

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 874

State Interoperability Executive Committee

WHEREAS, the State of Mississippi is committed to ensuring the public safety of the citizens, visitors, and natural resources of Mississippi; and,

WHEREAS, the Homeland Security Interoperable Communications Force and the State Radio Committee have already demonstrated the value of working across agency and jurisdictional lines to foster cooperation and coordination of voice and data information throughout the state; and,

WHEREAS, developing interoperable public safety communications systems is vital to the overall mission of public safety agencies and the safety of public safety personnel and the people they serve to protect; and,

WHEREAS, due to new technology and improved standards, the ability of public safety communications systems to be connected when and where necessary has been vastly improved in recent years; and

WHEREAS, there is a need to recognize, encourage, and continue a joint approach to wireless communications interoperability and system development among public safety entities within departments of state government;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Ronnie Musgrove, Governor of the State of Mississippi, by the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the State of Mississippi, do hereby create and establish, the Mississippi State Interoperability Executive Committee.

I. PURPOSE

The Mississippi State Interoperability Executive Committee, hereafter referred to as SIEC, is hereby charged with fostering continued coordination across state agencies and between the state and other governmental agencies within Mississippi. The SIEC will also provide recommendations for both the immediate and longer-term improvement of public safety wireless communications interoperability and shared systems development.

II. MEMBERSHIP

The voting members of the SIEC shall be appointed as follows:

1. Commissioner, Department of Public Safety, or his designee.
2. Executive Director, Department of Transportation, or his designee
3. Executive Director, Mississippi Emergency Management Agency, or his designee
4. Executive Director, Department of Forestry, or his designee
5. Commissioner, Department of Corrections, or his designee
6. Adjutant General, Mississippi National Guard, or his designee
7. Executive Director, Department of Information Telecommunications Services, or his designee

8. Executive Director, Department of Health, or his designee
9. Director of Mississippi Highway Patrol

A quorum of the SIEC shall consist of a majority of the above appointed members. The members of the SIEC shall elect a voting member as chair. In addition, the SIEC should also include advisory members in its activities so as to broaden the perspectives of the SIEC across levels of government and functional disciplines. Advisory members may participate as members of any subcommittees established by the SIEC. Advisory members should include, at a minimum:

1. A Representative to be designated by the Speaker of the House
2. A Representative to be designated by the Lieutenant Governor
3. Chairman, Mississippi Association of Supervisors, or his designee
4. Chairman, Mississippi Municipal League, or his designee
5. A representative of the Mississippi Police Chiefs' Association
6. A representative of the Mississippi Sheriffs' Association
7. A representative of the Mississippi Fire Chiefs' Association
8. One or more representatives from Federal Law Enforcement (e.g., FBI)
9. A representative of the Governor's Office
10. Any other representatives deemed necessary by a majority vote of the SIEC.

III. FUNCTIONS

The Chair of the SIEC may designate the establishment of sub-committees to counsel the Committee on specific issues, including, but not limited to, technical interoperability solutions, funding strategies, shared system development strategies, local government issues, interoperability assessment requirements and findings.

The SIEC shall make a concerted effort to establish a statewide plan for assessing and instituting interoperability throughout the state. The plan should address both near and long-term interoperability solutions, realizing that both are necessary. In forming its recommendations, the SIEC should, at a minimum:

1. Become thoroughly grounded in the fundamentals of interoperability and the technical solutions that currently exist so that they can serve as a central resource for unbiased information within the state.
2. Involve as many agencies as possible that have recognized interoperability as a necessary capability within the public safety community
3. Examine needs and capabilities on a regional basis throughout the state (e.g., county by county)
4. Focus on leveraging or expanding the reach of existing resources and solutions wherever possible to reduce cost, time to implementation, and the total number of solutions needed
5. Identify appropriate locations to "pilot" solutions currently not in use somewhere else in the state as a way of proving their effectiveness
6. Consider the strategic procurement and placement of existing technical solutions (e.g., multiband switches or cross-system interconnects) as near-term interoperability fixes
7. Outline a method for prioritizing system connections both by region and statewide in order to start building a basic level of interoperability throughout the state (e.g., implement the connections that connect the most users first)

8. Provide initial estimates for new asset requirements to the governor and legislature based on the regional and statewide interoperability needs and proposed implementation schedules
9. Continue with long-term planning for statewide communications and interoperability needs
10. Ensure that any near-term interoperability solutions examined could be incorporated into longer-term statewide system development plans for infrastructure development
11. Investigate the need for additional state staff to manage and fully implement any shared system(s) and/or interoperability solutions, to include mutual aid frequency coordination and management.

The initial report of the SIEC and corresponding recommendations shall be made to the Governor and the House of Representatives and the Senate on or before January 31, 2004.

IV. COMPENSATION

Members of the SIEC shall receive no compensation for service on the committee but may receive reasonable reimbursement for actual expenses to the extent allowed by specific legislation and to the extent funds are available for that purpose.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Mississippi to be affixed.

DONE at the Capitol, in the City of Jackson, this the 5th day of February, in the year of our Lord two thousand and three, and of the two hundred and twenty-sixth year of the United States of America.

RONNIE MUSGROVE
GOVERNOR

BY THE GOVERNOR

SECRETARY OF STATE