



Overview of the U.S.-Mexico High Level Consultative Commission Cross-Border Communications Long-Term Solution

June 2007

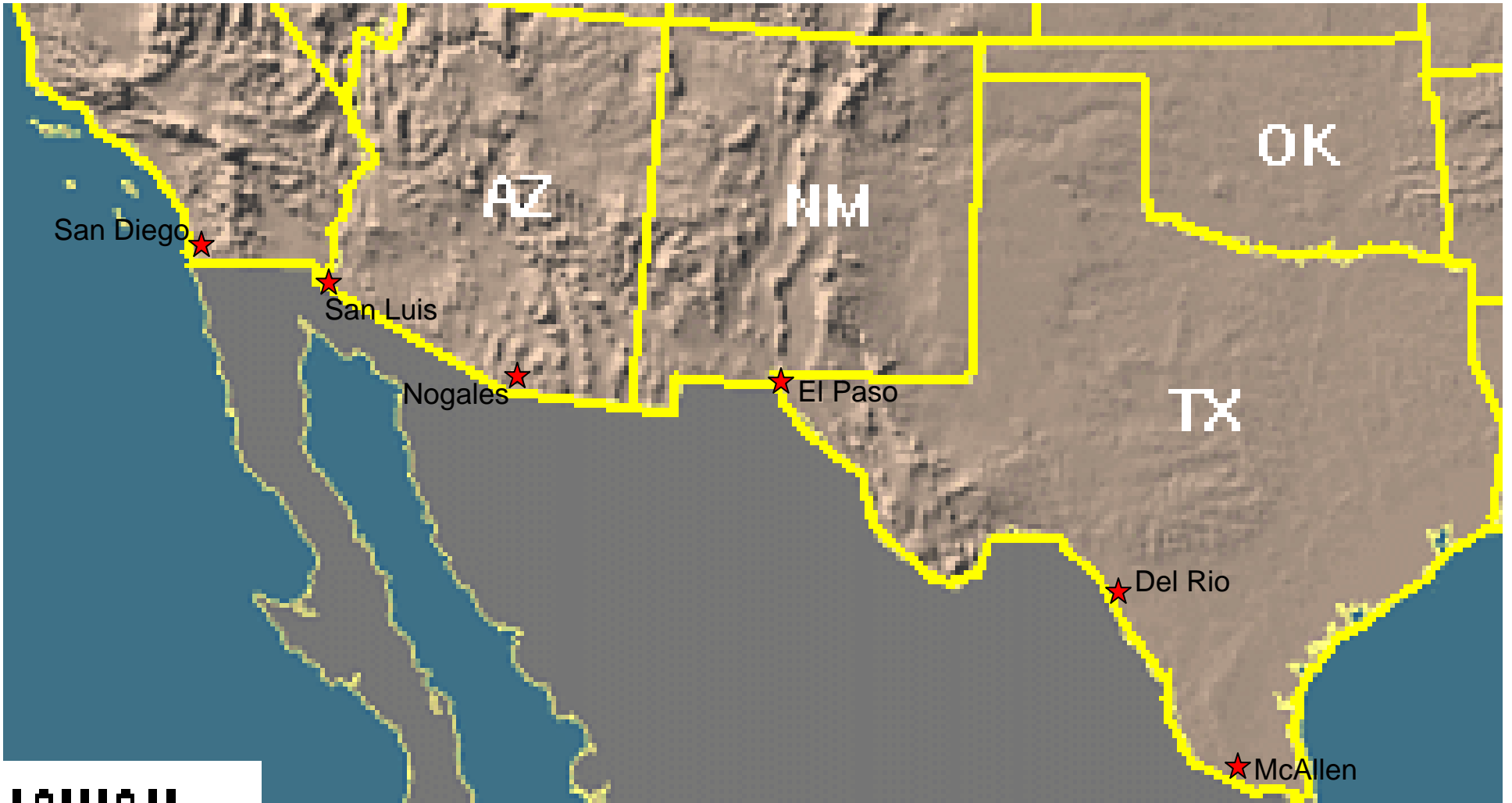
Background

- ▶ U.S.-Mexico High Level Consultative Commission on Telecommunications (HLCC) has recognized the need to improve communications between first responders on both sides of the border to combat border violence and improve public safety
- ▶ The Security Communications Task Group (SCTG) was formed to address this issue
 - U.S. co-chair is Rick Murphy of DHS
 - Interested State and local public safety agencies participate on the SCTG
- ▶ To address the immediate need for cross-border communications, a short term solution was implemented
 - Temporary radio stations using 380-399.9 MHz directly into Mexico's Public Safety Radio System (C4)
 - Spectrum on loan from DoD until July 2008
- ▶ SCTG is currently developing recommendations for a long term cross-border communications solution

Overview of Long-Term Solution

- ▶ The long-term solution for cross border communications establishes six permanent microwave links at existing U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) sites
 - Sites were chosen based on proximity to Mexico's C4 Dispatch sites, CBP infrastructure, geographical diversity, and the ability of state and local public safety agencies to access the sites
 - 1 site in CA, 2 in AZ, and 3 in TX
 - New links will be established in the 7125-8500 MHz band
 - Bandwidth of 40 MHz to support multiple video streams
- ▶ CBP is seeking funds to provide the microwave equipment to establish the U.S. links with Mexico
- ▶ State and local public safety agencies will be responsible for their own connections to the CBP microwave facilities
- ▶ The U.S. will finalize its recommendations for the system in July 2007
- ▶ The HLCC Principals will consider/approve of the long-term solution in August 2007
- ▶ Anticipated implementation of the long-term solution is July 2008

Selected CBP Sites



Anticipated Applications

- ▶ There are a wide variety of voice, data, and video applications that can be implemented on the long-term solution
- ▶ Video applications include sharing video surveillance streams and video teleconferencing for task groups
- ▶ Data applications include Voice over IP (VoIP), fingerprint exchanges, and photo exchanges (i.e., mug shots and video stills)
- ▶ Data exchanges will initially be conducted through the methodology established by the California Highway Patrol (i.e., exchange of request forms completed by dispatchers)
- ▶ The SCTG is examining the creation of a commonly requested fields database to automate data requests
 - Centralized database containing commonly requested fields from participating local, State, and Federal agencies
 - Would allow routine data exchanges without requiring access to individual agency databases
 - Examples of these fields include drivers license registries, license plate registries, and outstanding warrants

Next Steps

- ▶ The SCTG is currently working to finalize the long-term cross border communications solutions report
 - Finalizing exact frequency pair
 - Planning to hold a joint users meeting in July to finalize the recommendations
 - To Date, no state or local input from New Mexico or Texas

- ▶ Funding for the microwave equipment and interconnections needs to be identified
 - CBP is working to allocate funding for the microwave equipment
 - Participating state and local agencies will need to identify funding to purchase interconnection equipment

- ▶ DHS is working to establish a cross-border communications users group to focus on operational requirements and issues
 - Development of channel plan
 - Development of standard operating and testing procedures
 - Development and maintenance of commonly accessed fields database
 - Routine system testing
 - Conflict resolution

Contact Information

- ▶ Questions or interest in participating in the SCTG should be directed to:

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