



Thomas Lampe, ISICSB Chair

Note from the ISICSB Chair

The ISICS system continues to show growth, and users, as well as PSAPs are gradually understanding how important interoperability can be. Recent events in and around Iowa have demonstrated the capabilities of the ISICS system for Interoperability. The patching of talkgroups on different systems and different bands have shown success in the last month. Whether it is planned or not planned, ISICS has provided the tools necessary at the time.

Thank you to all the PSAPs and users who work each day and recognize the importance of communications during the busy times we have all experienced in the last few weeks.

ISICSB MISSION

"The board shall develop, implement, and oversee policy, operations, and fiscal components of communications interoperability efforts at the state and local level, and coordinate with similar efforts at the federal level, with the ultimate objective of developing and overseeing the operation of a statewide integrated public safety communications interoperability system."

ISICSB VISION

"All emergency response entities in and around Iowa can access interoperable communications systems."

Trivia Question: With a population of 15, what two Iowa towns are recognized as the smallest towns in the state?

*** answers on page 5 ***

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS

New:

* New Training Opportunity—Encryption Planning & Usage for Administrators

READ MORE

Web Link: <https://isicb.iowa.gov/event/encryption-planning-and-usage-administrators>

* Registration now open—Region 3 ISICS Training for Frontline Dispatchers & ISICS Interoperability Update Event

READ MORE

Web Link: <https://isicb.iowa.gov/ric-3-isics-training-frontline-dispatchers-isics-interop-update>

* Special Announcement from Interops

READ MORE

Web Link: <https://isicb.iowa.gov/special-announcement-interops>

* New training videos are available on the ISICSB website

WATCH NOW

Web Link: <https://isicb.iowa.gov/education-training/training-videos>

* Announcement for current and future FirstNet Users and those with questions regarding FirstNet

READ MORE

Web Link: <https://isicb.iowa.gov/current-future-firstnet-users>

IN THIS ISSUE

ISICS

Public Safety Spotlight.....	Page 2
Note from the SWIC.....	Page 2
ISICS Credentialing.....	Page 2
ISICS User News.....	Page 3
New ISICS Users.....	Page 3
Contacts.....	Page 3
Resources	Page 3
ISICS Education.....	Page 4

FirstNet

Recent News	Page 5
Resources.....	Page 5
Contacts.....	Page 5
FirstNet Education.....	Page 6

COMING IN FUTURE ISSUES

- Public Safety Spotlight
- Outreach Survey
- ISICS, ISICSB, FirstNet Recent News and Updates
- ISICS Standards
- FirstNet Roadmap

JULY HAPPENINGS

View calendar

HERE

Calendar Web Link: <https://isicb.iowa.gov/events/month/2020-07>

Public Safety Spotlight:

Sergeant Corey Trucke, Ida County Sheriff's Office



Communications always seem to be an area that we have trouble within public safety. Routinely the problem can be traced back to training, equipment, capital, infrastructure, and other material problems. Sometimes it is simply our tone, availability, and willingness not only to communicate but also actively listen with an open mind that makes all the difference.

A little about me: I guess you could say that I have always been interested in 911. As a small child, I often tormented the Ida County Communications Center by dialing 911 just for "fun." Well, it was all fun and games until one day, I found out that they could indeed track where the 911 calls were coming from. My parents were not happy, and I coined the nickname that would last me several years of my childhood, "911". As I got older, I knew I wanted to do something that involved emergency services, but I couldn't decide exactly what that was.

As a senior in high school, I took the "first responder" course and joined my hometown ambulance service. I could still not decide what I wanted to do. However, I knew I was going to pursue becoming a paramedic, or I was going to pursue law enforcement. I used the most time tested method I could think of, and on a Tuesday night, I flipped a coin and, my future was set. I was going to become an officer.

While I was in college, I started working for the Iowa DNR as a Water Patrol Officer during the summer. I was also given the opportunity to become a dispatcher at the ISU Police Department while attending college there (Go Cyclones!). After graduating from ISU with a B.A in Interdisciplinary Studies/Criminal Justice, I worked in the Kansas City metro for a law enforcement agency for a short time before I came back home to work for Ida County, where I have been since 2013. I am currently a Sergeant for the Office and primarily lead the Communications Center. I also serve as the Jail Administrator, in addition to various patrol, investigative, and IT-related responsibilities. We have an excellent team here, and I am proud to have the privilege of leading our communications and jail staff.

In conjunction with my employment, I serve as the RIC 3 Chair and a member of the User Group Committee and Firstnet Broadband Committee. When I am not working, I am an Advanced EMT and the Assistant Director & Training Officer for the Ida Grove Ambulance Service.

It is an exciting time to be involved with ISICS and communications in our state! A lot is happening, and public safety as a whole is becoming more and more complex and demanding. We have an awesome responsibility to continue to develop systems, protocols, and standards that will have a profound impact on public safety, not only in our local jurisdictions but in the state as a whole for years to come. Don't take the responsibility lightly.

*** If you would like to nominate someone to be featured in our Public Safety Spotlight, please email Hollie Davidson @ [hdavidso@dps.state.ia.us](mailto:h davidso@dps.state.ia.us) ***

ISICS Credentialing Opportunities

Communications Unit Leader (COML)

The Communications Unit Leader (COML) is a position under the Logistics Section of the Incident Command System (ICS). The COML's responsibilities include developing plans for the effective use of incident communications equipment and facilities, managing the distribution of communications equipment to incident personnel, and coordinating the installation and testing of communications equipment. The COML will supervise other members of the Communications Unit, such as the Communications Technician (COMT), Radio Operator (RADO), and Incident Communications Center Manager (INCM) if those positions are filled during an incident.

Communications Unit Technician (COMT)

The Communications Unit Technician (COMT) is a course designed to introduce public safety professionals and support staff to various communications concepts and technologies, including interoperable communications solutions, LMR communications, satellite, telephone, data, and computer technologies used in incident response and planned events. Participants develop the essential core competencies required for performing the duties of the COMT in an all-hazards incident, including responsibilities while operating in a local, regional, or State-level All-Hazards Incident Management Team.

Incident Tactical Dispatcher (INTD)

An Incident Tactical Dispatcher is a specially trained individual qualified to operate away from the dispatch center in a command post, base camp, or at the incident scene. Incident Tactical Dispatchers leverage the multi-tasking, communication, accountability, and documentation skills of successful telecommunicators to provide public safety communications expertise and support at planned events and extended incidents such as hostage situations, multi-alarm fires, search and rescue operations, bombings, and active shooter incidents.

Note from the SWIC



Greetings. I hope everyone had a safe and enjoyable Independence Day.

I would like to thank every PSAP in Iowa that has been able to get the consolettes/control stations installed and test calls completed. This program has been successful in assisting local agencies get a basic connection to ISICS for interoperability, and those connections have proven

beneficial. Several events, such as civil unrest, pursuits, and other joint operations, have gone smoothly in large part to the dedicated personnel at the local PSAP that opened up interoperable lines of communications among our agencies. More regional training on the use of the consolettes/control stations will be available soon, so please keep an eye out for those announcements.

You may have noticed the recent changes in StatusBoard. The new changes group the regional and statewide interoperable talkgroups together for easier access by telecommunicators. Those changes should be completed. If something does not appear correctly in your StatusBoard screen, please let me know.

Another training opportunity related to encryption is now available-- *Encryption Planning and Usage for Administrators*. I encourage any agency that has thought of using encryption in radio communications to sign up for this course on July 30th at 0900.

Finally, I would like to encourage interested agencies to join our ISICSB committees (<https://isicsb.iowa.gov/resources/forms/committee-membership-application>). The time commitment is typically an hour or so each month, and it is your opportunity to provide feedback and guidance to the ISICSB as policies and standards are being reviewed and developed. If you have not called in for a while, we get it. This year has not been a slow one by any metric. We will gladly welcome you as your time allows.

Thank you and stay safe out there!

ISICS User News

New ISICS Users

- * Bremer County Emergency Management
- * Calhoun County Emergency Management (update)
 - * Clarke County Sheriff's Office
 - * Muscatine County (update)
- * Winneshiek County Emergency Management



Recent News

Push to Talk:

During the recent civil unrest in Des Moines in June 2020, there were over 10,000 push to talk transmissions on ISICS on the R1TAC12 interoperable talkgroup.

PSAP Control Station Update:

To date, there is only one PSAP that has yet to complete a test call. Approximately 100 agencies and 92 PSAPs have received training. The ISICSB would like to thank the PSAPs and agencies that have gotten the equipment installed and participated in regional and one-on-one training offered by the ISICSB and DPS.

Mobile Command Center Update:

During the June 11, 2020, ISICSB Meeting, Chair Lampe gave an update on the DPS Mobile Command Center. Chair Lampe shared that the installation of some ISICS communications equipment in the new DPS Mobile Command is complete, and can now successfully use LTE to connect to the ISICS core. This allows the Mobile Command Center to act as another wide area site in the ISICS network and enable radios to work like they usually would on ISICS in wide-area trunking. DPS is using FirstNet and Verizon as backhaul to the ISICS core from the Mobile Command. Work is also in progress to set up a core connection for the dispatch consoles in the Mobile Command. There is also initial work in progress regarding installing 911 equipment for answering 911 calls within the Mobile Command.

To Join ISICS

To start the process to JOIN ISICS click [HERE](#) or go to the following:

Web Link: <https://isicb.iotis.com/join>

To watch a JOIN ISICS YouTube tutorial click [HERE](#) or go to the following:

Web link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hg31tQh4Qts&feature=youtu.be>

Contacts

Thomas Lampe

ISICSB Chair, Bureau Chief
ISICSB/Iowa Department of Public Safety
lampe@dps.state.ia.us

David Ness

ISICSB Vice-Chair, Captain
Des Moines Police Department
DMNess@dmgov.org

Chris Maiers

Statewide Interoperability Coordinator (SWIC)
ISICSB/Iowa Department of Public Safety
maiers@dps.state.ia.us

Hollie Davidson

Administrative Assistant
ISICSB/Iowa Department of Public Safety
hdauidso@dps.state.ia.us

Resources

Documents

◆ [June 2020 ISICSB Meeting Minutes](#)

Web Link: <https://isicb.iowa.gov/document/june-isicb-board-meeting-minutes>

◆ [Approved ISICS Standards](#)

Web Link: <https://isicb.iowa.gov/resources/policies/isics-standards>

◆ [2020—2023 Iowa Statewide Communications Plan \(SCIP\)](#)

Web Link: https://isicb.iowa.gov/sites/default/files/documents/2019/12/2019-2020_iowa_scip_11.18.19_draft_1315.pdf

Training Videos

◆ [Console/Control Station Training](#)

Web Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wsOiW0BCAQo&feature=youtu.be>

◆ [ISICS Standard 1.5.0—Regional & Statewide Interoperability Talkgroups](#)

Web Link: <https://youtu.be/wpS3YSaIZMk>

◆ [StatusBoard End User Training](#)

Web Link: https://youtu.be/Ar_JiLca3EI

YouTube Videos

◆ [Iowa Total Interoperability](#)

Web Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SoAe5bo94mE&feature=youtu.be>

◆ [ISICS Technology](#)

Web Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6Kr1CF7xYwo&feature=youtu.be>

◆ [ISICS System Live Demo](#)

Web Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mMQfJwXfQF8&feature=youtu.be>

“There is no right to strike against the public safety by anybody, anywhere, any time.”

~ Calvin Coolidge

ISICS Common Misconceptions

- **It will be 5-10 years before the Iowa Interoperable Statewide System (ISICS) is built (FALSE)**
 - ⇒ The system is ready now!
- **The platform is controlled by the State (FALSE)**
 - ⇒ The ISICS Board sets the rules for the use of the system which is comprised of law enforcement emergency managers, and first responders from across the state.
 - ⇒ Committees and working groups are comprised of local users, and they determine rules of the system
- **User fee charges (FALSE)**
 - ⇒ There are no user fees for any user level.
- **The state will take away local frequencies (FALSE)**
 - ⇒ Not true – each county has frequencies for the state and for the county itself. There are two buckets per county – one bucket is dedicated to statewide frequencies, and one bucket is dedicated to county frequencies. They can use the countywide frequencies however they choose.
 - ⇒ The ISICS frequencies are based on the frequency plan that the state has right now.
 - ⇒ Local entities may bring in additional frequencies from the county allocated general pool.
 - ⇒ Local entities own, license and manage their own frequencies.
- **The system was built for the State (FALSE)**
 - ⇒ ISICS was built to provide a cost-effective baseline for Iowa that users can utilize.
 - ⇒ Baseline coverage guarantee gives the same baseline coverage across the state regardless of population density and provides the same ability to build out the system based on county or agency preference.
 - ⇒ Allows for local entities to integrate in a cost-effective manner.
 - ⇒ The platform provides for enhanced capabilities if integration is desired (GPS, Over-the-air-programming, and voice/text connectivity to a cell phone).
- **The state will control local operations (FALSE)**
 - ⇒ ISICS was built to provide interoperability and collaboration.
 - ⇒ ISICS provides local users with enhanced operational capabilities. For example, it can be used with prisoner transport. When the task takes officers across county lines, they are able to stay in constant contact with their dispatcher and state troopers.
 - ⇒ ISICS will not determine how counties set up their talk groups.
- **The state will control what is allowed on the system (FALSE)**
 - ⇒ Interoperability channels are defined for consistency. They are built on the principle that there is some commonality throughout different homeland security regions throughout Iowa for safety purposes. Therefore, if there is an emergency, a law enforcement professional or first responder from anywhere in the state may use his/her radio to communicate when responding to the incident.
 - ⇒ Operational channels are defined by your local entity.
- **The state is going to listen to your local talkgroups/channels (FALSE)**
 - ⇒ This is possible only if the local entity establishes a mutual agreement.
 - ⇒ There is also programming capability to link up individual counties that you work specifically with on a case by case basis.
 - ⇒ Point to point operations can be programmed into the radio.
- **Connecting competing 700 MHZ systems via an ISSI is plug and play (FALSE)**
 - ⇒ The ISSI connection is not a proven transfer. In fact, this type of transfer has had multiple problems nationally.
 - ⇒ Even if it can be transferred, the situation is not “plug and play.” It will take millions of dollars, a deep technical understanding, significant programming, and multiple trainings. The cost, labor, and time of this transfer will be passed onto users.

ISICS Technical Aspects

- ◆ You can ask for more radio IDs via application.
- ◆ System Keys are needed for programming.
- ◆ Once the key is provisioned by DPS, the radios can be programmed.
- ◆ DPS will add the radio IDs to the ISICS Platform.
- ◆ No fees for any of the state-provided services.

ISICS Necessary Features

- ◆ P25 Phase II (TDMA w/P25 Trunking)
- ◆ Compatible with P25 data channel
- ◆ 700/800 MHz
- ◆ List of these available at the P25 Compliance Assessment Program (P25 CAP) website under *Approved (Grant-Eligible) Equipment* page.
 - ⇒ <https://www.dhs.gov/science-and-technology/approved-grant-eligible-equipment>
 - ⇒ Use the 2017 Compliance Assessment Bulletin (CAB)
 - ⇒ Not all documents or manufacturers are posted as of yet.
- ◆ For agencies looking for encryption, AES 256 Multi-key recommended
 - ⇒ OTAR also recommended





What is FirstNet?

Signed into law on February 22, 2012, the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act created the First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet). The law gives FirstNet the mission to build, operate and maintain the first high-speed, nationwide wireless broadband network dedicated to public safety. FirstNet will provide a single interoperable platform for emergency and daily public safety communications.

Iowa's FirstNet Initiative: "Iowa, FirstNet and AT&T have formed an innovative public-private partnership to expand coverage, enhance capacity and launch new devices and applications for first responders," Lt. Gov. Gregg said. "This network is designed specifically for Iowa's public safety professionals, by Iowa's public safety professionals. We wanted our brave men and women to have the best. This solution will help us continue to build a better Iowa by ushering in a new wave of innovation for Iowa's first responders."

Recent News

*** Click [HERE](#) to view the June 2020 FirstNet Newsletter ***

Important Announcement from AT&T/FirstNet

*** The black FirstNet SIM card is now active with the roaming partner ***

AT&T Supports Community Food Banks Across Iowa

Across the state, we have witnessed the growing need for food assistance by Iowa families, stretching the limits of local food banks and pantries. To address the dire need many Iowa families have for basic necessities and food, AT&T has contributed to the following organizations:

- \$20,000** for [Kings Harvest](#) – Quad Cities
- \$10,000** for [Linn County Food Bank](#) – Cedar Rapids
- \$10,000** for [Neighborhood Centers of Johnson County](#) – Iowa City
- \$10,000** for [Christ's Cupboard](#) – Red Oak
- \$10,000** for the [Pass the Pork](#) – Statewide

These contributions to community organizations were the result of conversations with our employees, community leaders and legislators. We are pleased to dedicate resources where they help the most, providing people with access to food and other needed services during this difficult time.

Link to the full announcement can be found here: <https://midwestregion.att.com/att-supports-community-food-banks-across-iowa/>

AT&T Invests Nearly \$110 Million Over Three-Year Period to Keep Iowa Connected

DES MOINES, Iowa, July 2, 2020 – AT&T* is proud to have the nation's best and also fastest wireless network,¹ as well as the largest network in North America.² From 2017-2019, we invested nearly \$110 million in our wireless and wireline networks in Iowa to expand coverage and improve connectivity in more communities.

That investment has increased reliability, coverage and overall performance for residents and businesses, which is essential for connecting our customers with family, friends and colleagues – no matter the distance. It's also improved critical communications services for Iowa's first responders using the FirstNet network.

"We know that our continued investment in Iowa is vital to keeping people connected – from public safety personnel during a crisis to friends, family and loved ones on a daily basis," said Dustin Blythe, Iowa Director of External Affairs, AT&T. "We're committed to keeping you connected when and where you need it most. We show up for our customers and communities. That's what we do. It's who we are."

Today, our 4G LTE network covers more than 330 million people.³ That's more than 2.61 million square miles and over 99% of all Americans.⁴

"We appreciate the critical support and investment AT&T continues to make in our state's wireless broadband infrastructure," said Mike Ralston, President of the Iowa Association of Business and Industry. "As we've seen during the COVID-19 crisis, when so many Iowans were conducting business from their homes, reliable high-speed connectivity is essential." [READ MORE](#)

FirstNet Resources

- ◆ [FirstNet Current & Future User Form](#)
READ MORE
Web Link: <https://isicsb.iowa.gov/current-future-firstnet-users>
- ◆ [FirstNet App Catalog](#)
Web Link: https://www.firstnet.com/content/dam/firstnet/white-papers/2019_11_26_v1_FN_App_Catalog_Booklet_Full.Pdf
- ◆ [FirstNet Checklist](#)
Web Link: <https://www.firstnet.com/content-dam/firstnet/marketing/pdf/Public-Safety-Communications-Checklist.pdf?LinkID=checklist>
- ◆ [FirstNet Nationwide Coverage](#)
Web Link: <https://www.firstnet.com/coverage.html>
- ◆ [FirstNet & Your Local Radio](#)
Web Link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J2i3_HsVce4&feature=youtu.be
- ◆ [FirstNet Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQ\)](#)
Web Link: https://isicsb.iowa.gov/sites/default/files/documents/2019/06/firstnet_faqs.pdf

FirstNet Iowa Contacts

David Barnett

Principal Consultant FirstNet IA
m: 931.218.8734
db145a@att.com

Danny Noble

FirstNet Territory Manager—Northern Plains
Public Safety Solutions
AT&T Mobility Services LLC
m: 260.242.3429
dn512r@att.com

Kyle Richardson

Senior Public Safety Advisor—Region VII (IA, NE, MO, KS, OH)
m: 202.510.8122
Kyle.Richardson@firstnet.gov

Trivia Answer: The towns of Beaconsfield and LeRoy are both recognized as the smallest towns in Iowa. The very first Hy-Vee Grocery Store was built in Beaconsfield in 1930. Beaconsfield is also the hometown of Astronaut Peggy Whitson who holds the record for the longest time spent in space by any American.

FirstNet History

2001: Public safety identifies a need

The September 11, 2001, attacks were one of the most devastating events in our nation's history. The tragedy also revealed fundamental problems with the communications systems used by our nation's first responders. The radio systems police, fire, and paramedics relied on could not easily operate across agencies, and during the crisis, land and mobile phone lines were overwhelmed by a high volume of calls.

2001-2012: Public safety advocates for its dedicated network

The communications challenges first responders faced that day were captured in the 9/11 Commission Report. The 2004 report identified gaps in emergency communications and recommended a nationwide network for public safety communications. In the years after the report's release, public safety organizations and associations came together to press Congress to pass legislation establishing a reliable, dedicated and national high-speed network for first responders.

2012: Congress creates the First Responder Network Authority

The First Responder Network Authority was created as part of the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act (PUBLIC LAW 112-96), which was signed into law on February 22, 2012. The law allocated 20 megahertz of spectrum and \$7 billion to establish a broadband network dedicated to the nation's first responders and gave the First Responder Network Authority the mandate to build, operate, and maintain that network. The inaugural meeting of the FirstNet Board took place on September 25, 2012.

2016 - 2017: Forming an innovative public-private partnership

The Act that created the First Responder Network Authority required it to engage in an open, transparent, and competitive RFP process for the deployment of the network. Informed by years of public safety consultation and data collection, FirstNet issued its objectives-based RFP in January of 2016. FirstNet awarded an innovative 25-year contract to AT&T in March 2017.

- *** FirstNet Issues RFP for the Nationwide Public Safety Broadband Network
- *** FirstNet Partners with AT&T to Build \$46.5 Billion Wireless Broadband Network

2012: Consulting with public safety nationwide

The law that established the FirstNet Authority required it to consult with federal, state, tribal, and local public safety entities to ensure that the FirstNet network was designed to meet the needs of public safety across the country. From its 2012 founding through today, consultation is critical to everything at the FirstNet Authority. Consultation informed the Request for Proposal and shaped the State Plans that were issued to every U.S. state and territory. The FirstNet Authority will continue to engage with public safety to help them realize the operational benefits of the FirstNet Experience.

2018: Launching the Network and Innovating for Public Safety

2018 was a landmark year for public safety communications. With FirstNet launching nationwide, The FirstNet Authority will continue to oversee the management of a successful partnership with AT&T centered on two pillars – fulfilling the contractual objectives and improving the FirstNet Solution through value-adding activities that enhance the FirstNet Experience

- *** FirstNet Buildout Launches Nationwide as Public Safety Core Nears Delivery
- *** FirstNet Fleet of Dedicated Deployable Network Assets Now Available to Public Safety Subscribers Nationwide

2016 - 2017: Customized state buildout plans and 56 state/territory opt-ins

The years FirstNet spent in consultation with states, territories, tribal governments, and public safety agencies at every level provided FirstNet with a better understanding of the needs of first responders nationwide. After forming its partnership with AT&T, the First Authority issued a customized, digital State Plan outlining how the FirstNet network would be deployed to the governor of each U.S. state and territory. At the conclusion of the 90-day decision period, every U.S. governor opted to go with the FirstNet plan. The success of the State Plans process has enabled FirstNet to be deployed faster and truly interoperable and nationwide.

- *** FirstNet and AT&T Advance Nationwide Broadband Network for Public Safety; Release Buildout Plans for States and Territories
- *** FirstNet Services Now Available for Responders from Coast to Coast
- *** All 50 States Choose FirstNet Public-Private Partnership for Public Safety Broadband Network

Today: A Catalyst for Public Safety

With the network expanding nationwide, the FirstNet Authority is working to ensure FirstNet meets public safety's needs today and into the future. We will continue to engage, learn from, support, and advocate for the public safety community so that they benefit from the FirstNet Experience. Our objective is to create a differentiated experience for public safety by fostering an ecosystem and investing resources that advances the FirstNet Experience. Learn more about how FirstNet is delivering for public safety on our FirstNet in Action page. Also see:

- *** FirstNet Authority Releases Public Safety-Driven Roadmap for Future of Network
- *** Network Passes 750,000 Connections, Performs Faster Than Any Commercial Network for Second Consecutive Quarter