

Communications Interoperability- Current Status

Stephen Mitchell

Over the past decade, the public-safety community in partnership with local, state, and federal agencies have worked to develop interoperable communications plans to improve radio communications between law enforcement agencies and other first responders. Local, state, and federal agencies have identified and designated funding to assist in the purchase and implementation of a variety of technological solutions which are intended to provide law enforcement agencies with interoperability. The purpose of this research is to quantify the current status of communications interoperability as it relates to each of the Sheriff's Offices within the State of Florida. It will examine the various solutions associated with interoperability which are being utilized by each of these agencies. It will also explore the effectiveness of several statewide solutions such as the Statewide Law Enforcement Radio System (SLERS) and the Florida Interoperable Network (FIN) as solutions to improve interoperability between the law enforcement and other public-safety agencies at the local, regional, and statewide level.