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Public Safety Wireless Interoperability

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What is public safety wireless "interoperability"?

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

Why is interoperability critical to our nation?

1. **Lives are being lost** and property damaged because public safety agencies cannot effectively communicate

2. Technology for interoperability is now available but has not been universally or effectively deployed

3. Interoperability will save money through better capital deployment and resource efficiency

What is SAFECOM's role in public safety wireless "interoperability"?

1. A public safety practitioner driven program

2. Serves as the umbrella program within the Federal government to improve public safety interoperable communications

3. Dedicated to develop better technologies and processes for the cross-jurisdictional and cross-disciplinary coordination of existing systems and future networks

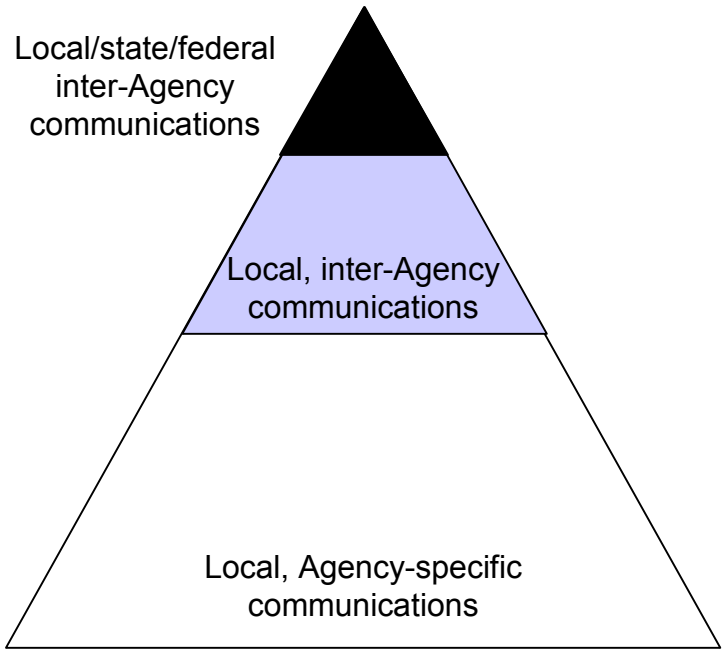
4. Responsible for outreach to local, state, and federal Public Safety agencies to assist in interoperability planning and implementation

SAFECOM's customer base includes over 44,000 local and state public safety agencies as well as over 100 federal agencies engaged in public safety response.

What is SAFECOM's role in public safety wireless "interoperability"?

The Federal Government cannot force local and state public safety agencies to purchase new equipment and systems to achieve interoperability

Public Safety Agencies Communications Priorities

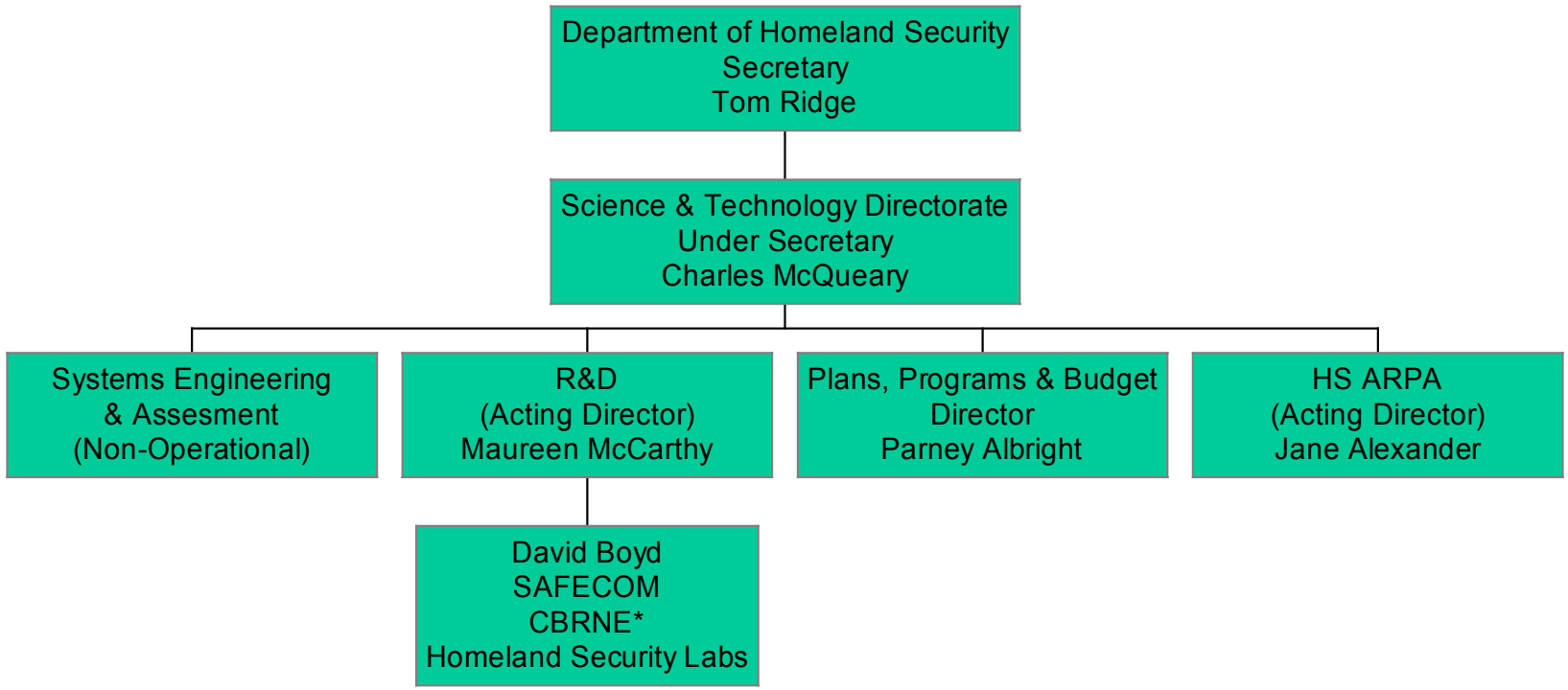


1. Local and state agencies **own over 90%** of the existing public safety communications infrastructure
2. Equipment and systems are purchased for a **life cycle of up to 30 years**
3. Equipment and systems are used by local and state agencies every day for the full spectrum of local emergencies. Interoperability requirements with federal agencies are **infrequent.**
4. The **priorities** of local and state public safety communications systems are as follows:
    1. Provide reliable Agency-specific communications
    2. Provide reliable local interagency communications
    3. Provide reliable interagency local/State/Federal communications

What are the barriers to wireless interoperability?

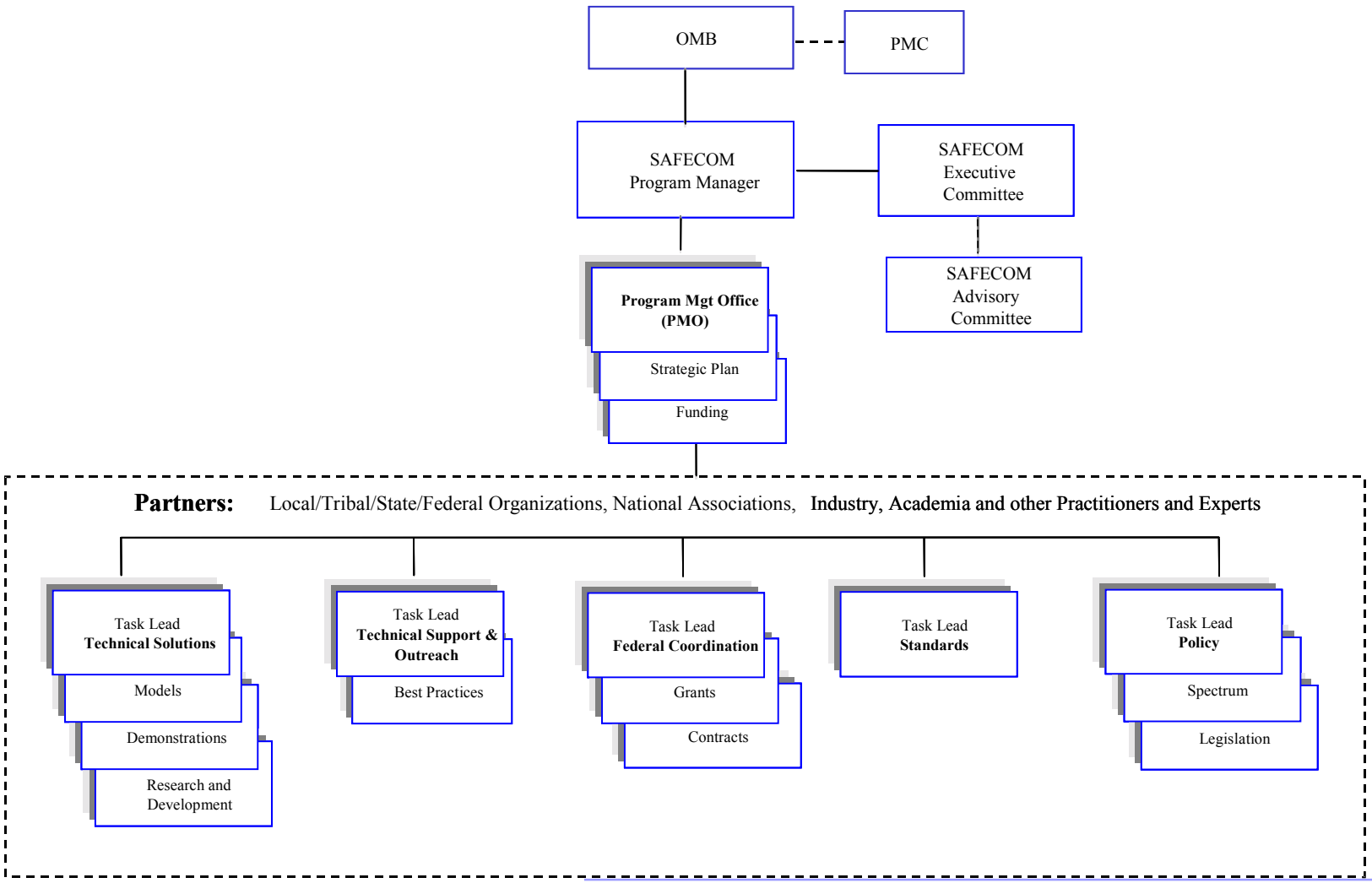
1. ***Limited and fragmented radio spectrum***
2. ***Limited and fragmented planning and cooperation***
3. ***Incompatible and aging communications equipment***
4. ***Lack of standards***
5. ***Limited and fragmented funding***

DHS Science and Technology Directorate



* Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and Explosive

SAFECOM Governance Structure



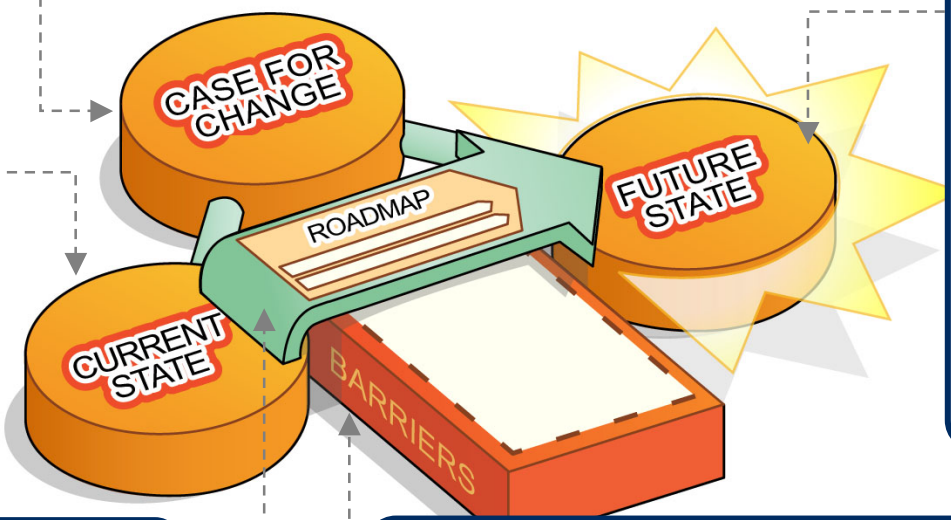
SAFECOM Interoperability Gameboard

Current State

- Distrust among key players (local / State / Federal)
- Short technology cycles vs. long operations life cycles
- No standard, guidance or national strategy for interoperability
- Fragmentation and limitations of the public safety spectrum
- No enforceability in Federal grant use
- Vendor driven environment
- No funding for training, planning, maintenance

Case for Change

- Avoid unnecessary loss of life and property
- Save money
- Facilitate sharing of resources across disciplines and jurisdiction
- Delay makes the situation worse



Future State

- Public Safety officers can transmit and receive all information (data/voice/video) necessary to maximize their effectiveness
- Public/private and local/State/Federal partnerships
- Consistent, bankable source of funding for equipment, training,maintenance
- Vendors are driven by user requirements
- Ability to upgrade functions without purchasing new hardware

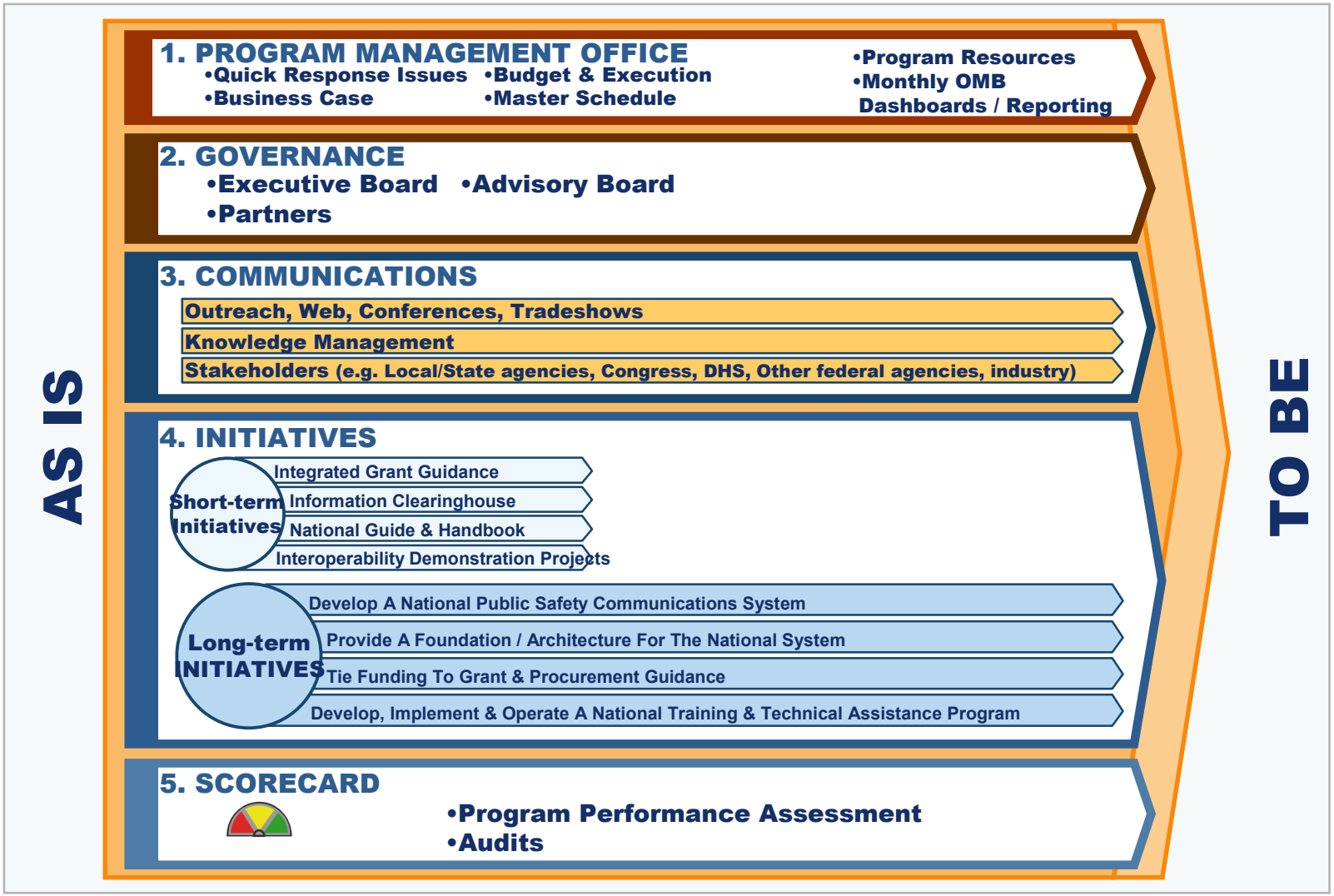
Roadmap

- National Public Safety Communications strategy
- Supporting standards and regulations
- Funding mechanisms and guidance
- National training and technical assistance program

Barriers

- Insufficient funding for Public Safety communications infrastructure improvements
- Lack of staffing for SAFECOM program
- Local and State organizations' fear of federal mandates
- Limited credibility based on coordination efforts of Federal agencies
- Inconsistency in the grants programs

SAFECOM Roadmap



What are SAFECOM's long-term objectives?

1. **Develop a national interoperability strategy**
   - Drive the system requirements from the local level up
   - Ensure an adaptable system
2. **Provide a technical foundation for a national system**
   - Provide adequate spectrum
   - Develop minimum set of standards to achieve interoperability
3. **Coordinate funding**
   - Tie funding to grant guidance
   - Create a clearinghouse of interoperability information about grants, best practices, and equipment purchases
4. **Create a national technical assistance and training program**
   - Fund demonstration projects
   - Develop and promote best practices

What will SAFECOM accomplish over the next 18 months?

1. Grant Guidance

- Fully integrate guidance across the Federal government

2. National Handbook

- Develop a guide for local public safety communications users to assist in the planning and implementation of interoperable communications systems
- Develop repository of commonly accepted public safety terminology for use on interoperability communications channels
- Identify and address interoperable communications issues related to improving Incident Command Systems

3. Web Site

- Create interoperable information clearinghouse for public safety users

4. Demonstration Projects

- Identify and fund demonstration projects across the country
- Leverage demonstration projects to identify new technologies and processes for interoperable communication

Long term vision: A national system that adapts to the incident

