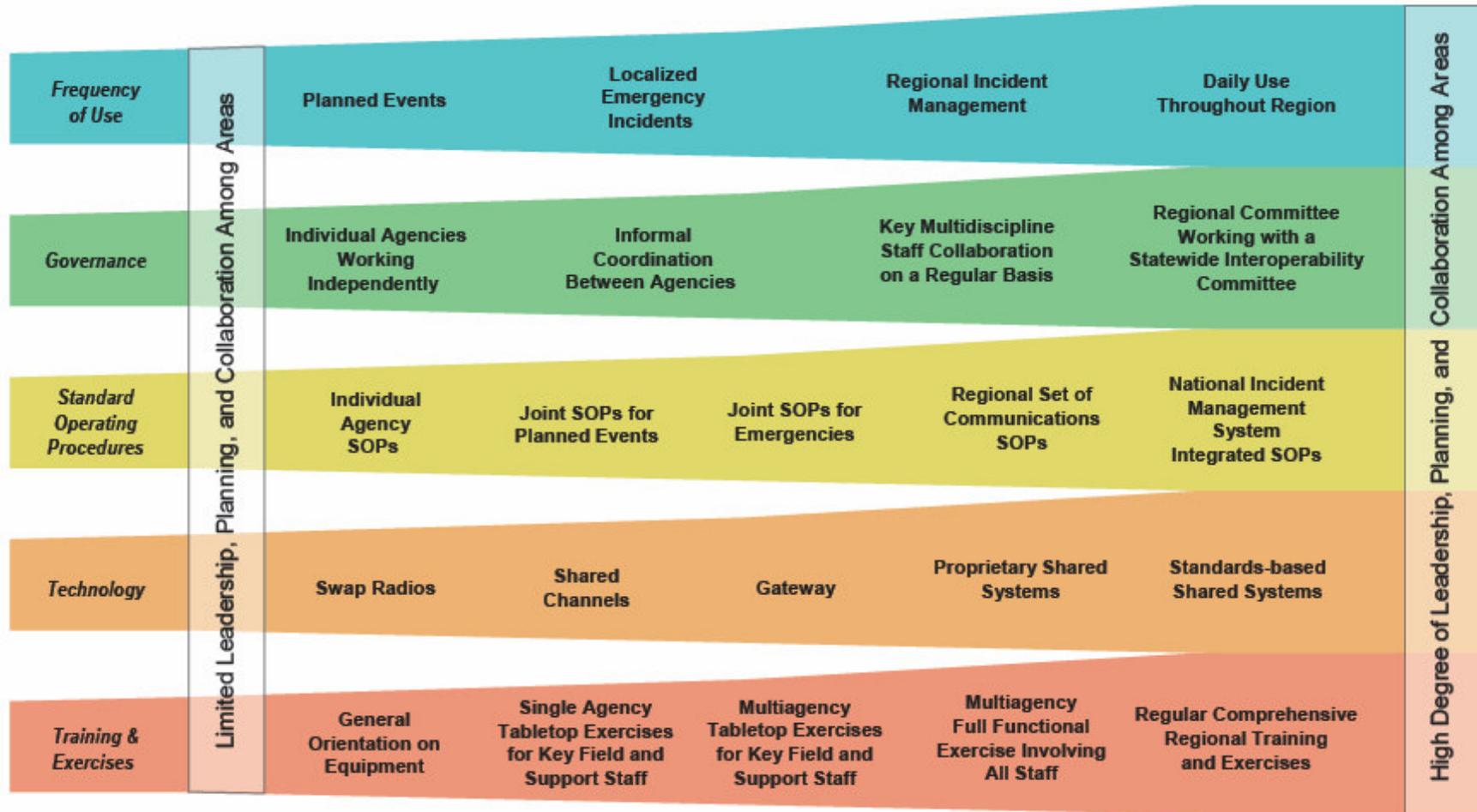
- Statement of Requirements
- Grant Guidance
- Statewide Communications Interoperability Planning (SCIP) Methodology
- Interoperability Continuum



Communications Interoperability Continuum



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Office of Interoperability and Compatibility (OIC)



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- **MISSION** - To serve as the overarching program within the Department of Homeland Security to strengthen and integrate interoperability efforts that improve local, tribal, state, and federal public safety preparedness and response.
- **GOAL** - To strengthen the public safety community's ability to work together to protect lives and property.



Three Focus Areas



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- Communications (through SAFECOM)
- Equipment
- Training



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Questions?



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