ISICSB Newsletter

May / June 2025

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS

⇒ **Current Training Opportunities**
⇒ The May 2025 FirstNet Newsletter is available **HERE**
⇒ Click **HERE** to see the May 2025 CISA Report
⇒ Click **HERE** to see the June 2025 CISA Report

Who's on FirstNet?

"Who's on FirstNet" is a peer-reported platform for public safety professionals. Discover which agencies are using the platform and access contact information to ask questions directly from those with firsthand experience. If your public safety agency is using FirstNet, please share how you are utilizing it at Who's on FirstNet. If you're considering using FirstNet or have questions, this is a great way to learn from others' experiences and pick up some tips and tricks. Visit Who's on FirstNet to sign up or review the information. **www.whosonfirstnet.com/**

ISICS System Administrator Reports

April 2025
Radios = 43,594 (up 317 from March 2025)
Talkgroups = 3,612 (up 7 from March 2025)
Push-to-Talks = 3,083,180 (down 239,154 from March 2025)

May 2025
Radios = 46,111 (up 2,517 from April 2025)
Talkgroups = 3,620 (up 8 from April 2025)
Push-to-Talks = 3,554,950 (up 471,770 from April 2025)

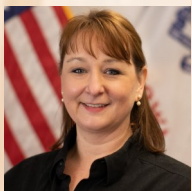## New Approved ISICS Users

♦ Clarke Electric Cooperative—Level 2

Note From the SWIC

It is an opportune time to prepare for and be mindful of malicious cyber activity including:

⇒ Credential theft and phishing campaigns
⇒ Ransomware, or wipers disguised as ransomware, which are designed to permanently destroy data instead of encrypting and holding data for ransom
⇒ Hacktivists and false flag operations
⇒ Targeting of ICS/OT systems within critical infrastructure sectors such as government, energy, and public safety networks.

Be vigilant and put into practice all the important safeguards available to you and your agency. Remind individuals of the importance of cyber safety and report any suspicious activity to CISA.

And, as we move into the busiest time of the summer with all the huge Iowa events still on the horizon - from RAGBRAI to the Iowa State Fair - I would like to wish you all safe travels and seamless communication in your mission. Hopefully you also find time for a dip in the pool!

Respectfully,

Haley Nichols, SWIC

APCO/NENA Spring Conference

On April 28-29, SWIC Haley Nichols attended the Iowa APCO/NENA Spring 2025 Conference in Des Moines.

SWIC Nichols had a table set up throughout the event where she handed out promotional products, including notepads and stickers with the Regional and Statewide Interoperability Talkgroups printed on them.

Above, SWIC Nichols is pictured with DPS Law Enforcement Instructor Chris Collins.

To Join ISICS

For more info about joining ISICS click **HERE**

To start the process to JOIN ISICS click **HERE**

If you need assistance or have questions regarding the ISICS joining process, please contact SWIC Haley Nichols @ **nichols@dps.state.ia.us**

View Happenings HERE

ISICS Board Member Spotlight
Jeff Vandewater—Representing Sheriff's Office

Jeff Vandewater was raised in and around the town of Orient in Adair County, Iowa. He attended high school in Webster City. Jeff played small college football while attending Westmar University in Le Mars, Iowa. In 1995, he received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology and Human Services from Westmar University. He was then hired by the Nebraska State Patrol and graduated from the NSP Training Academy in 1996. Later in 1997, Jeff accepted a deputy sheriff position in his home county of Adair.

Jeff remained a deputy until he was appointed by the Adair County Board of Supervisors to fill the vacancy of Sheriff in 2014. He was then elected to the Office later that same year. Sheriff Vandewater was re-elected as the Adair County Sheriff in 2016, 2020 and 2024.

Sheriff Vandewater has long been active in IDPA and USPSA "action" pistol shooting competitions and is a State and FBI Certified Firearms Instructor for all weapon systems. He is serving his second term on the ISICS Board and is also the Chair of the User Group Committee.

COMT Course

The state of Iowa held a Communications Unit Technician (COMT) course in Cedar Rapids, IA on June 2nd-6th. This was a state-sponsored course, meaning it was taught with state credentialed instructors and supported by CISA. A total of 10 students attended the course with 8 of them from Iowa, and 2 from Illinois. The class consisted of a didactic portion utilizing the CISA curriculum, with plenty of hands-on experience with the various topics. Students were also introduced to the state's East STR Trailer and shown setup, configuration, and tear down. Thank you to state instructors Deputy SWIC Curtis "Wally" Walser and Col. Rob Hedgepeth for teaching the course.

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Carroll County Hospital COMMEX

Carroll County recently conducted a communications exercise to evaluate and enhance interoperability and practice portions of the updated **Iowa EMS Communications Plan**. The drill focused on testing various communication pathways during a mass casualty incident. Landline, cellular, and internet network congestion and failures were simulated. ISICS Radios were used for coordination between dispatch, hospitals, EMS field units, and air medical. Local Hospital radio systems and the ability to effectively share information using message runners during a simulated emergency were also exercised. Participants included representatives from Carroll County Ambulance Service, St Anthony Regional Hospital, Manning Regional Hospital, Unity Point Health – Iowa Methodist Medical Center and LifeFlight Air Ambulance Service, Carroll County Emergency Management, Carroll County Emergency Communications Center and the Statewide Interoperability Coordinator. EMAs from Audubon, Calhoun and Webster Counties assisted as evaluators. The exercise provided valuable insights into current capabilities and highlighted areas for improvement, ensuring Carroll County remains prepared for real-world incidents. A big thanks to all those who participated and assisted with the exercise and made the day a big success.

~ ~ Jason Hoffman, Carroll County Communications Director / 911 Coordinator

New FirstNet Sites

⇒ One in **Council Bluffs, IA** near Kanesville Blvd. and N. Broadway
⇒ One near **Iowa City, IA** along IA-1 and Maier Ave.

> **"I really think a champion is defined not by their wins, but by how they can recover when they fall."**
>
> *~ Serena Williams*