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Improving Public Safety Wireless Communications and Interoperability

Presentation to APCO International

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"We're from the Department of Homeland Security. You left your damn door unlocked."



Today's Agenda

- Interoperability 101
- OIC
- SAFECOM
- Practitioner-Driven Approach
- Addressing the Challenges/
 - Improving Interoperability
- Achievements
- Questions



Interoperability

Interoperability refers to the ability of emergency response systems or products to work with other systems or products without special effort on the part of the user.



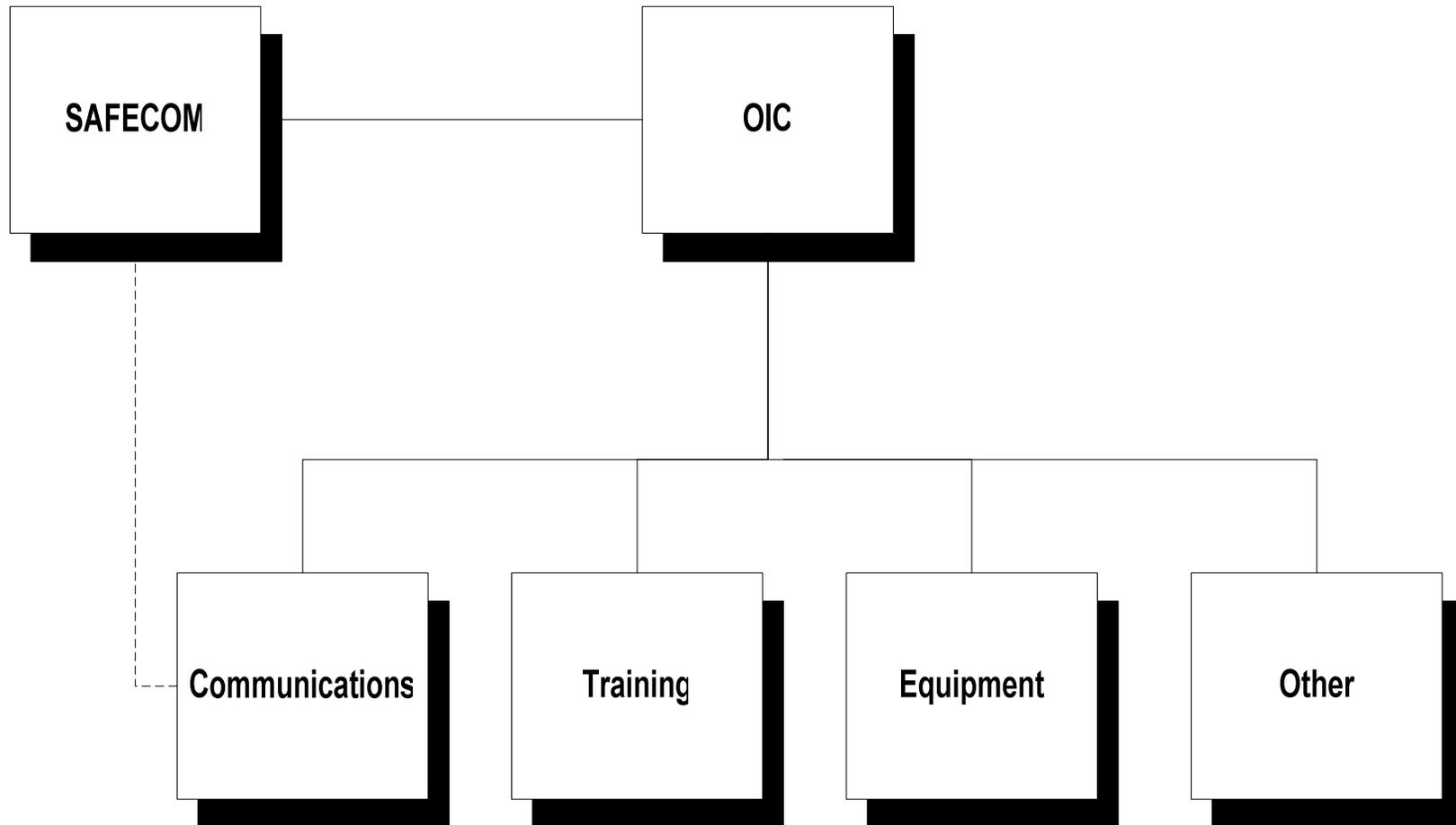
New OIC

Office for Interoperability and Compatibility (OIC)

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.



OIC Versus SAFECOM



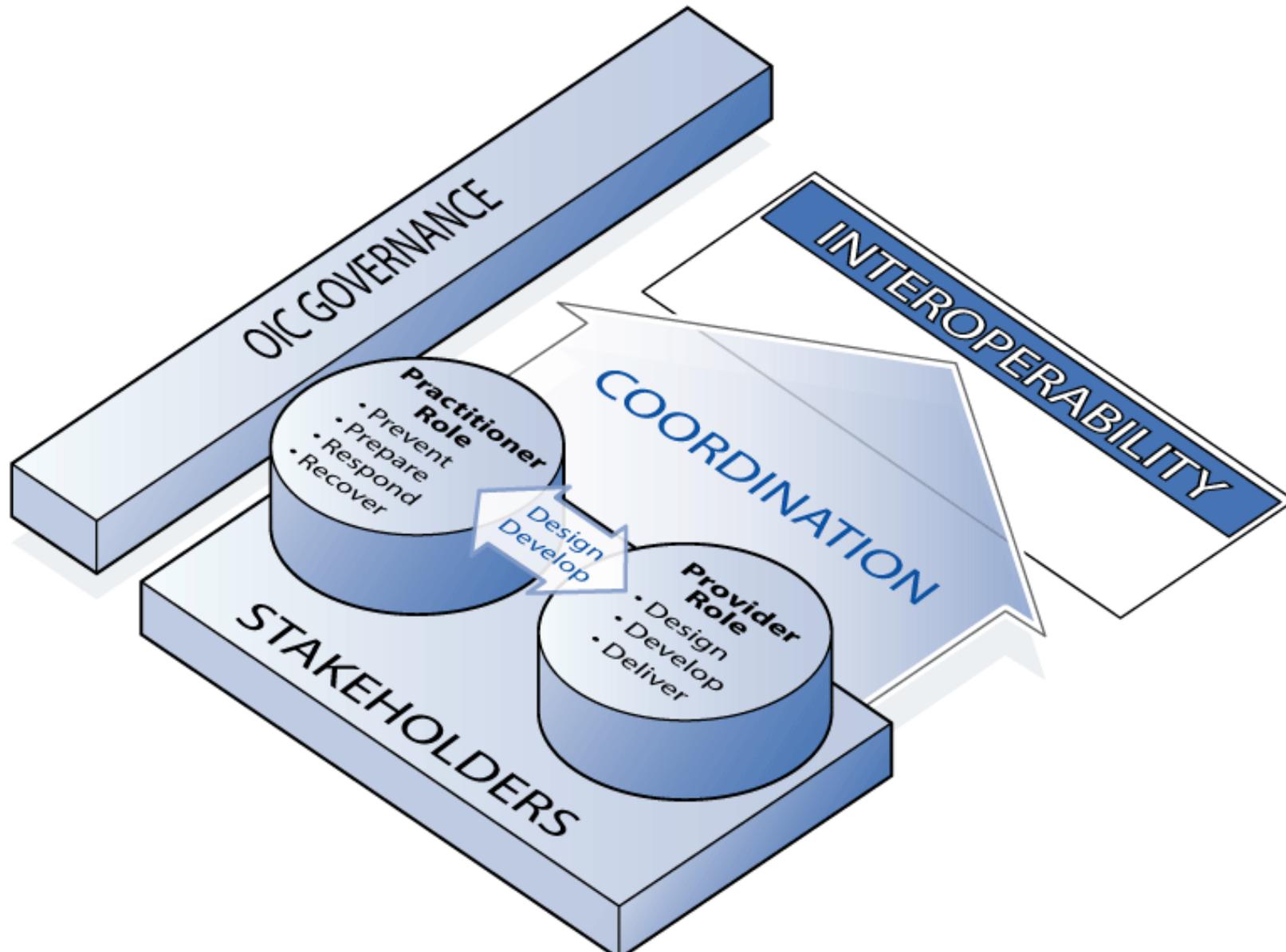


OIC Organizational Goals

- **Strengthen and integrate federal activities** related to research and development, testing and evaluation, standards, technical assistance, and grant guidance related to interoperability
- Establish the OIC as the **leading resource for information** about and assistance with interoperability issues
- **Reduce unnecessary duplication** in public safety programs and spending
- Identify and promote **interoperability best practices** in the public safety arena



OIC Governance Approach





SAFECOM Update

Continuing to assure a safer America through effective public safety communications





SAFECOM Program

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 Background

- 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.

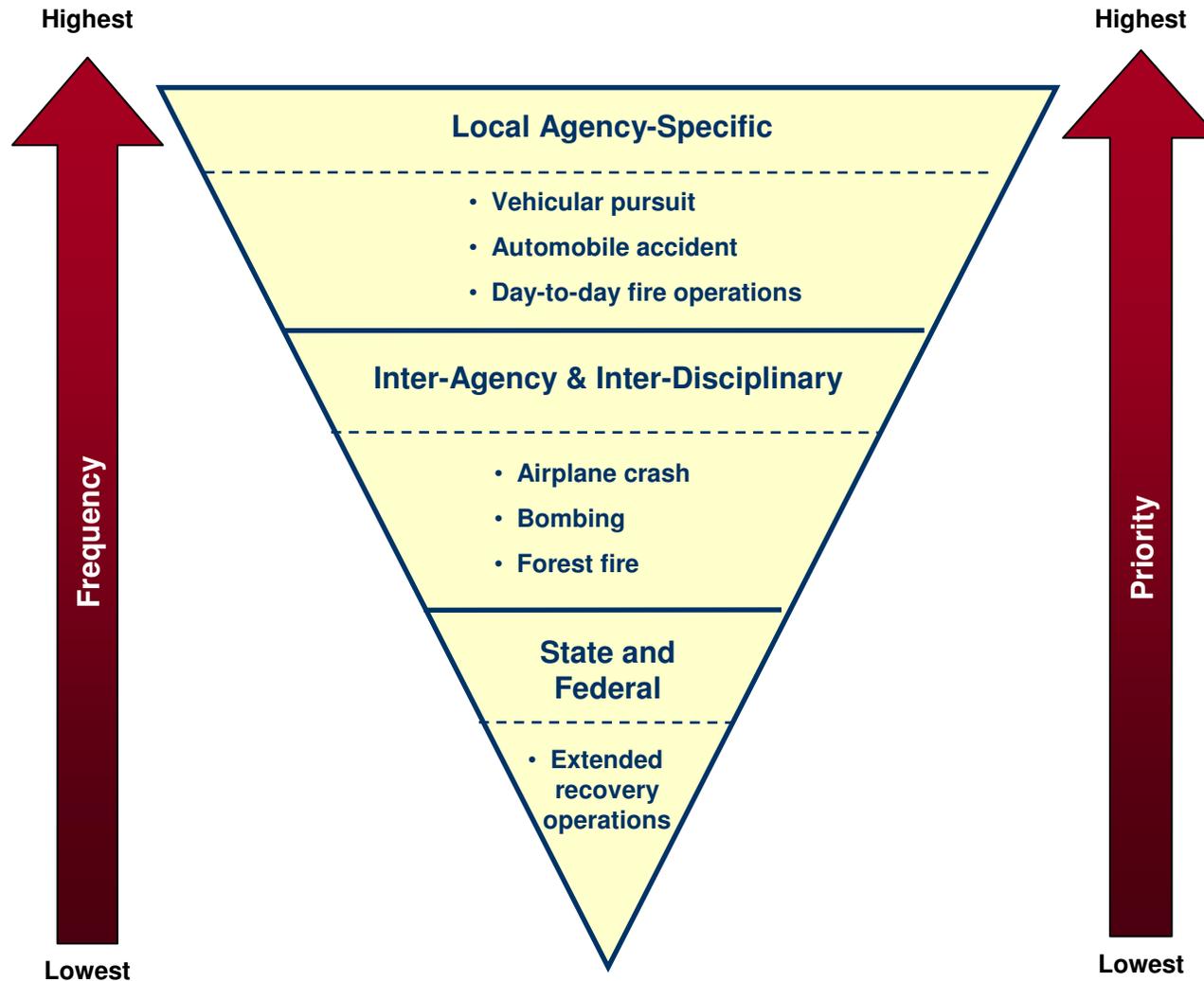


SAFECOM Program

- One of the President's top three E-Government initiatives
- Dedicated to develop better technologies and processes for the cross-jurisdictional and cross-disciplinary coordination of existing systems and future networks
- Responsible for outreach to local, state, and federal public safety agencies and to assist in interoperability planning and implementation



SAFECOM: Practitioner-Driven Approach





Public Safety Wireless Interoperability

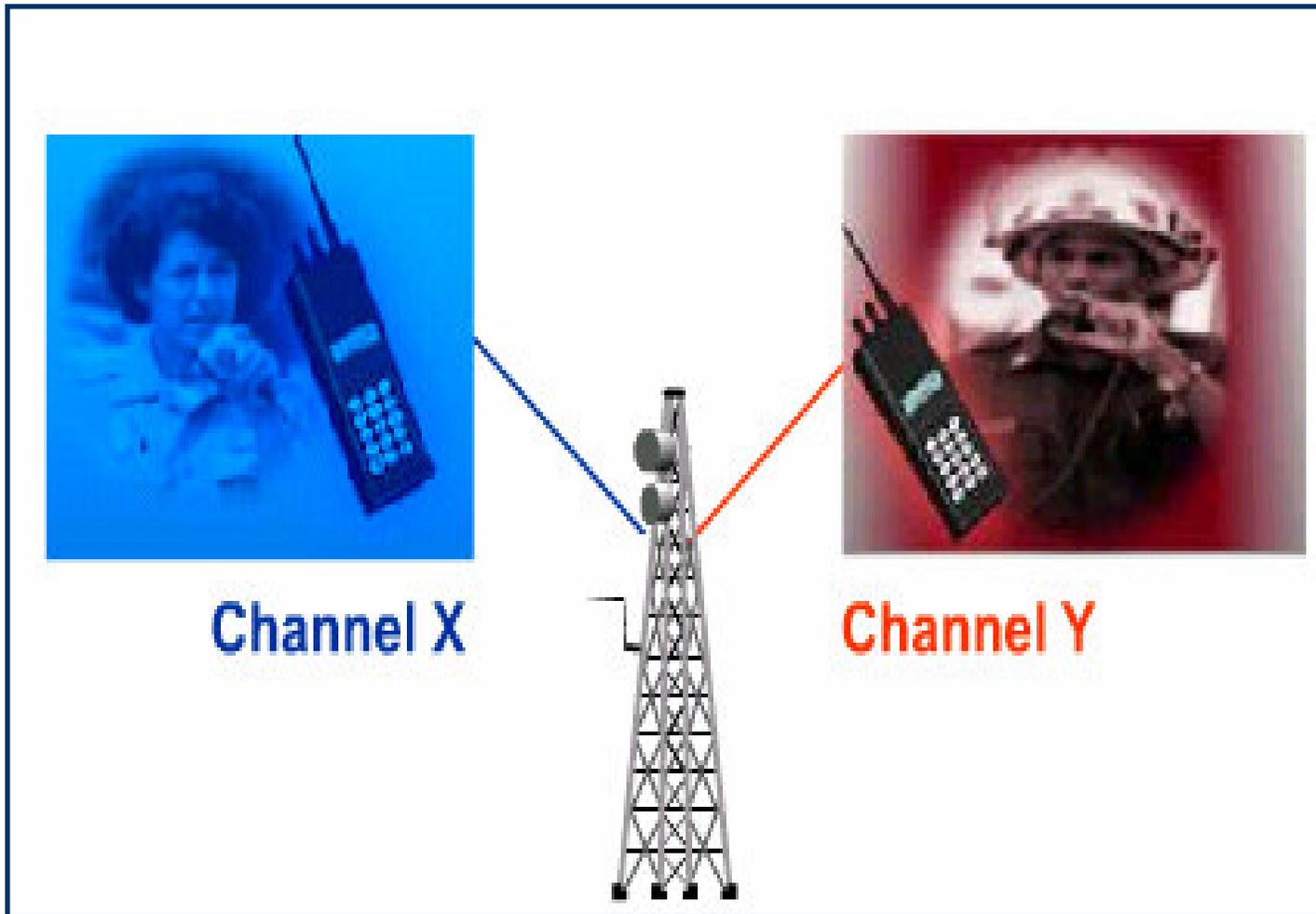
Wireless interoperability is the ability of public safety service and support providers to talk with each other via voice and data:

- on demand
- in real time
- when needed
- when authorized



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Public Safety Wireless Interoperability





Why Is Interoperability Important?

- To improve the ability of public safety officers to save lives and property
- To facilitate rapid and efficient interaction among all public safety organizations
- To provide immediate and coordinated assistance in day-to-day missions, task force operations, and mass-casualty incidents
- **Because a survey indicates that nearly one-third of local public safety agencies cite interoperability as inadequate**



Interoperability Across Missions

Interoperability directly impacts the first responder community, which consists of over 61,000 public safety agencies including—

- 960,000 Firefighters
- 830,000 EMS Personnel
- 710,000 Law Enforcement Officers

- 28,495 Fire Departments ¹
- 5,841 EMS Departments ¹
- 27,496 Law Enforcement Agencies ¹

- 25,763 Local Agencies ¹
- 6,396 State Agencies ¹
- 2,967 Federal Agencies ¹

¹ Source: www.SafetySource.com



Across All Levels of Government

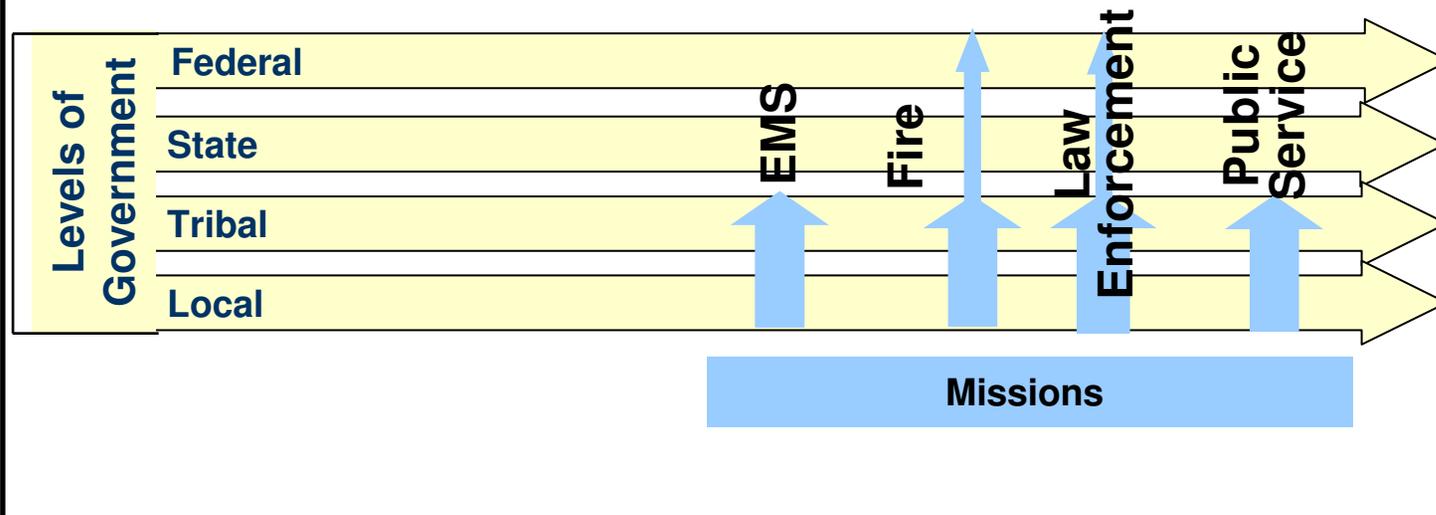
Interoperability also affects the public service arena including:

- Legislative officials
- Utilities
- Services
- Chief information officers



SAFECOM's Broad Stakeholder Base

“Interoperability: Connecting diverse stakeholders across multiple levels of government.”



¹ Source: www.SafetySource.com



SAFECOM's Federal Partners

Department of Homeland Security



Department of Energy

Department of Health and Human Services



Department of Interior

Department of Defense



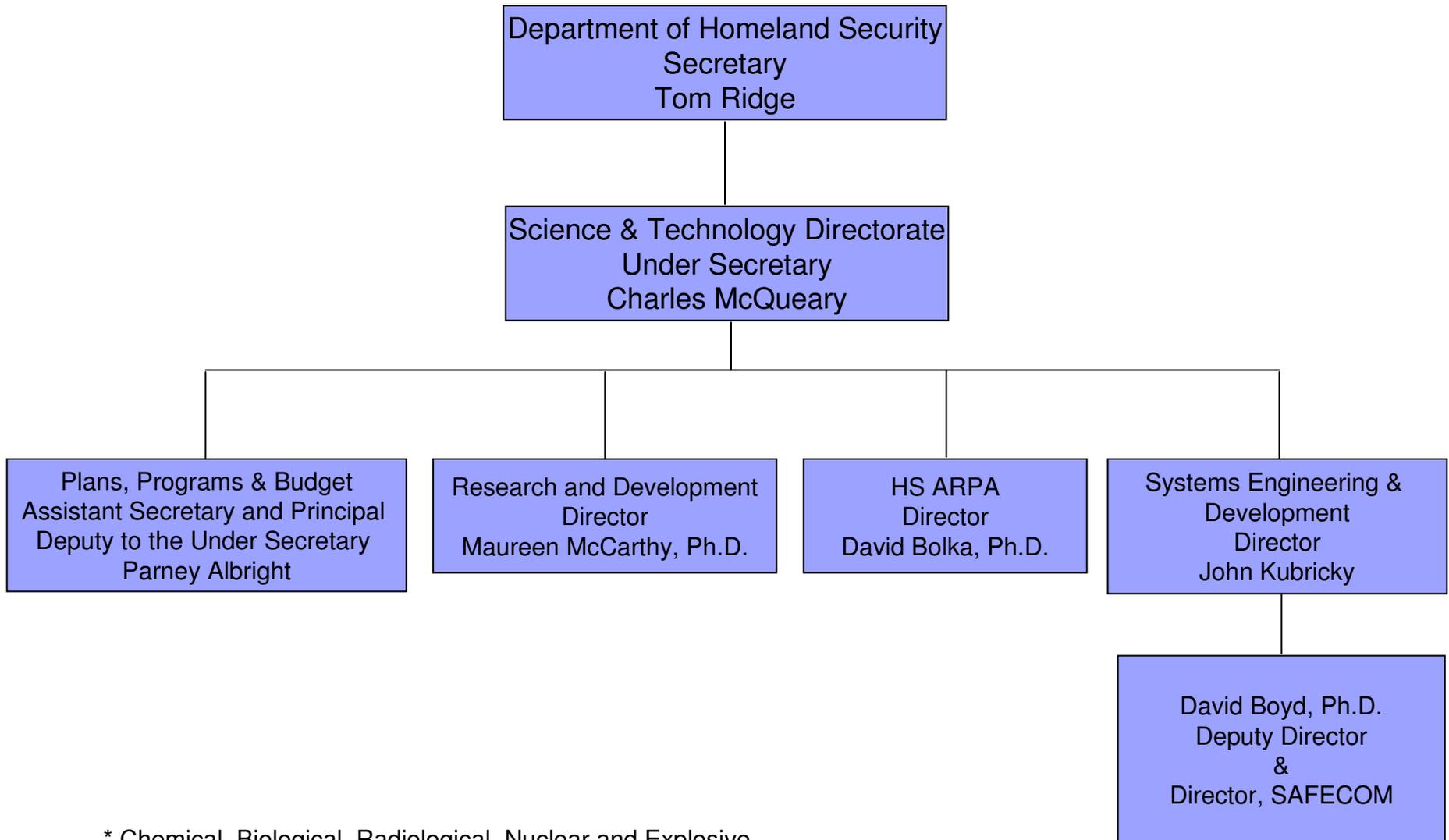
Department of Agriculture

Department of Justice





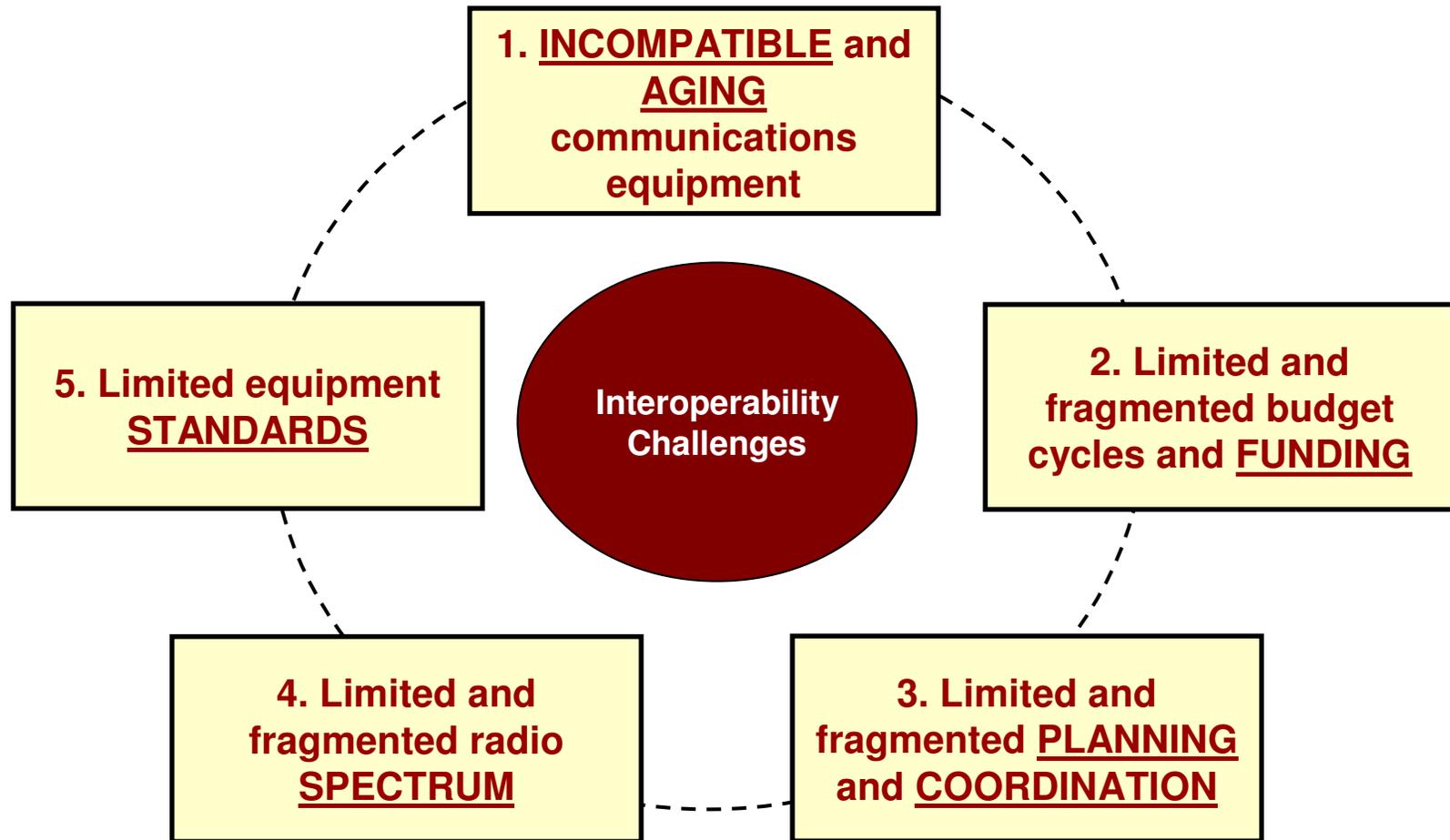
SAFECOM is managed by the DHS Science and Technology Directorate



* Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and Explosive



Current State of Interoperability is Reflected in Five Key Challenges



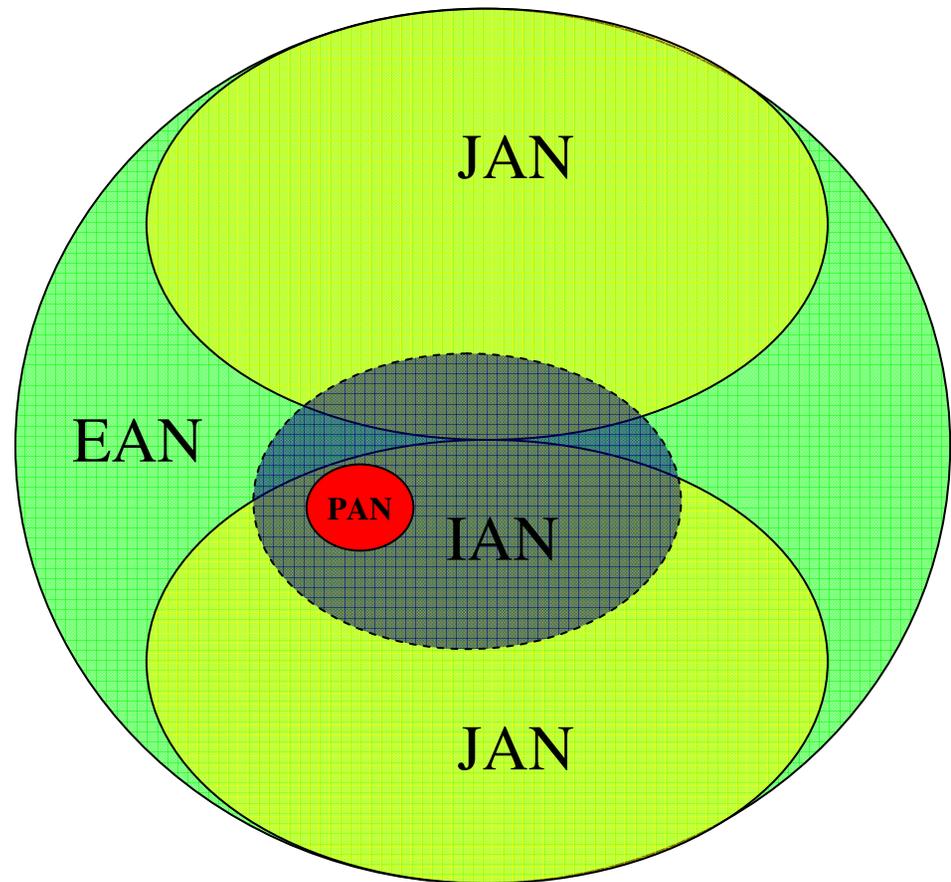
These five issues were identified by the National Task Force on Interoperability in its February 2003 final report, Why Can't We Talk? Working Together to Bridge the Communications Gap to Save Lives.

www.safecomprogram.gov



The System of Systems involves interaction between the:

- Personal Area Network (PAN)
- Incident Area Network (IAN)
- Jurisdiction Area Network (JAN)
- Extended Area Network (EAN)





System of Systems Capabilities

- Practitioners seamlessly move between Jurisdictional Area Networks
- Practitioners join and leave networks as needed
- The creation and growth of temporary networks allowed
- System can recognize, register, authorize, and grant interoperable communications with the new resources

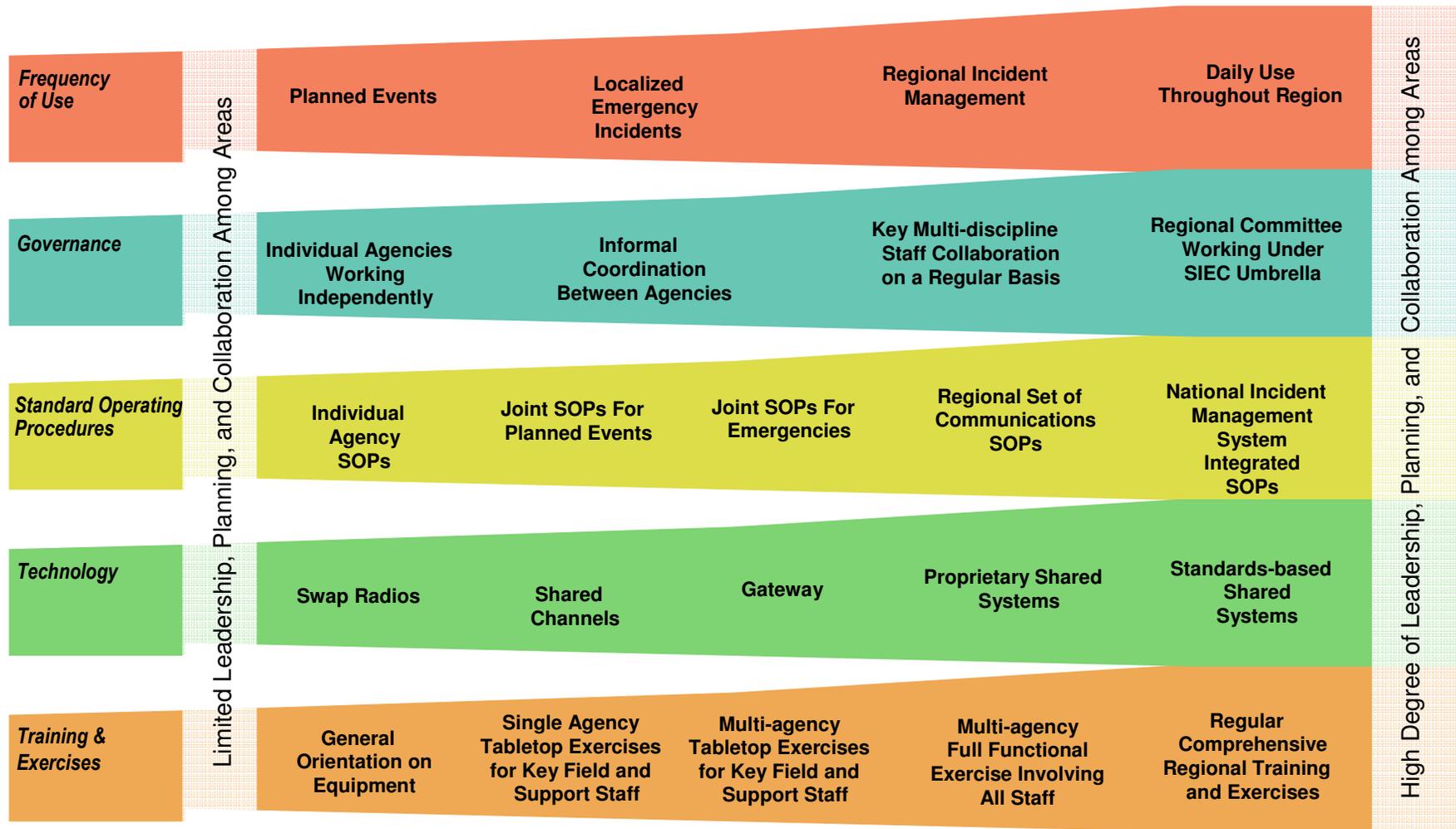


System of Systems Architecture

- The System of Systems architecture builds from Personal Networks to Extended Networks, and puts an emphasis on the individual public safety practitioner
- Different communications systems seamlessly integrate to form the various networks



Communications Interoperability Continuum





SAFECOM – Achievements

- Completed Version 1.0 of the first ever comprehensive Public Safety Statement of Requirements for Communications and Interoperability
- Created a coordinated Grant Guidance which was incorporated in the FY03 COPS and FEMA awards
- Developed a locally-driven, statewide strategic plan for communications interoperability in the Commonwealth of Virginia
- Initiated an effort to accelerate the development of critical standards for public safety communications and interoperability, including the Project 25 standards



SAFECOM'S Three Focus Areas

Architecture

- Statement of Requirements (SoR)
- Technical Architectural Framework Development
- Technical Gap Analysis
- Research and Development (R&D)
- Testing and Evaluation (T&E)
- Vendor Days Process
- National Interoperability Baseline Methodology



SAFECOM'S Three Focus Areas

Standards

- P25 acceleration
- Project MESA support
- Standards gap analysis
- Standards process



SAFECOM'S Three Focus Areas

Federal Coordination

- Virginia Strategic Planning Project
- Clearinghouse of Interoperability Program Information
- Grant Guidance
- Governance Organizations
 - Executive Committee (EC)
 - Advisory Committee (AC)
 - Federal Interagency Coordination Council (FICC)
 - Federal Funding Partners (FFP)



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*“Do you have one of those phones
you can talk to people on?”*



Q&A

Questions?



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