

CSRIC Working Group Descriptions

Working Group 1A - Public Safety Consolidation - Best Practices and Recommendations¹

Description: Public safety radio systems and communications/dispatch centers were historically built and operated by single agencies for their own users. Systems were designed to meet unique local requirements, but often led to incompatibility, inefficient use of scarce resources, and higher costs for specialized equipment and procedures with little opportunity to benefit from economies of scale. However, there has been a clear trend over the last 20 years towards public safety system consolidation, with radio networks developed to cover counties, regions, and even states. Similarly, jurisdictions have merged their communications/dispatch centers across agencies and jurisdictions. The result has been greater economies of scale, more efficient use of limited financial and personnel resources, and improved interoperability. The consolidation process poses numerous challenges, however, from operational, governance, funding and technical perspectives. This Working Group will define these challenges and develop recommended best practices for overcoming them for CSRIC's consideration. A key issue is how to assist agencies in the transition from system operator to system user.

Duration: Six months

¹ The initial focus of the work group will be on a transition to consolidated systems that continue to be operated and controlled by public safety entities, but on a larger scale. A future work group may consider the findings of this group in addressing longer term transitions to networks that are owned or operated, at least in part, by non-public safety entities.