

Homeland Security S&T Summit (South Central) *Arkansas-Louisiana-New Mexico-Oklahoma-Texas*

- Topic:** Communicating in Disasters: the Virtual USA
Partnership
- Speaker:** John Hoyt, Ph.D.
Branch Chief
Command, Control and Interoperability Division
- Date:** February 9, 2010



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VIRTUAL USA

Dr. John Hoyt
Command, Control and Interoperability Division
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U.S. Department of Homeland Security
February 9, 2010



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Today's Challenges

- The need for real-time, actionable information is critical during day-to-day and emergency response operations.
- Critical information is often trapped in silos and inaccessible to those who need it the most.
- Components, systems, and architectures have limited ability to provide robust information sharing without the benefit of a national strategy and applicable standards.
- Information does not make it into the hands of the people who need it most.

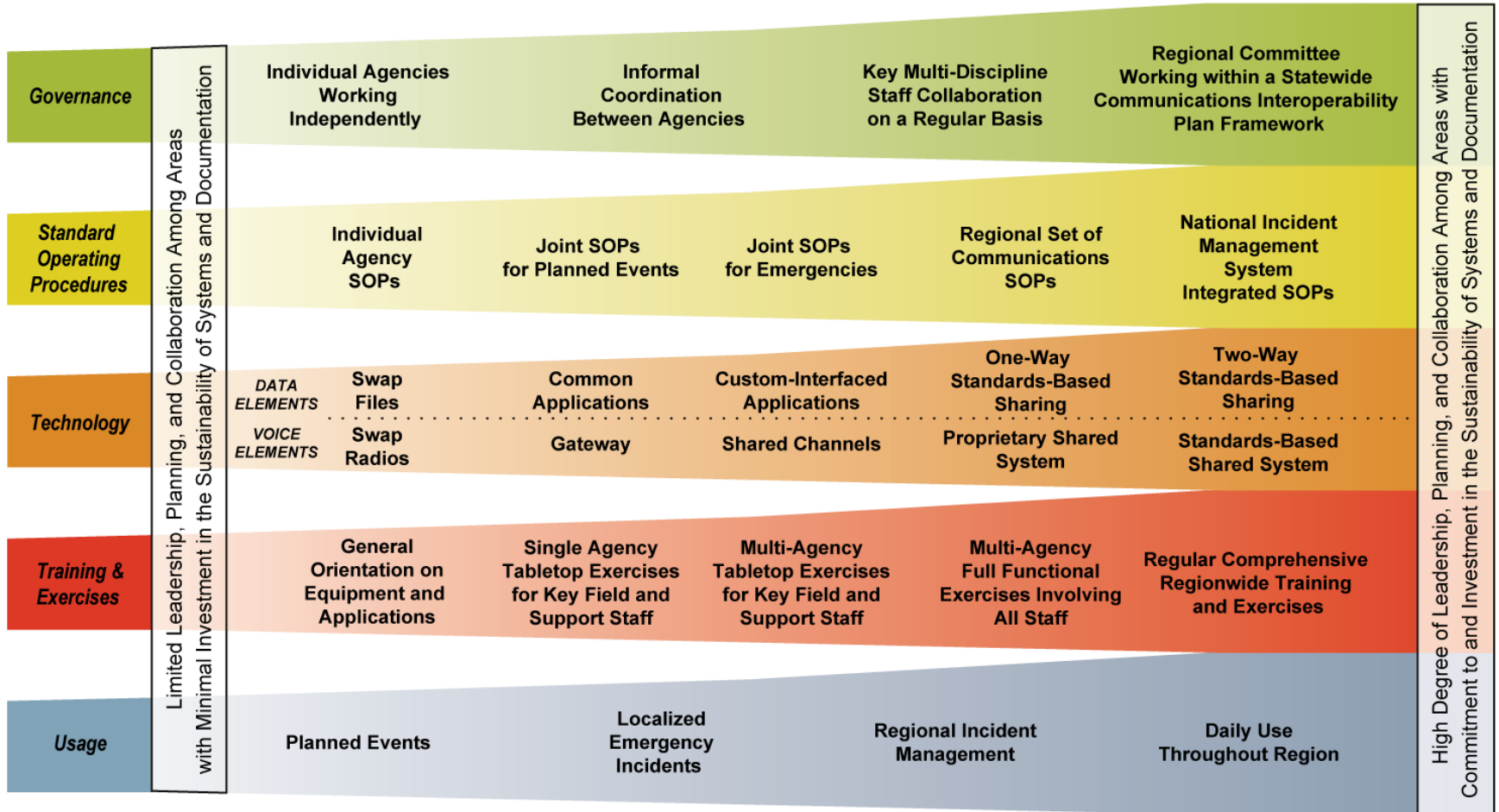


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Multi-Dimensional Challenge

A national strategy for improving interoperability must take into account all of the factors critical for a successful interoperability solution...

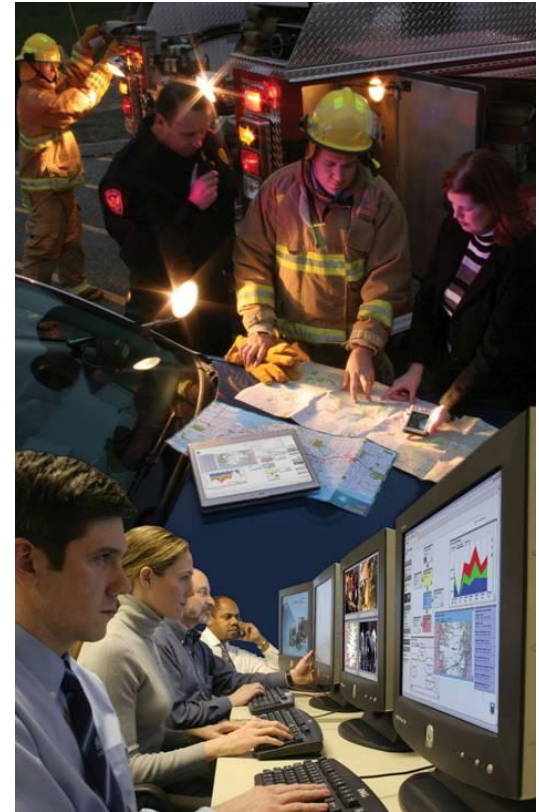


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Virtual USA Strategic Initiative

- Virtual USA creates a cost-effective nationwide capability that significantly improves information sharing and decision making during emergencies and day-to-day operations.
- Based on current and emerging technologies, Virtual USA integrates existing information sharing frameworks and technologies to enable collaboration at the local, tribal, state, and Federal levels by providing critical context for information - thereby making it actionable.

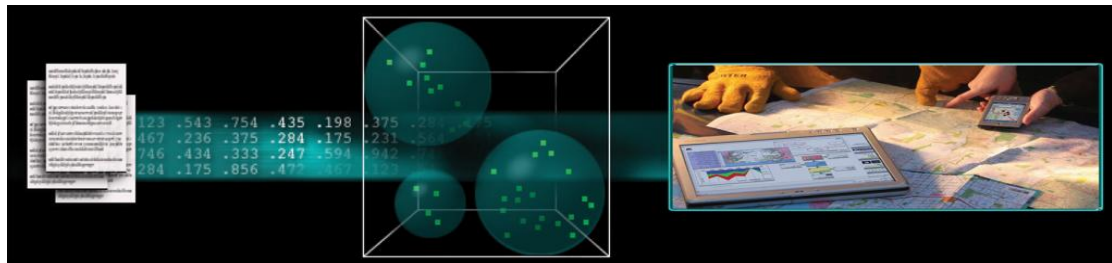


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Virtual USA

- Supports tactical, strategic and planning decisions for homeland security practitioners by enabling the exchange of information in whatever form is needed, delivered to whatever device is available.
- Seeks to unify activities related to the gathering, analyzing, managing, sharing and protecting of information.
- A way of organizing efforts at the National level.
- Advances application and platform agnostic technologies, standards, governance models and other tools.

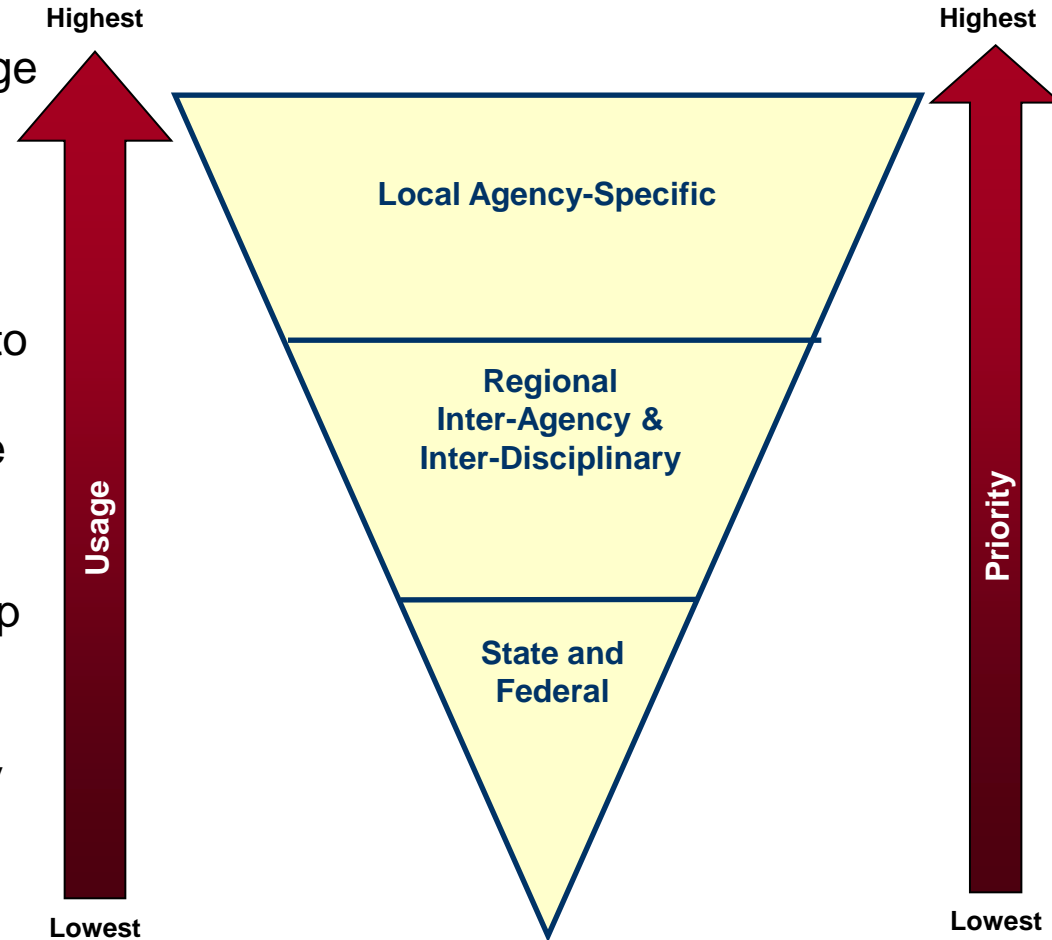


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Virtual USA Core Principles

- Integrates existing frameworks to establish seamless information exchange among participants, as needed and as authorized.
- Builds on existing investments by leveraging a system of systems model to permit both new and existing technologies and concepts to exchange information.
- Draws on practitioner input at every step of the CCI project lifecycle.
- Employs a comprehensive approach by fostering dynamic information sharing between all practitioners, not specific, fixed points.



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QUESTIONS?

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Homeland Security S&T Summit (South Central) *Arkansas-Louisiana-New Mexico-Oklahoma-Texas*

Title: Communicating in Disasters: the Virtual USA
Partnership

Summary:

Virtual USA creates a cost-effective nationwide capability that significantly improves information sharing and decision making during emergencies and day-to-day operations.

Based on current and emerging technologies, Virtual USA integrates existing information sharing frameworks and technologies to enable collaboration at the local, tribal, state, and Federal levels by providing critical context for information - thereby making it actionable.

*See our poster session: “Communicating in Disasters: the
Virtual USA Partnership”*



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