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Annual Report to the Idaho Legislature

#### **CREATION:**

The Idaho Statewide Interoperability Executive Council (SIEC) was created from the tragedies experienced on September 11, 2001. On that date, many public safety responders lost their lives because they could not talk to one another. With the creation of the SIEC, Idaho made a positive decision to protect the lives of its public safety first responders in service to Idaho citizens, and provide them the communications capability they deserved.

Since their initial creation in 2002, SIECs have functioned across the nation as an instrument for collaborative interoperable communications planning and implementation bringing together local, tribal, state and federal emergency responders. SIECs, or equivalent, have been formed in all US states and territories under the guidance of the Federal Communications Commission and the US Department of Homeland Security. As designed, SIECs maintain a collaborative working relationship with the federal agencies involved in development of nationwide interoperable communications.

The SIEC began in Executive Order 2003-07. Legislation was passed during the 2006 session of the Idaho Legislature to enact the Idaho Statewide Interoperability Executive Council (SIEC) in statute. In 2007 the SIEC administrative operations were transferred to the Idaho Military Division, Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security. The SIEC exists today to deliver interoperable public safety communications Homeland Security initiative driven programs to our local level practitioners.

Idaho Code § 46-1204 outlines the SIEC's purpose and responsibilities as follows:

*"The council will serve as the governing body in affairs of public safety wireless radio interoperable communications for local and private entities and coordinate with the Idaho department of administration, which is responsible for state agency planning, to meet short-range and long-range telecommunications needs as authorized in chapter 57, title 67, Idaho Code. The council will promote interagency cooperation and provide support statewide for efficient and effective use of local and private resources to achieve public safety wireless radio interoperable communications for local and private public safety agencies."*

#### **MEMBERSHIP**

The SIEC Council consists of 18 members, 4 federal liaisons, and one member each from the Idaho Senate and Idaho House of Representatives. The members of the SIEC are appointed by the Governor and represent local statewide governmental associations and state agencies. The federal liaisons represent the organizations closely associated with the purpose of the Council.

Members:

R. Mark Lockwood – Chair	Idaho Chiefs of Police Association
Lorin Nielsen – Vice Chair	Idaho Sheriffs' Association
Bob Burke	Idaho Department of Lands
Michael Candelaria	United States Department of Interior
Jay Christenson	Idaho Department of Corrections
Dia Gainor	Idaho Department of Health and Welfare
Jerry Goetz	Federal Law Enforcement
Representative Marv Hagedorn	Idaho House of Representatives
Lt. Col. Dean Hagerman	Idaho National Guard
Mary Halverson	Idaho Military Division
Senator James Hammond	Idaho Senate
Joe Heggen	Idaho Department of Fish and Game
Lincoln Cohn	National Interagency Fire Center
Greg Laragan	Idaho Transportation Department
Shawn Larsen	Association of Idaho Cities
Jerry Russell	Idaho State Police
William Shawver	Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security
Reggie Thorpe	Idaho Tribal Government
Mark Wendelsdorf	Idaho Fire Chiefs Association
Joe Young	Idaho Association of Counties
VACANT	Idaho Department of Administration
VACANT	U.S. Dept. of Homeland Security Trans. Security

**SIEC OPERATIONS**

The Council operates on an annual budget of approximately \$276,000 sub granted to the SIEC by the Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security. The SIEC office is located in the State of Idaho Communications Center, Meridian Idaho. The Interoperable Communications Program Manager manages SIEC administration and assists the Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security's Interoperable Communications Division with matters of local concern.

**THE FUTURE**

The SIEC's continued vision is to create and utilize a "communications backbone" through the employment of the State of Idaho microwave and fiber systems, thus providing the ability to connect all regional systems together in order to develop a secure and redundant communications system statewide. This system will allow public safety responders to communicate with one another regardless of location, in day-to-day operations and times of catastrophic events across the state. The system would also bridge Idaho's communications with its neighbor states and Canadian neighbor to improvement mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery capabilities for all hazards. The SIEC with its statewide partners will continue to work as one team with one mission. This team will seek out all funding opportunities which will assist in the continued development of a redundant statewide communications system for Idaho's public safety responders.