Working Group #3: Emergency Alert System

Co-Chairs:
Clay Freinwald, Clay Freinwald Technical Services
Larry Walke, National Association of Broadcasters

Objectives

This Working Group will develop recommendations for the CSRIC's consideration regarding any actions the FCC should take to improve the Emergency Alert System (EAS).

▶ **State EAS Plans**. Recommend steps to improve the process for developing and submitting state EAS plans to the Commission. Consider the formation and role of State Emergency Communications Councils (SECCs), and processes for optimizing the EAS while minimizing burdens on EAS stakeholders.

▶ **EAS Security**. Recommend actions to improve promote the security of the EAS.

▶ **Nationwide EAS Test/Operational Issues**. Address other EAS-related issues as assigned to CSRIC by the FCC.

Relevant Constituencies

- Message Originators: FEMA; NWS; State & Local Emergency Managers; State EAS Networks.

- EAS Participants: Radio; TV; Cable TV; Satellite TV; Satellite Radio.

- EAS Equipment Manufacturers.

- State Emergency Communications Councils.

- EAS Experts and Consultants.

- Public Interest, Persons with Disabilities.

Participants: 42 Members (as of December 4, 2013)

‣	Adrienne Abbott	Nevada EAS Chair
‣	John Archer	SiriusXM
‣	John Benedict	CenturyLink
‣	Ron Boyer	Boyer Broadband
‣	Ted Buehner	National Weather Service
‣	Roswell Clark	Cox Media Group
‣	Kimberly Culp	Larimer Emergency Telephone Authority
‣	Edward Czarnecki	Monroe Electronics
‣	David Donovan	NY State Association of Broadcasters
‣	Chris Fine	Goldman Sachs
‣	Les Garrenton	LIN Media
‣	Mike Gerber	NOAA
‣	Suzanne Goucher	Maine Association of Broadcasters
‣	Neil Graves	SNR Systems (formerly FEMA IPAWS)
‣	Craig Hoden	NOAA
‣	Chris Homer	Public Broadcasting Service
‣	Steve Johnson	Johnson Telecom
‣	Alfred Kenyon	FEMA IPAWS
‣	Wayne Luplow	LGE/Zenith
‣	Bruce McFarlane	Fairfax County
‣	Dan Mettler	Clear Channel Media + Entertainment

Participants (cont'd)

David Munson	FCC Liaison
Brian Oliger	Hubbard Radio/WTOP
Darryl Parker	TFT, Inc.
Rich Parker	Vermont Public Radio
Jerry Parkins	Comcast Cable
Efraim Petel	AtHoc, Inc.
Richard Perlotto	Shadowserver Foundation
Joey Peters	MyStateUSA, Inc.
Peter Poulos	Citi
Harold Price	Sage Alerting Systems
Richard Rudman	Broadcast Warning Working Group
Francisco Sanchez, Jr.	Harris County (TX) Office of Homeland Security
Tim Schott	NOAA
Andy Scott	NCTA
Bill Schully	DirecTV
Matthew Straeb	Global Security Systems/ALERT FM
Gary Timm	SRA International
Leonardo Velazquez	AT&T U-Verse
Michael Watson	Gray Television Group
Kelly Williams	NAB
Reed Wilson	Belo Corp.

Background

- ## CSRIC II
  - Working Group #2A: Cyber Security Best Practices
  - Working Group #5A: Common Alerting Protocol (CAP) Introduction

- ## CSRIC III
  - Working Group #2: Next Generation Alerting
  - Working Group #9: CAP Implementation

Task #1: State EAS Plans

▸ Recommend improvements for development and submission of State EAS plans, and FCC review.

▸ Approach:
  ◦ Reduce burdens on SECCs and EAS Participants.
  ◦ Simple description of EAS alert dissemination.
  ◦ Verifiable by FCC.
  ◦ Issues:
    • Federal/State bifurcation at EAS alert entry point?
    • Dissemination maps?
    • Template or online forms?

Task #1: State EAS Plans

- Co-Chairs:
  - Clay Freinwald
  - Rich Parker
  - Richard Rudman

- Commenced weekly conference calls on September 1st.

- Duration: Final Report March 2014.

Task #2: EAS Security

- Develop recommendations for enhancing the security of the EAS system.

- Next Steps:
  ◦ Define scope and terminology of project.
  ◦ Identify best practices for FCC to enhance integrity of EAS.
  ◦ Consider relationship to Working Group #4 – Cyber Security.

- Approach: Illustrate security considerations at all stages and links in the overall system, for both legacy EAS and CAP/EAS.
  ◦ Consider practical, effective safeguards.

Task #2: EAS Security

- Co-Chairs:
  - Ed Czarnecki
  - Neil Graves

- Duration:
  - Interim Reports: March and/or June 2014
  - Final Report: December 2014

- Commenced bi-weekly conference calls on November 20th.
  - Government shutdown delay.

Task #3: Operational Issues & National Tests

- Develop proposals regarding technical issues that arose during the nationwide EAS test.

- Reviewed matrix of all questions in FCC Public Notice on nationwide EAS testing (*rel*. 9/23/13).

- Approach: Consider major issues raised in Notice:
  ◦ Presidential alerts EAS header elements.
  ◦ Visual crawls and audio accessibility.
  ◦ National test event code and length.
  ◦ Additional headers during alert processing.
  ◦ FEMA's potential use of CAP for Presidential alerts.

Task #3: Operational Issues & National Tests

- Co-Chairs:
  - Steve Johnson
  - Dan Mettler

- Duration: Final Report June 2014.

- Commenced bi-weekly conference calls on October 1st.

Next Steps

▸ Three distinct tasks = three separate reports.

▸ Committees to continue regularly conference calls.

▸ Identify scope or primary issues for each task.

▸ Begin or complete drafting outline or initial version of each report, as appropriate.

▸ Provide progress reports to CSRIC Steering Committee and Council.

Working Group 3: Emergency Alert System

Status Update
December 4, 2013