



Emergency Response Interoperability Center (ERIC) Information Sheet



Background

The Emergency Response Interoperability Center (ERIC) is a division within the Public Safety Homeland Security Bureau (PSHSB), in the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). ERIC is responsible for implementing interoperability standards and developing technical and operational procedures for the 700 MHz nationwide interoperable public safety broadband wireless network. Recommended by the National Broadband Plan, ERIC's mission is to ensure nationwide operability and interoperability by developing, recommending and administering policy goals, objectives, rules, regulations, programs and plans with assistance from several stakeholders. ERIC fulfills its mission by working within the PSHSB and the FCC to enable the adoption of rules and regulations that governs the technical interoperability of the nationwide interoperable public safety broadband network.

ERIC Federal Partners

In order to perform its functions, ERIC works with federal, state and local agencies as well as commercial and industry organizations to further the development of a nationwide public safety broadband network. On the federal side, ERIC has formed working relationships with the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), the Department of Justice (DOJ) and the Department of Commerce (DOC), among others.

ERIC Advisory Committees

ERIC has also created a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), comprised of nineteen state and local public safety officials with network engineering, network technical operations and network governance knowledge and expertise that make recommendations regarding the development of policies and rules concerning the technical aspects of interoperability, governance, authentication, encryption, national gateway functions and interfaces and national standards for a common set of public safety applications.

Additionally, a Public Safety Advisory Committee (PSAC) to ERIC is being established, in accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), to assist with: (1) the adoption of technical and operational requirements and procedures to ensure a nationwide level of interoperability; (2) the adoption and implementation of requirements and procedures to address operability, roaming, priority access, gateway functions and interfaces, the interconnectivity of public safety broadband networks, and other matters related to the functioning of the nationwide public safety broadband network; (3) the adoption of authentication and encryption requirements for common public safety broadband applications and network use; (4) the coordination of ERIC's policies with other entities, including other federal agencies; and (5) other such policies for which ERIC may have responsibilities from time to time. PSAC will help ERIC with the goal of interoperability in the public safety broadband network.

For More Information

Visit the Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau Web Site at www.fcc.gov/pshs

or

For more information about telecommunications issues, visit the FCC's Consumer & Governmental Affairs Bureau Web site at www.fcc.gov/cgb or call 1-888-CALL-FCC (1-888-225-5322) voice or 1-888-TELL-FCC (1-888-835-5322) TTY; faxing 1-866-418-0232; or write to:

Federal Communications Commission
Consumer & Governmental Affairs Bureau
Consumer Inquiries and Complaints Division
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20554.

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