

PSIC Grantee Conference

Grantee Speaker Biographies

General Session: Panel Discussion with Grantees, Success Stories

Tuesday, 10:00 am – 11:30 am

Robert Hlivak

Bob Hlivak has worked for the State of Hawaii for over thirty years and just recently received an employee award for Sustained Superior Performance. Since 1994, he has been the Radio Engineer for the Information and Communication Services Division. In 1975, about 5 miles east of the conference location, he received a Bachelors of Science in Electrical Engineering from Case Western Reserve University.

George Crouch

George Crouch is with the South Carolina Division of State Information Technology and serves as the State Interoperability Coordinator for South Carolina. He is also the Administrator for the South Carolina Statewide 800 MHz Public Safety Radio System (Palmetto 800). Mr. Crouch has 32 years of public safety experience with the last 20 years in public safety communications.

Gary Sisk

Major Gary Sisk started his public service career almost 25 years ago. He has served all disciplines of emergency service from Fireman to EMT to Law Enforcement. Major Sisk spent the last 20 years as a Deputy of the Catoosa County Sheriff's Office working his way through the ranks from detention officer to his present position of Chief Deputy. For the last 4 years, Major Sisk has been a driving force promoting interoperability in the Tennessee Valley and Northwest Georgia region. He is a founding member of the Tennessee Valley Regional Communications System and an active participant with the governing council.

General Session: PSIC Grantee Audit Experiences

Wednesday, 10:15 am – 11:00 am

Greg Steckel

Greg Steckel has close to 40 years professional experience in the electronics and communications fields. Currently, he serves as the PSIC Program Manager and Broadband Services Manager within Pennsylvania's Office of Public Safety Radio Services. He is a retired Electronics Technician from the United States Navy with 10 years active duty and 11 ½ years reserve duty. Additionally, Mr. Steckel worked as a Manufacturing Engineer and Marketing Associate with an international defense contractor, a Radio Engineer and Chief of Radio Systems Services with the Pennsylvania State Police, and held the position of Group Leader of Voice and Video Network Services within Pennsylvania's Office of Information Technology.

Mr. Steckel has a Bachelor of Science degree in Technology Management and is the graduate of numerous military and civilian technical schools.

Cindy Hood

Cindy Hood became a grant coordinator for the Texas State Administrative Agency (SAA) a few months after PSIC was being organized by a team made up of members of the Texas Radio Coalition and the SAA management. Before that, she spent about one year monitoring for the SAA, which included communications equipment. Her earlier communications experience was as a 911/Communications Operator for a small Texas town for 13 years, answering phones and dispatching for Police, Fire and EMS.





The PSIC Grant Program and the Interoperable Emergency Communications Grant Program were her primary responsibility from May 2008 until May 2010. She is currently working part-time as a trainer for the SAA and full-time with the Heart of Texas Council of Governments working directly with the locals on homeland security issues, including communications.

Her role in the audit included preparation of documents, providing information during and after the visit, and providing information in relation to the audit results.

Janice Bruno

Janice Bruno currently works for the Department of Public Safety (DPS), Homeland Security Directorate as the Texas State Administrator. Ms. Bruno is responsible for directing all facets of the state homeland security grant administration to include programmatic and financial oversight. Ms. Bruno retired in December 2008 from the Texas Army National Guard with 30 years of military service (active and guard) in tactical, operational and strategic communications planning, operations, training and exercises. Her responsibilities as a communications officer encompassed information technology infrastructure and emergency communications response in the event of an all hazards events.

In January 2009, Ms. Bruno went to work as the State Communications Coordinator for the Texas Department of Emergency Management. She was hired to assist with the programmatic aspects of the PSIC Grant Program and worked very closely with Ms. Cindy Hood, the PSIC program specialist, and with Mr. Mike Simpson, the Statewide Communications Coordinator, to provide efficient and effective planning and execution of communications grant funding. In October 2009, Ms. Bruno was given the responsibility for the SAA, which now administers over 47 grants including the PSIC Grant Program.

General Session: PSIC Grantee Success Story Show and Tell

Wednesday, 11:15 am – 12:45 pm

Nick Brown

Nick Brown serves as Georgia's Statewide Interoperability Coordinator (SWIC) and resides within the Georgia Emergency Management Agency/Homeland Security (GEMA/HS) and the SAA. With over 12 years at the local and state level, Mr. Brown has a diverse background in communications efforts in Georgia.

The Georgia SWIC serves as: 1) the program manager for Georgia's various interoperable communications grants; 2) the Statewide Communication Interoperability Plan (SCIP) manager and point of contact and 3) a liaison between GEMA's Terrorism division and the various stakeholders, ensuring that the State moves forward with enhancing interoperability efforts throughout the state.

James King

James King currently works for the Alaska Department of Military and Veterans Affairs as a Grants Administrator II, responsible for Compliance and Audit of all non-disaster grants. Mr. King has worked for the state for over 12 years with the last 4 plus years in his current position. He has worked with the PSIC Grant Program from its conception as primary point of contact, co-author of the Alaska SCIP, NEPA and EHP compliance, application development, and all grant reporting, budget, and Investment modifications. He works closely with the SWIC on all interoperable and operable requirements and is chief liaison with



grant recipients and the Department of Homeland Security. Mr. King has a degree in Information Technology and retired from the US Air Force in 1992.

Tanya Luter

Tanya Luter is currently a Project Management Professional (PMP) with the NC State Highway Patrol managing their Voice Interoperability Plan for Emergency Responders (VIPER) project. She was hired in 2005 due to her PMP certification and background in grants management. Prior to working at the Highway Patrol, Ms. Luter was a Grants Manager for the North Carolina Homeland Security Branch managing Department of Homeland Security grants.

Mike Lynk

Mike Lynk was appointed the director of State Radio on January 7, 2009. As the State Radio director, he is the North Dakota SWIC managing a statewide public safety answering point, law enforcement's access to NCIC and NLET, and the State owned public safety communication network. He previously served as a special agent with the North Dakota Bureau of Criminal Investigation for 17 years, both as an investigator and more recently as the coordinator of the North Dakota Fusion Center. Mr. Lynk has a strong background in law enforcement and has worked as a patrol officer for the City of Beulah, North Dakota for 10 years. Since 1999, he has worked security for the Minnesota Vikings Training Camp in Mankato, Minnesota most recently as on-field supervisor.

Jason Moses

Jason Moses is employed by the Kansas Adjutant General's Department and serves as the Kansas Statewide Interoperability Coordinator. In this role, he is responsible for the daily operations of the Kansas Office of Emergency Communications. Working closely with the SAA and various communications stakeholders, Mr. Moses assisted with the coordination of the PSIC Grant projects in Kansas.

Ginnie Ricker

Ginnie Ricker has served as the Deputy Director for Maine Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency for the last 4 years. This agency is the SAA for all of the Homeland Security Grants, including the PSIC Grant Program and the Interoperable Emergency Communications Grant Program. In 2005, she started as a project manager. Additionally, Ms. Ricker was the original Statewide Interoperability Coordinator for the State of Maine.

Prior to working with the Maine State Government, she worked in the IT-Banking Industry, where she was a Project Manager, Account Manager, Program Analyst, and Vice President of IT Operations.

Bob Wideman

Bob Wideman currently serves as the Statewide Interoperability Coordinator for Nevada. Before becoming a regional highway patrol commander, he had over 30 years of experience in law enforcement serving as a state trooper, a major crimes detective and in various supervisory positions, including command of statewide communication services, chief of statewide investigations, and chief of criminal history and state information technology services.

Mr. Wideman has substantial experience in legislative testimony, as well as experience in national policy development in information sharing through national criminal justice Advisory Policy Board participation and



involvement in the development of the National Data Exchange (NDEx). He has experience in communication and information sharing from a user perspective and a policy development perspective.

Bob Wilhelm

Bob Wilhelm is a Program Specialist at the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency, the State Administrative Authority. He has served this agency since 2007 by assisting with writing the Statewide Communication Interoperability Plan and the Nebraska Investment justifications for the PSIC Grant Program. Additionally, Mr. Wilhelm manages the State's environmental reviews for PSIC and other grant programs. Prior to this position, he was a police officer in Lincoln, NE for 32 years.