

Commonwealth of Virginia – Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee (SIEC)
October 25, 2022 (CY22 4th Quarter Meeting)
10:00 AM – 3:00 PM at the Hotel Roanoke & Conference Center
(At the Virginia Fall APCO/NENA/Interoperability Conference)
110 Shenandoah Ave. NE, Roanoke, VA 24016 - Pocahontas Room

1) Introductory Remarks

- a) Robert Mosier, Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security
 - i) Secretary Mosier via call-in expressed his support and appreciation for SIEC and extended greetings from the Governor’s Office. He highlighted the need to communicate in all circumstances, noted letters going out to localities to encourage COMLINC adoptions. He introduced Assistant Secretary Ashley Traficant who was in attendance on his behalf.
- b) Ashley Traficant, Assistant Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security
 - i) Assistant Secretary Traficant commended the work and service of those involved in the efforts

2) Introductory Remarks

- a) Shawn Talmadge, State Coordinator of Emergency Management
 - i) Mr. Talmadge provided remarks regarding partnership, learning and understanding each other’s perspectives and the diversity thereof, and convergence of technologies
 - ii) Top concerns include:
 - (1) Cyber Security and how we respond to such incidences
 - (2) Breaking down the barriers
 - (3) Doing the hard things and then evaluating.
 - (4) Breaking down the “Silo” effects we have, and remembering we are a team working for a mutual goal; Relationships are key and essential
 - (5) None of us are perfect
- b) Introductions and roll/attendance capture
 - i) With consent of the group, Chair Hall initiated around-the-room introductions in lieu of formal roll call
 - ii) Discussion during introduction of the Virginia Communications Cache
 - (1) Deployable trunking available; available for view on-site at Fall Conference
 - (2) Interoperable standards; open architecture
 - (3) Subscriber radios going to multi-band
 - (4) Team/asset request process described: Generally through Virginia Emergency Operations Center (VEOC) but also directly to teams via local mutual aid
 - (5) **Consensus of the SIEC:** Desire for increased/improved awareness/sharing of available assets and methods for requesting, costs – could be accomplished in newsletters, outreach

3) Approval of Previous SIEC (3/29/22)

- a) **Minutes**
- b) Motion – Steve Parrot, Region 1 RPAC-I
- c) Second – William Martin, Region 2 RPAC-I
- d) **Vote: Unanimous – minutes 3/29/22 SIEC are approved**

4) SWIC Update

- a) Gabe Elias, SWIC, provided an update on various SWIC/interoperability program functions, including
 - i) AUXCOMM – Auxiliary Communications
 - ii) Cross-border interoperability

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- iii) Training and exercises
- iv) Building community and outreach
- v) Program funding

5) SCIP Discussion

- a) The SIEC reviewed the status of the currently approved/adopted Statewide Communication Interoperability Plan (SCIP)
- b) **Consensus of the SIEC:** Current SCIP is sufficient to leave in place for this review; Desire to establish subcommittee to sustain/develop SCIP
- c) **Approval of current SCIP**
 - i) **Motion to approve SCIP in place:** Craig Branch, VACLEA
 - ii) **Second:** Jeff Flournoy, VA APCO
 - iii) **Discussion:** Suggestion to handle in rolling agendas/improvements instead of all at once; feed the annual review deadlines
 - iv) **Vote: Unanimous – SCIP adopted in place**
- d) **Motion to create a SCIP subcommittee to manage the review process and bring back changes to the body:**
Craig Branch, VACLEA
 - i) **Second:** Michelle Gowdy, VML
 - ii) **Discussion:** Committee to include Michelle Gowdy, Dana Schrad, Steve Parrot, Sam Burnette; Ms. Gowdy to chair
 - iii) **Vote:** unanimous - **Approved**

6) SIEC Workshop Discussion

- a) Chair Hall provided an introduction and conference collaboration history
 - i) Cherish and value relationship with Virginia APCO and the Fall Conference; sustaining this relationship and partnership is first and foremost
 - ii) APCO International has primary annual conferences and focused “summits” in addition, not in place of
 - iii) Desire to capture technologists and subject-matter experts in a focused, future-looking, interoperability event
 - iv) Do not want to engage sponsors who will pull or subtract funds from existing Fall Conference – not in competition
 - v) Will require a fiscal agent to sponsor and manage the workshop finances
 - (1) Dana Schrad, Virginia Association of Chiefs of Police, suggested her organization may be able to support fiscal agency, vendor coordination – subject to VACP board approval
- b) Location discussion
 - i) Ms. Schrad noted the Insight Cyber Hub, with easy parking, a café, space for up to 300 people, a public safety focus, and a desire to partner with public safety
- c) Focus discussion
 - i) Technology-oriented focus will draw attendees who do not attend APCO events
 - ii) Focus on technology “convergence”
- d) Naming discussion

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- i) SIEC discussed “information communications technology” (ICT), to be consistent with current FEMA/DHS language around emergency communications
- e) Other discussion
 - i) Ability to utilize PEP grants to attend
 - ii) Ability to educate/update jurisdictions that don’t have subject-matter experts (SMEs)
- f) **Motion to pursue/explore a dedicated SIEC/interoperability workshop**
 - i) **Motion:** William Martin, Region 2 RPAC-I
 - ii) **Second:** Craig Branch, VACLEA
 - iii) **Discussion:**
 - (1) Chair Hall: if anything runs “amuck” Chair requests ability to stop the process
 - (2) Ms. Schrad notes/confirms this is initially an exploratory process
 - iv) **Vote:** unanimous - **Approved**

7) Working Lunch and Carrier Updates

- a) Verizon provided an update on their Crisis Response Team capabilities and assets
- b) FirstNet Authority and FirstNet by AT&T provided an update on their capabilities and assets

8) Additional Comments on Agenda Item 7

- a) Chair Hall provided additional comments on the development of an SIEC/interoperability summit, indicating desire to continue working with VA APCO and others
- b) Chair Hall led a discussion around potential topics, including
 - i) LMR, broadband, IT, GIS technology

9) State Updates

- a) Virginia State Police, STARS, and COMLINC – Captain Tom Bradshaw, Bill Decoste, and Rich Schoonover, Virginia State Police
 - i) Update on the STARS (Statewide Agencies Radio System) Phase 5 upgrade and system status
 - ii) Noted an ongoing shift toward VSP as stewards of STARS being more supportive of adding local/regional radio systems into STARS radios and forward-thinking, interoperability-focused executive leadership
 - iii) Updated on the Virginia COMLINC program status
 - (1) Chair Hall inquired about sustainment funding
 - (2) Mr. Schoonover noted sustainment is now built into VSP’s budget and will not disappear; Also noted initiation of discussions of what comes next after COMLINC 2.0
- b) Virginia Department of Emergency Management – Mike Keefe, Dorothy Spears-Dean
 - i) Increased VA Communications Cache training
 - ii) Noted “win” in City of Virginia Beach utilizing statewide “P25 RID Plan”
 - iii) Noted integrated planning workshops across state
 - iv) Noted NG9-1-1 (Next Generation 9-1-1) had been deployed to most of the Virginia landmass
- c) Virginia Department of Health
 - i) Noted H323/SIP video platform upgrades statewide and the ability to cross-connect (patch) that system into VA COMLINC

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- ii) Noted Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) – many have amateur radio training
- iii) Noted extensive use of VA COMLINC
- d) Virginia Department of Transportation
 - i) VDOT representative was not present, but submitted the below items in writing prior to the meeting, which were shared with the committee
 - (1) As of 10/21/22, all five of our Transportation Operations Center (TOC) have COMLINC installed. Four of these locations were a “refresh” to existing platforms. The fifth location, Central – JSOC, is “new” to COMLINC. The fifth location is undergoing user orientation starting 10/24/22 and should be online fully this week.
 - (2) We are steadily promoting awareness of regular scheduled COMLINC roll call operations among the TOC community. We look forward to continued collaboration in this area to help ensure equipment readiness.
 - (3) We encourage the SIEC to begin looking at a planning for the next generation of COMLINC whether it be enhancements to the existing platform or wide scale changes to it. From a time perspective, this would commence in late 2023 or 2024 as well as align with future biennial budgeting timelines.
 - (4) As part of the STARS upgrade, select regional and central office teams conducted demonstration testing of two STARS portable units. While much of this was basic testing within the STARS system, a brief opportunity was undertaken to explore some of the basic interoperability areas on this equipment. We look forward to further demo testing opportunities in this particular area.

10) Association Updates

- a) Virginia Association of Chiefs of Police (VACP) – Dana Schrad
 - i) Cybersecurity is the primary topic of note, including new state reporting requirements and concerns over time to assess before reporting requirement kicks in
- b) Virginia Chapter of the Association of Public Safety Communications Officials (VA APCO) – Jeff Flournoy
 - i) Nothing significant to report (NSTR)
- c) Virginia Municipal League (VML) – Michelle Gowdy
 - i) Reinforced VACP cyber comments/concerns
- d) Amateur Radio Relay League (ARRL) - Martin “Marty” Krupinski
 - i) Concentrating on training
- e) Virginia Association of Fire Chiefs (VAFC) – Chief John Prillaman
 - i) New website coming soon
 - ii) Fighting for funding
- f) Virginia Chapter of the National Emergency Number Association (VA NENA) – Stephen Willoughby
 - i) NSTR
- g) Virginia Sheriff’s Association (VSA) – Terry Hall
 - i) Busy time with staffing changes
- h) Virginia Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators (VACLEA) – Chief Craig Branch
 - i) Discussed public institutions FCC licensing renewal and lack of state agency FCC point of contact and associated risks

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11) Regional Updates

- a) Region 1 – Steve Parrott
 - i) Thanked VSP and Sytech (vendor) for support upgrading the Regional Hospital Coordination Centers' (RHCC's) COMLINC equipment
 - ii) Recognized CISA, Lafayette Group (contractor), and SWIC for support of recent RADO (Radio Operator) ICS course
 - iii) Recognized Goochland County Sheriff's Office and Radio Communications of Virginia (vendor) for recent upgrades to original UASI-funded communications tower trailer
 - (1) New team leadership – Chief Deputy Mike East
 - (2) Repeaters for all 800 MHz national interoperability channels, plus one 700 MHz channel
 - (3) Added several multi-band radios to existing ACU interoperability gateway onboard
 - iv) Discussed Blue Ridge Rockfest (BRRF) communications – Recognized participating agencies, including VDH, VSP, CVHC and North Carolina partners
 - v) Discussed challenges getting position task books (PTBs) completed for ICS positions
 - (1) Desire to solidify process and get it published
- b) Region 2 – William Martin
 - i) Region hopes to restart quarterly meetings
- c) Region 3 – Jamie Shumaker
 - i) Hoping to meet in February 2023
 - ii) Multiple localities' ongoing radio projects – each locality notes lack of funding is an issue
 - iii) Four localities are hoping to work together to combine resources
- d) Region 4 – Paul Hoyle
 - i) Twin County project – Re-issuing RFP; looking at P25 system
 - ii) Hoping to do more regional exercises to test resources
- e) Region 5 -Terry Hall
 - i) ORION regional overlay system sustainment/future update
 - (1) CTA hired as consultant
 - (2) Challenges include perceptions of project
 - ii) Hampton City examining joining a regional radio system
- f) Region 6 – Rodney Thompson
 - i) No meetings since pre-COVID
- g) Region 7 – Jeffrey Holmes
 - i) Regular online/virtual meetings
 - ii) Discussed regional ISSI (inter-subsystem interface) project, partnering with WMATA
 - iii) Discussed goal to push "TMARS" from the DC trunked radio system all the way south to Stafford County with ISSI
- h) CISA / Federal Update – Tom Gagnon (DHS CISA ECD) and Wes Rogers (DHS CISA ECD)
 - i) Discussed Rural Emergency Medical Communications Operational Rapid Assessment Program (ORAP)
 - (1) Looking to identify (quickly) VA localities

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(2) No direct funding for localities/regions tide to effort

- ii) Discussed the State Local Cybersecurity Grant Program (SLCGP) Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)
- iii) Discussed work on the Information Communication Technology (ICT) branch
- iv) Discussed Mr. Rogers has taken over management of federal radio ID (RID) management within Virginia

12) Old Business

- a) None discussed

13) New Business

- a) None discussed

14) Items From the Public

- a) None provided

15) Adjourn

Membership and attendance follows - Membership; Appointment (BOLD – PRESENT)

- **Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security, or his or her designee**
 - Ashley Traficant for Robert Mosier
- **Superintendent, Virginia State Police, or his or her designee**
 - **Captain Thomas Bradshaw**
 - Bill DeCoste, Rich Schoonover
- Director, Virginia Department of Fire Programs or his or her designee
- **State Coordinator, Virginia Department of Emergency Management, or his or her designee**
 - **Shawn Talmadge**
 - Mike Keefe
- **Director, Virginia Department of Health - Office of EMS, or his or her designee**
 - **Sam Burnette**
- **Director, Virginia Department of Health - Office of Emergency Preparedness, or his or her designee**
 - **Brad Bradley**
- **Adjutant General of the Department of Military Affairs, or his or her designee**
 - **Michael Pittman**
- Chief Information Officer, Virginia Information Technology Agency, or his or her designee
- Commissioner, Virginia Department of Transportation, or his or her designee
- State Forester, Department of Forestry, or his or her designee;
- **SWIC (ex officio) – Gabe Elias**
- **a representative of Region 1 Regional Preparedness Advisory Committee – Interoperability (RPAC-I), appointed by Region 1 RPAC-I**
 - **Steve Parrott**
- **a representative of Region 2 RPAC-I, appointed by Region 2 RPAC-I**
 - **William Martin**
- **a representative of Region 3 RPAC-I, appointed by Region 3 RPAC-I**

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- **Jamie Shumaker**
- **a representative of Region 4 RPAC-I, appointed by Region 4 RPAC-I**
 - **Paul Hoyle** for Curtis Crawford
- **a representative of Region 5 RPAC-I, appointed by Region 5 RPAC-I**
 - **Terry Hall**
- **a representative of Region 6 RPAC-I, appointed by Region 6 RPAC-I**
 - **Rodney Thompson**
- **a representative of Region 7 RPAC-I, appointed by Region 7 RPAC-I;**
 - **Jeffrey Holmes** for Charlie Locke
- a representative of Virginia Association of Counties
- **a representative of Virginia Association of Chiefs of Police**
 - **Dana Schrad**
- **a representative of Virginia Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators**
 - **Chief Craig Branch**
- **a representative of Virginia Fire Chiefs Association**
 - **John Prillaman**
- a representative of Virginia Association of Government EMS Administrators
- **a representative of Virginia NENA**
 - **Stephen Willoughby**
- **a representative of Virginia APCO**
 - **Jeff Flournoy**
- **a representative of Virginia Municipal League**
 - **Michelle Gowdy**
- a representative of Virginia Local Government IT Executives
- **a representative of Virginia Sheriffs Association**
 - **Terry Hall**
- a representative of Virginia State Firefighters Association
- **a representative of Virginia Amateur Radio Emergency Services/RACES**
 - **Martin “Marty” Krupinski** for Jack Smith
- a representative of Virginia Professional Firefighters
- a representative of the Virginia State Police Association
- a representative of Tribal governing councils, or his or her designee
- a representative of the State Council of Higher Education
- a representative of the Virginia Military Advisory Council.