

United States House of Representatives



**Subcommittee on National Security,
Emerging Threats and International Relations**

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****MEDIA ADVISORY****

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Shays to Hold July 20 Hearing on First Responder Interoperability

(Washington, DC) -- Congressman Christopher Shays (R-CT), Chairman of the Subcommittee on National Security, Emerging Threats, and International Relations, will convene an oversight hearing on July 20 to review federal efforts to improve communications interoperability between first responders and other local and state emergency management personnel.

The hearing will be Tuesday, July 20, 10 a.m. in room 2154 of the Rayburn House Office Building in Washington, D.C.

Last year, the subcommittee held a hearing to examine technical barriers to communications interoperability between first responders. Witnesses from the Department of Homeland Security, the Federal Communications Commission and others described various federal programs and policies to overcome interoperability barriers. Testimony highlighted a lack of technical standardization and coordination between federal agencies and local first responders. Corrective actions and improvements were promised.

Shays said, "Crowded spectrum bands and incompatible radios are not the only barriers to interoperability. The problem is technical, operational and political. State and local first responders need to believe their investment of time and money in new systems and procedures will pay off now, and that federal help will be there for the long term."

**Subcommittee on National Security, Emerging Threats and
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Public Safety Interoperability: Look Who's Talking Now
July 20, 2004

WITNESSES

Panel One

U.S. Government Accountability Office

Dr. David Boyd
Program Manager, SAFECOM
U.S. Department of Homeland Security

Mr. John Muleta
Chief, Wireless Bureau
Federal Communications Commission

Mr. Stephen T. Devine
Patrol Frequency Coordinator
Communications Division
Missouri State Highway Patrol General Headquarters

Mr. Glen S. Nash
Telecommunications Division
California Department of General Services

Panel Two

Mr. Robert F. Schlieman
Project Manager - Engineering
New York Statewide Wireless Network

Mr. William Gardner
Radio Shop Supervisor
Suffolk County, New York Police Headquarters

Dr. Glenn Corbett
Department of Public Management
John Jay College of Criminal Justice
City University of New York

Written Statement

Vincent R. Stile
President, Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials