

PSIC Grantee Conference Federal Speaker Biographies

Jeff Bratcher

Breakout Session: Project 25 Compliance Assessment Program and Public Safety Communications Research

Tuesday, 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm, Wednesday, 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Jeff Bratcher is the Division Chief for the Telecommunications and IT Planning Division at the U.S. Department of Commerce National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) Institute for Telecommunication Sciences (ITS) located in Boulder, Colorado. Mr. Bratcher has been with ITS since 2003, and one of his primary roles is serving as the Technical Manager for the Public Safety Communications Research (PSCR) program. Prior to joining ITS, Mr. Bratcher worked for 10 years in the private sector in the cellular infrastructure vendor space testing and deploying commercial cellular systems worldwide. Mr. Bratcher received his Masters of Science in Telecommunications from Southern Methodist University and a Bachelors of Science in Electrical Engineering from Texas Tech University.

Dan Buchtel

General Session: Inspector General Presentation – Lessons Learned / Best Practices

Tuesday, 11:45 am – 12:30 pm

Dan Buchtel is a supervisory auditor with the U.S. Department of Commerce, Office of Inspector General (OIG), based in Denver, Colorado. Mr. Buchtel has 26 years of federal audit experience, much of this in the area of federal financial assistance awards and programs. He supervised fieldwork and reporting for a series of recently-completed audits of Public Safety Interoperable Communications (PSIC) State grants and contributed to development of OIG's second annual assessment report on the PSIC program.

Carolyn Dunn

Opening Remarks: Welcome & Introduction

Tuesday, 9:30 am – 10:00 am

Carolyn Dunn is currently the Executive Officer for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Grant Programs Directorate (GPD). She has worked for GPD since 2006; first, for the Transportation Infrastructure Security Branch, and then in the Program Development and Information Management Branch.

Ms. Dunn was the program manager for the PSIC Grant Program until March 2010 and was responsible for the program development, management, administration, and coordination with the Department of Commerce NTIA. She also served as the program manager for the Interoperable Emergency Communications Grant Program.

Prior to joining GPD, Ms. Dunn worked for the Virginia Department of Transportation for over 10 years in the areas of transportation research, technical assistance, and technology transfer.



Chris Essid

*General Session: OEC – 2010 National Emergency Communications Plan Update & Goals
Tuesday, 4:30 pm – 5:30 pm*

Chris Essid was selected in December 2007 to be the Director of the Office of Emergency Communications (OEC), within the Department of Homeland Security. Mr. Essid is responsible for leading efforts nationwide to accelerate and attain operable and interoperable emergency communications among public safety agencies and across Federal, State, local, and tribal governments nationwide. OEC provides technical assistance to States and localities via the Interoperable Communications Technical Assistance Program, works with the public safety community to develop best practices, lessons learned and formal recommendations via the SAFECOM and Emergency Communications Preparedness Center, and develops and implements the goals and initiatives contained within the National Emergency Communications Plan. In 2009 he was awarded a Special Recognition Award by the Association of Public Safety Officials International for his work in developing communications policy for the public safety community.

Prior to joining DHS, Mr. Essid served as the first Statewide Interoperability Coordinator for the Commonwealth of Virginia for Governor's Mark Warner and Tim Kaine. Mr. Essid led Virginia to develop the Nation's first Statewide Communication Interoperability Plan, established the State Interoperability Executive Committee, and coordinated the creation of the Virginia radio cache effort to provide statewide tactical communications response. Additionally, he worked with the Virginia General Assembly codify the State Interoperability Executive Committee as the designated body to provide official recommendations to the Governor concerning interoperable communications. Mr. Essid developed a practitioner-driven approach within Virginia that is widely recognized as the catalyst for these successes and resulted in a winning partnership among State, local, and private sector communications efforts.

Mr. Essid served as a member of the United States Military Police from 2003-2008. Mr. Essid holds a M.A. in Public Administration from the University of Oklahoma and a B.A. in History from the University of Kentucky.

Daniel Meyerson

*Breakout Session: NEPA Compliance
Tuesday, 3:15 pm – 4:15 pm, Wednesday, 3:15 pm – 4:15 pm*

Daniel Meyerson joined NTIA in January 2009 and serves as the Deputy Program Manager for the PSIC Grant Program. In this role, Mr. Meyerson provides guidance and assistance to the Assistant Secretary and senior NTIA officials in the development and implementation of the \$1 billion PSIC Grant Program to enhance interoperable communications capabilities for public safety agencies.

Prior to joining NTIA, Mr. Meyerson served as a Senior Policy Analyst for the University of Maryland Center for Health and Homeland Security where he worked with Maryland's interoperability coordinator, the SIEC, and various local and regional interoperability bodies. As a Senior Policy Analyst, Mr. Meyerson was responsible for development of the SCIP, implementation of interoperability policy for the state, and for providing guidance on interoperability grants.





Mr. Meyerson received a J.D. from Emory University School of Law, and a B.A. in East Asian Languages and Civilizations from the University of Chicago.

Roberto Mussenden

Breakout Session A: Narrowband Deadline for Existing VHF/UHF Systems
Tuesday, 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm, 3:15 pm – 4:15 pm

Roberto Mussenden is an Attorney-Advisor in the Policy Division of the Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau at the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). He received degrees in computer science and history from Duke University in 1987 and a law degree from George Mason University School of Law. He has been practicing in telecommunications law since 1996, primarily at the FCC. Since 2000, his primary focus has been on land mobile radio, with an emphasis on public safety issues.

Dereck Orr

Breakout Session: P25 Compliance Assessment Program and Public Safety Communications Research
Tuesday, 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm, Wednesday, 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Dereck Orr has been the Program Manager for Public Safety Communication Standards at NTIA's Office of Law Enforcement Standards since December 2002. In this role, he leads a program that serves as an objective technical advisor and laboratory to the Department of Homeland Security and public safety to accelerate the adoption and implementation of the most critical public safety communication standards and technologies. From October 2003 until October 2004, Mr. Orr was detailed to the Department of Homeland Security to serve as the Chief of Staff of the SAFECOM Office within the Science and Technology Directorate, to help establish the new program.

Prior to working at the National Institute of Standards and Technology, Mr. Orr served as a professional staff member of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee for the Departments of Commerce, Justice, and State, and Related Agencies under Senator Fritz Hollings. In that position, Mr. Orr was responsible for the appropriations accounts relating to state and local law enforcement issues. Prior to that, Mr. Orr served four years at the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services at the Department of Justice. Mr. Orr received a Masters in Public Policy from the College of William and Mary and a Bachelor of Arts in American History from the University of Texas at Austin.

Laura Pettus

Opening Remarks: Welcome & Introduction

Tuesday, 9:30 am – 10:00 am

General Session: PSIC's "Hot Topics," PSIC Extensions, and Closeout

Wednesday, 9:00 am – 10:00 am

Laura Pettus joined the National Telecommunications and Information Administration in February 2007 and serves as the Program Manager for the PSIC Grant Program. Ms. Pettus provides guidance and assistance to the Assistant Secretary and senior NTIA officials in the formulation, development, and implementation of the \$1 billion PSIC Grant Program to enhance interoperable communications capabilities for public safety agencies. In addition, she serves on the senior management team for the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP), a \$4.7 billion competitive grant program intended to provide funds for deploying broadband infrastructure, enhancing broadband capacity, and promoting sustainable broadband adoption.

Prior to joining NTIA, Ms. Pettus served as the citywide Grants Coordinator for the City of Alexandria, Virginia, where she worked with over 20 local agencies in the management of State and Federal grants. As Grants Coordinator, Ms. Pettus maintained responsibility for the management of the City's critical interagency grants dealing with homeland security, law enforcement, and disaster assistance. She began her work with the City as an Emergency Management Analyst for the Alexandria Fire Department. Ms. Pettus received a Bachelors of Arts in Economics with Honors from Kenyon College and resides in Alexandria, Virginia.

David Turner

General Session: PSIC's "Hot Topics," PSIC Extensions, and Closeout

Wednesday, 9:00 am – 10:00 am

Breakout Session: PSIC Period of Performance Extension

Wednesday, 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm, 3:15 pm – 4:15 pm

David Turner currently serves as a Program Manager with FEMA GPD and is the agency's lead for the PSIC Grant Program, which provides public safety agencies with grant funds to support meaningful and measurable improvements to public safety communications capabilities. Mr. Turner is also a Program Analyst at GPD, managing a portfolio of \$350 million in preparedness grant programs for Hawaii, Utah, and the American territories in the Pacific.

Prior to joining GPD, Mr. Turner worked out of FEMA's Region Four office and spent more than 34 months deployed to disaster response and recovery field operations. He received a Bachelors of Arts in History and Political Science from the University of Kentucky.

