

# Texas' Interoperability App Suite

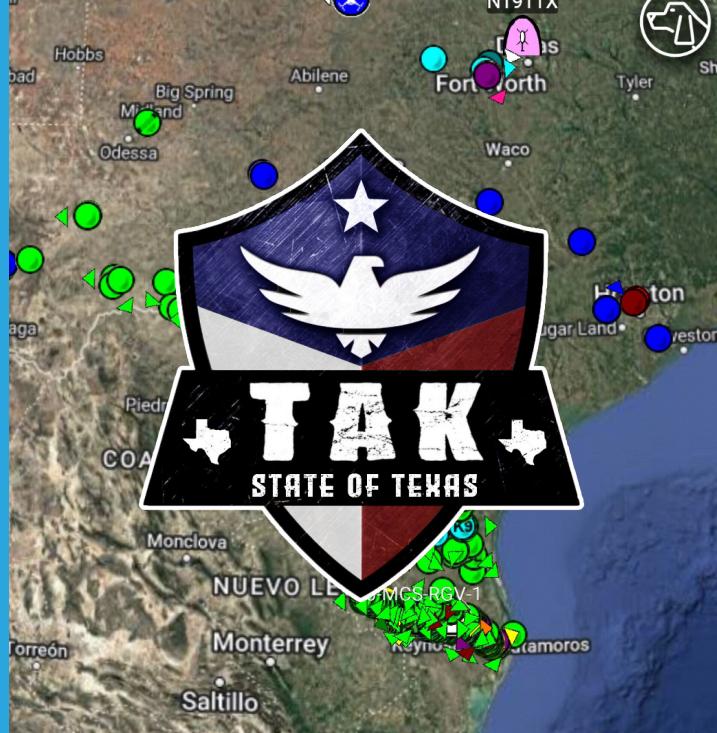
## Bridge4PS + TAK

The Texas Department of Public Safety (TxDPS) is advancing statewide interoperability by standardizing on a complementary app suite: Team Awareness Kit (TAK) for shared geospatial situational awareness, and Bridge4PS for secure, real-time collaboration. This aligns with the Statewide Communications Interoperability Plan (SCIP), which identifies both applications as essential tools for cross-agency coordination.

To support adoption, TxDPS implemented a low-cost, scalable support model: the #TX Texas TAK channel in Bridge4PS provides real-time guidance and troubleshooting. This accelerates adoption, builds user confidence, and scales support without additional staff or contracts, enabling agencies of all sizes to participate effectively.

### The Challenge: Rapid TAK Adoption Requires Scalable Support

TAK provides a common operating picture across jurisdictions, devices, and incident types. As statewide adoption grows, support demand can outpace program capacity. Agencies face challenges including onboarding, certificates, incident setup, and troubleshooting, especially critical during disasters or large-scale events. Rapid, reliable response is essential.



### Highlights

- **Leadership and Governance:** TxDPS' interoperability governance structure and SCIP-driven roadmap provide the policy foundation for consistent statewide adoption.
- **TAK Enablement at Scale:** TxDPS established documented processes and enabling infrastructure for statewide TAK access, supporting agency onboarding and federation through standardized approaches.
- **Community Knowledge Sharing:** Crowdsourced answers accelerate learning and operational readiness.

### Recognition: TxDPS Leadership in Statewide Interoperability

TxDPS demonstrates leadership by:

- Standardizing a complementary interoperability suite (TAK + Bridge4PS).
- Enabling scalable access through established TAK program structures.
- Building a support model that expands capability without increasing cost.

*Integrating Bridge4PS and TAK creates an interoperable, clear, and secure picture, turning fragmented information into coordinated action and empowering responders to serve with unity, confidence, and purpose.*

Eric M. Gildersleeve  
Texas Comms Unit Instructor, Denton County

# The Solution: A Two-Tool Model with Built-In Community Support

## Standardizing Complementary Tools

- **TAK:** Shared maps, situational awareness, operational overlays
- **Bridge4PS:** Secure messaging, coordination, tasking, cross-agency collaboration

This “suite” approach provides clarity for agencies by assigning clear operational roles to each tool while enabling coordinated use during incidents.

## Scaling TAK Support via Bridge4PS

TxDPS uses Bridge4PS to host a dedicated #TX Texas TAK support channel for:

- Real-time questions on onboarding and operations
- Peer-to-peer answers, sometimes faster than program office response
- Searchable knowledge base, reducing repeated questions

This many-to-many model turns the statewide TAK user community into a force multiplier, enhancing support and building a culture of shared interoperability.

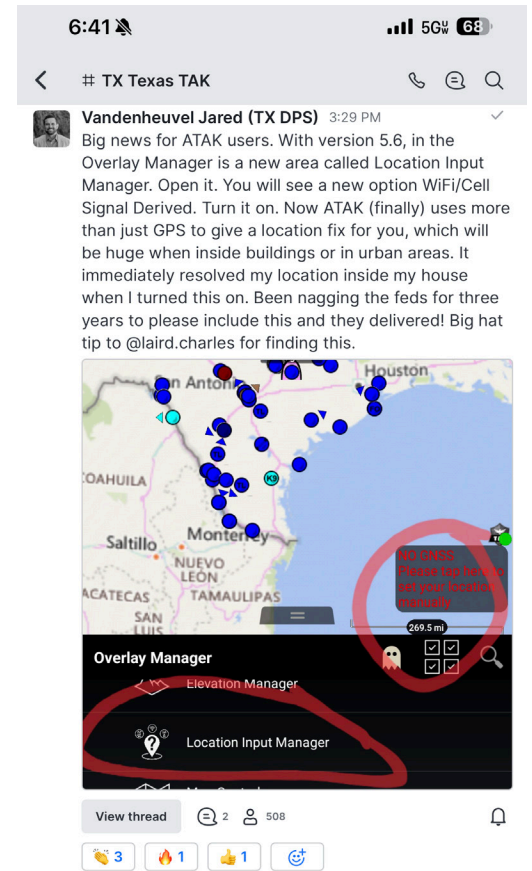
## Why it matters:

Interoperability is people, practices, and collaboration, not just technology. By embedding TAK and Bridge4PS into daily workflows, TxDPS strengthens preparedness for routine operations and major incidents, creating a resilient public safety environment.



*Bridge4PS combined with the TX TAK Server has provided critical and timely information sharing for numerous critical incidents since its inception. We are able to collaborate across multiple agencies and provide solutions to problems through these platforms.*

*Jeremy Alexander, Sergeant Investigator  
TBCJ-OIG Special Ops, Gulf Coast Task Force-Corpus Christi*



## Outcomes and Impacts

- **Faster Onboarding & Higher User Confidence:** Peer guidance helps agencies adopt TAK quickly.
- **Scalable, Real-Time Communications:** Bridge4PS enables the TAK program office to broadcast time-sensitive updates such as certificate renewals, maintenance notices, and issue resolution to hundreds of users statewide in seconds.
- **Reduced Operational and Financial Burden:** Crowdsourced support frees program staff for governance and expansion.
- **Learning & Continuous Improvement:** Share training events, conduct After-Action Reviews, and highlight “wins” to reinforce learning, accountability, and successful interagency collaboration.
- **A Repeatable Statewide Model:** Other states, like North Carolina and Oregon, have adopted similar TAK channels.



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