



## The Homeland Security Advisor

### 2nd Annual WV Interoperable Conference

Approximately 175 individuals attended the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual West Virginia Interoperable Conference at Camp Dawson during the 26th thru 28th of October 2008. The conference theme centered on educating the “end” user as to the who, what, where, when, why, and how of West Virginia’s interoperable initiative. James Spears, Cabinet Secretary for Military Affairs and Public Safety and WV Homeland Security Advisor, through his opening remarks, set the tone of team work and the need to protect the citizens of West Virginia. He astutely articulated that interoperability is a key ingredient in the overall mix of Homeland Security. Brigadier General James Hoyer, through a dynamic keynote address, informed the audience of the many WV National Guard Homeland Security initiatives. The second keynote speaker was Mr. Chris Essid from DHS Office of Emergency Communications. Mr. Essid provided timely and outstanding information relating to the national implications of statewide interoperability initiatives.

Over 20 vendors and other agencies provided outside demonstrations and inside booths. The Interoperable Working Group (IWG) capped off the meeting with various presentations illustrating the progress of the statewide interoperable radio (IRP) project. Near the end of the conference, Major Mark DeBord, IWG Chair, hosted an IRP question and answer session that capped the educational portion of the conference.

The 3d Annual West Virginia Interoperable Conference is tentatively scheduled to be at Camp Dawson September 27-29, 2009. For information regarding the overall West Virginia Interoperable Program, please contact Mike Todorovich, Statewide Interoperability Coordinator at (304) 558-2930 or [michael.l.todorovich@wv.gov](mailto:michael.l.todorovich@wv.gov).

### SAA Grant Management Section Recognized

In November 2008 the US Department of Homeland Security named the West Virginia Homeland Security State Administrative Agency grant monitoring practices a “Promising Practice Across the United States”. This recognition included both the on-site and desk monitoring procedures. This follows a 2006 “Promising Practice” recognition for the on-site monitoring procedures by the National Criminal Justice Association.

### New Addition to SAA Staff

Christian Fernley has joined the SAA staff in the exercise and training section. Christian is a native of Utah. He attended Dixie State in St. George, Utah where he received his Associates of Science Degree. After graduation, Christian enlisted in the United States Coast Guard. During his time in the military he served in several capacities. He graduated the Maritime Law Enforcement Academy located at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (FLETC) Charleston, SC. He provided training to military / security forces worldwide, including development of strong relations with diverse international contacts via State Department and U.S. Embassies. He also liaised closely with foreign governments such as, Iraq, Yemen, Bahrain, Kenya, East Caribbean States and Mexico to coordinate and design security/law enforcement training programs.

### Upcoming Events

#### **HSEEP Training Course**

April 21-23, 2009  
Bridgeport Civic Center  
Bridgeport, WV

For more information contact Charles Bennett or Christian Fernley at (304) 558-2930 or via email at:

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[gregory.c.fernley@wv.gov](mailto:gregory.c.fernley@wv.gov)

#### **ICS-300 Training for COMM L Participants**

March 16 thru 18  
12AM to 5PM 16th  
8AM-5PM 17th-18th  
Coonskin National Guard Armory (WARROOM)  
Charleston, WV

For more information contact Michael Todorovich or Christian Fernley at (304) 558-2930 or via email at:

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# The Homeland Security Advisor

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## Grant Funding Status

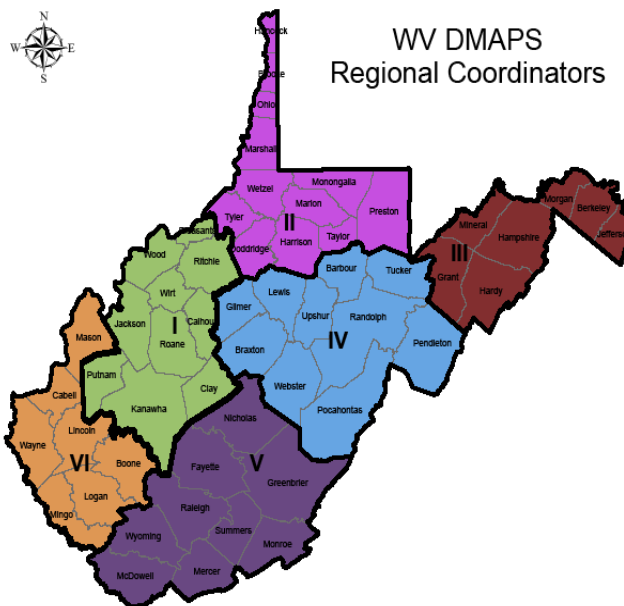
The 2008 Buffer Zone Protection Program (BZPP) grants are currently being awarded to local entities for the protection of critical infrastructure sites.

The Public Safety Interoperable Communications (PSIC) program is moving forward and grant awards are being distributed.

## State Homeland Security Funding Status

The regional subgrants for FY2007 State Homeland Security funds have been awarded and are being distributed to the subgrantees and recipients.

The grant process for FY 2008 State Homeland Security Regional Subgrants is currently underway. Agencies and organizations should be receiving funding information from the applicable regional coordinator. Questions concerning the application process or eligibility criteria may be directed to the regional coordinators.



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## **FFY 2008 State Homeland Security Funds Local Portion Regional Subgrants Timeline**

Project Concept worksheet and related guidance released	2/13/09
Project Concepts and eligibility certifications due to Coordinators	4/03/09
Regional Committee Meetings	
2 Applications due from Regions to SAA	5/22/09
SAA Reviews and Approves (IRP sign off & COOP/COG sign off etc.)	
2 Subgrants Awarded to each Region	7/01/09



### Questions about anything in this issue? Contact:

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