



# Memo

To: Jeryl Lynn Brown, NC APCO President  
From: Rick Thomas, Inter-Agency Communications Committee Chair  
CC: NC APCO Board, NC APCO Inter-Agency Communications Committee  
Date: March 24, 2010  
Re: Inter-Agency Communications Committee Report & National APCO Data Transfer / Telematics Reports

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NC Interoperability Executive Order to officially designate the SIEC and the Office of Interoperability within Crime Control & Public Safety is in the Governor's Office awaiting final approval. All questions and reviews are largely complete.

A Statewide Communications Resource Rally is proposed for sometime in the second quarter with more information to follow. This event will likely occur in Greensboro and bring many local and state mobile command and other communications equipment (as well as officials) together for evaluating interoperability and building information. I will forward more information when available.

DPR 7 (Domestic Preparedness Region) and the Charlotte UASI (Urban Area Security Initiative) recently and successfully completed a large scale exercise in cooperation with NCEM Western Branch across multiple disciplines and multiple voice and data platforms.

## **VIPER status updates**

- Phase I of P25 Migration kicked off in February.
- Zone controllers for VIPER P25 should be in place by the end of 2010.
- P25 compliance will double the capacity of the VIPER system.
- Full P25 compliance will take two to three years.
- Analog only radios and analog talk groups are no longer able to be added to the system.
- Analog talk groups, where still existing, should be converted to digital within the year.
- Current VIPER subscribers exceed 38,000 and growing rapidly as the infrastructure is largely complete east of I-77.

- Wildlife Resources Commission is near completion of conversion to VIPER.
- After a recent Governor's Office terrorism exercise involving the University System, many have realized the increasing need and potential for I/O with VIPER.
- There will be a significant VIPER presentation to the Association of County Commissioners and the League of Municipalities in May.
- Currently, 145 of the 240 planned sites are online with 13 more by June 30.
- Approximately \$66M of funding remains to be secured to complete the system.
- The Sprint-Nextel re-banding planning process for 800 MHz in NC, ongoing since 2007 is finally near agreement. Many details still have to be determined and there are significant amounts of equipment not yet considered as recently added. Every VIPER radio will need to be programmed at least twice, if not three times in a few instances – all at Sprint's expense. This is a huge process that the SIEC, system managers and Sprint will have to tackle.

Continued interoperability and planning is occurring with neighboring states. A Statewide Communications Interoperability Planning workshop was held in January at the McKimmon Center in Raleigh. The derived focus for 2010 will be education and outreach.

The VIPER team continues to partner with the Office of Emergency Medical Services on developing an online training program for VIPER, strategic radio reserves and other communications topics. It will similar to the OEMS Medical Care Network course.

Public Health has developed a training program for the UHF pack radios and VIPER for their use. The Office of EMS indicated that all hospitals should now have their VIPER radios installed giving all hospitals field and inter-hospital capability. OEMS does not intend to narrow band the 155.280/340 system that has been used for many years, therefore its end of life will be 2012.

Potential funding for VIPER radios for EMS will be channeled through the Regional Trauma Center system.

The National Emergency Communications Plan goal for 2010 is for 90% of all UASIs to be able to demonstrate interoperability within one hour of a routine incident. The goal for 2011 is for 95% of all non-UASI areas to be able to demonstrate interoperability within one hour.

#### **Communications training and related currently planned for 2010:**

- 2 Communications Unit Leader courses
- 1 Communications Technician course
- 1 statewide communication rally
- 1 DPR communications rally
- Develop and approve a Radio Operator (RADO) curriculum with a pilot course
- Develop and approve Incident Command Center Manager training
- Obtain statewide credentialing system access

Next SIEC meeting is tentatively planned for June 8 in Greensboro.

Attendees:

Bill Hobgood	John Hunt
Kathy McMahon	Gary Wallace
Peggy Fouts	Rick Thomas
Timmy Campbell	Richard Solie
Rick Jones	Steve Wisely

**Alarm Standard Update**

Bill updated the group on the alarm interface. There is a push to bring Houston up on the interface using the NLETS wrapper. NAT rules have been put into place to allow data to flow through NLETS and also through the VA state control point. NLETS has requested to use their distribution wrapper when alarms are traversing their network. Intergraph has been engaged to modify their interface to accommodate the NLETS wrapper. The I/Informer product will likely be modified as it is used for most state interfaces. Intergraph is developing an interoperability framework and a BizTalk solution to replace I/InterCAD. GE security has been in touch with Bill to determine what their level of effort would be to modify the Mastermind software. It is being assumed that the cost to GE would be passed onto ADT as they are engaging the Houston project. Alarm companies are not a criminal justice agency so a tentative agreement has been established between NLETS and CSAA to address the assignment of an ORI for the alarm companies. Larger sites will be targeted as the tentative agreement will be for a limited number of implementations.

Bill described the NLETS store and forward mechanism which is of concern when alarms are transmitted. It is possible to build logic in to analyze the time stamps of messages and prevent outdated alarms from being sent to a PSAP. The command staff that oversees the Virginia Criminal Information Network (VCIN) has changed in part. Steve Wisely and Bill will meet with them this coming Thursday to apprise them of the project and where it currently stands for further implementations. Bill will advise GE Security of the outcome of the VA State Police meeting. Bill advised that there are several CAD vendors who have expressed interest in developing their software to include the alarm interface.

The list of alarm enumerations that was posed to a vote with DTC members was approved and has been sent to Vector security for modification to their existing incident table.

**Project 42/UICDS**

Kathy advised that the UICDS team is engaging demonstration/proof of concept trials in the Mid-Atlantic States and in particular the state of Virginia.

They are also having discussions within DHS to synergize their goals with that of the Virtual USA team.

Calls are scheduled for next week to determine the proper direction for Project 42. Absent a significant funding source(s), the direction and continuation of the project will be challenged. Kathy will provide further detail next month and also an update on the suggestion to standardize a list of common incident codes that can be used when sharing data between CAD systems, PSAPs and other platforms such as situational awareness.

### **Telematics/AACN Work Groups**

APCO staff and NENA have calls scheduled to develop agendas for upcoming calls for both the Technical and Operational workgroups. Friday the 26<sup>th</sup> is tentatively being targeted for the 1<sup>st</sup> technical standards call (for APCO/NENA members).

Next Call will be 3/16 at 3:00 PM EST

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### **APCO Data Transfer Committee**

**March 16, 2010**

#### Attendees:

Bill Hobgood	John Hunt
Kathy McMahon	Kyran Dunn
Peggy Fouts	Rick Thomas
Christine Carrol	Richard Solie
Art Meachem	Steve Wisely

### **Alarm Update-NLETS Wrapper**

**VA State Police** have been slow to take action following the face-to-face meeting between Bill Hobgood, Steve Wisely, and State Police representatives. Bill escalated the issue to the Lieutenant in charge of CJIS. The request to make the programming change had apparently not made it to the programmer. They have now made contact with NLETS and progress is being made. Over a million messages a day are recorded at VA State Police so the increase with alarm messages should not impact them to any degree. There should be no more obstacles to begin testing alarms with the NLETS wrapper. Bill will be conducting a presentation for the Governor's Deputy Secretary of Public Safety on March 25<sup>th</sup>.

**NLETS** is expected to have the wrapper specification out any day now. Vector has approved the application for their ORI and NLETS has it back in hand.

**GE Security** estimates that they will start work on the NLETS wrapper any day now also. They are going to try to incorporate the wrapper into the existing Mastermind application so it can be turned on/off. Richmond has modified it's middleware and is ready to test.

### **Telematics**

Joint work groups have been formed for Technical and Operational standards. The data standardization workgroup has had 2 calls and is reviewing the VEDS data set. Because the data set is 6 years old, there may be an opportunity to update it and bring it into NIEM conformance as an ANSI standard.

### **EMFinders Focus Group**

April Heinz and Peggy Fouts are targeting next Monday the 22<sup>nd</sup> to have the 1<sup>st</sup> conference call with the focus group.

Call was kept short to accommodate a Telematics work group call that was scheduled for 3:30 PM.

Next Call will be 4/20 at 3:00 PM EST