

- **Welcome** – SIEC Chair Terry Hall at 10:00hrs
  
- **Comments from Deputy Secretary Talmadge**
  - Highlighted National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week
    - Thanks and acknowledgement
    - Governor Northam proclamation ([link](#))
  - Look to the SIEC for advice and guidance as we look to move the Commonwealth forward
    - COMLINC program is high priority
    - Fully resourced and funded to include full-time positions
    - Fully funded service provided service provided to all localities and stakeholders across the Commonwealth
    - Entered into contracts to purchase and expand COMLINC into all 911 Centers and other key stakeholders (state agencies and Port of Virginia)
    - This is a turnkey operation
      - Installation, sustainment, software, training and 24-hour hotline
      - Localities only need to provide time for training and access to the internet
    - VSP is the implementing and supporting agency for the program at the state level
  - SCIP
    - Need to finalize this. Initial draft was done, but then COVID delayed the process
    - The new SWIC will engage this, with the SIEC providing staffing support
    - 90% solution desirable
    - Incorporate COMLINC
    - Address NG9-1-1 concerns, issues, opportunities
  - Announcement and welcome of the new SWIC – Gabe Elias
    - Previous SWIC (Tom Crabbs) moved to another position under Veterans and Defense Affairs
    - Gabe Elias is from the Charlottesville/Albemarle area
  - SWIC – Gabe Elias
    - Comments and appreciations
  - SIEC Chair – Terry Hall
    - Welcome to the new SWIC and excited to have Mr. Elias on board
  
- **Roll Call – SIEC Chair Terry Hall**
  - 22 Members Present (see attached list, present members in bold)
  
- **Approval of Minutes**
  - No quorum – meeting minutes not approved

- **Update from FirstNet: Program Update (Lori Stone, FirstNet Authority)**
  - Contract management
    - 25 year contract has about 1,000 deliverables due into the Authority every month
    - 14 day review cycle
    - Required reinvestment of funds that goes back into the network
      - Guided by Authority surveys/questions/discussions (engagements) with users/stakeholders
    - Upgrade deliverable fleet – 76 currently
      - Last year used 750 times in the nationwide
    - FirstNet adding 5G
      - 38 cities and 20 venues
      - Need to be on a 5G device and be on a 5G rate plan
        - Same cost as 4G rate plan
- **Update from FirstNet: Nashville Bombing (Alex Rafii, FirstNet Program, Manager)**
  - Team Introduction
    - Paul Hunt – Account Area: I-295/64 and East, South to NC
    - Bill Tegethoff – Account Area: Central and Western VA plus State accounts
    - Celia Carmo-Bryfogle – Account Area: Rest of Northern VA
    - Joe Shahoud – radio access network (RAN) engineer
  - 25 year contract build-out
    - Ahead of schedule
    - Doing very well in the Commonwealth
  - Joe Shahoud
    - Macro Network
      - 2019 – 19 new sites
      - 2020 – 37 new sites, 14 of which were Governor-committed
      - 2021 – 5 new sites, with 20 more in pipeline
      - Governor-committed FirstNet sites: 23 total, 20 complete
    - Band 14 build – 727 complete (of 925 planned)
    - Small Cell (CRAN) – 217 new small cells in last two years across state
    - Feature evolution
      - MegaRange (HPUE – high power user equipment)
      - FirstNet PTT
      - Response for FirstNet – Z-axis (vertical) tracking

- January 6, 2021 – Washington DC
  - Speech cluster (White House location)
    - FirstNet users: 1,598
    - AT&T commercial users: 52,428
    - FirstNet sustained average data throughput compared to commercial users
    - During peak hours
      - Pre-empted or dropped commercial users at a rate of 55,000 in the busy hour to make room for first responders
      - 1,700 blocks at the peak hour
  - Capitol cluster
    - FirstNet users: 3,083
    - AT&T commercial users: 54,444
    - FirstNet sustained average data throughput compared to commercial users
    - During Peak Hours
      - 550 commercial users denied access
  - Due to extra capacity from temporary assets brought in around the Capitol, there were fewer blocks
- Nashville Bombing
  - Explosion at a central office
    - Nashville is an in-footprint territory for AT&T
    - Two city blocks destroyed, building intact, power outage, main water lines ruptured
    - Battery backup manages copper lines in roughly two states
      - Lasted for 4 hours
    - Generator didn't turn on due to damage
    - Area was a crime scene
  - Central office (CO) supported all the wireline telephones for the surrounding area
    - Connectivity to several mobile telephone switching offices (MTSO, for wireless) also lost
  - Within 4 hours, first FirstNet SatCOLT (satellite-connected FirstNet cell site on a light truck platform) arrived to support local-area responders
  - Loss of all wireline and wireless connectivity
  - Estimated 17 deployables in/around area
  - 24 hours – 25% of mobility up and running
  - 36 hours – all water pumped out, crime scene moved
  - 72 hours – all service up and running

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- What is the backup to the backup?
  - Backup for wireless network and backup for immediate situation
  - “Triversity”
    - Executing nationwide level that all central offices don’t terminate at building like this
      - It terminates, it has back up, then routes back up so this always a live circuit that can handle all the traffic going to another central office
- Increased cooperation between telecommunications carriers related to critical infrastructure protection, mitigation, response
- Discussion
  - Deputy Secretary Talmadge is now the National Governors’ Association ([NGA](#)) representative to the FirstNet Public Safety Advisory Committee ([PSAC](#))
  - Importance of critical infrastructure protection, including capturing in SCIP
  - Question about potential for FCC pre-emption of local zoning approval of 5G sites: Mr. Rafii to research
- Compact Rapid Deployable
  - Comes on wheels, has a satellite backhaul, antenna, and can broadcast Band 14
  - Discussion on having a demo in Central Virginia
- **COMLINC Program Update (Richard Schoonover)**
  - 18 sites updated to date
  - Planning to have 50 sites upgraded by December 2021
  - Change in the way services are offered
    - VSP has 4 dedicated employees
      - Responsibilities and funding include COMLINC training
    - Piloting listen-only VSP talkgroups: Instead of a scanner, COMLINC member agencies can use COMLINC to listen to the primary and secondary working channels for the local Division
    - Additional RF resources may be added to make patching simpler
    - Potential for re-assigning resources to enhance localities’ abilities to reach VSP Division dispatch centers via COMLINC instead of phone
  - Next sites to be upgraded
    - Louisa County, Washington County, and King George County
  - Two install teams working at once
    - Can complete 2 upgrades/sites per week

- COMLINC MOA
  - Sent out to localities that were already site surveyed, down, or had different equipment
  - 20-25 MOAs out right now
  - 2020 MOA ([link](#)) on the [Virginia Interoperability](#) website or can contact Rich Schoonover
    - Will need to be signed and returned
  - Mr. Elias recommended RPAC-I Chairs send out to their stakeholders to get the process started
  - Site survey required before equipment installation can be scheduled
  - Initial training provided by install staff at installation
  - Additional training provided in a return visit
  - COMLINC Training Committee completing updated training materials
    - Mr. Werner asked about video training. Mr. Schoonover confirmed that is desired and possible.
    - Ms. Parsons noted there will be training targeted at different user groups (telecommunicators, technical users, field users)
  - VSP Division Dispatch centers will start MOA-required roll-calls soon
- Staffing
  - 4 positions allocated
  - 2 hired employees
  - 1 in background
- Locality sites that have been updated – How are they communicating with VSP?
  - Same procedure in place as before – call and have a patch
  - Currently piloting in two Divisions to have an RF resource available
    - Patch first, then phone call or console to console, and can be done from the division
    - Pilot will help develop policies/procedures
    - Learning from localities who have setup permanent patches between systems
- Training
  - COMLINC Training Committee
    - Developing training material, roll calls, etc.
    - Video training will be available
    - Different levels of trainings for end users
      - Dispatcher, Technical, Field Users
- Agencies without COMLINC
  - Have reached out to at least 3 localities so far

- **SHSP Grant Discussion (Mike Keefe, VDEM)**
  - Due April 30, 2021
  - Process
    - Send all grant processes out and have the consolidated and aggregated
    - Program managers will score
  - SIEC will score communications-related grants
  
- **Statewide Response Updates: Protests, Inauguration (Mike Keefe, VDEM)**
  - Recent events reinforce need to plan ahead for communications
    - ICS-205 communications plans drafted/imagined for wide range of events
    - Intentionally interoperable radio subscriber programming
    - Use of COMLINC
  - Inauguration and January 6, 2021 Event
    - 2 separate type of events
    - VDEM and VSP seeing these events daily and/or weekly
    - communications planning is imperative
    - Emergent Event – January 6, 2021
      - Phone call requesting a channel for VSP to talk to D.C.
      - Highlighted need for imaginative communications pre-planning
  - Inauguration
    - Extensive traffic control involved multiple agencies who needed to communicate and coordinate
    - Large events involve multiple backup and expansion channels and in this case all got used
    - With the added complexity of traffic control points, concern if there would have been capacity to cover another emerging emergency
    - Multiple technologies (not just voice radio) highlighted need for Virginia SCIP to consider all forms of emergency communication/technology/methods
    - Idea to have pre-staged, basic communications plans to handle responses at local, regional, and state-supported levels
  - D.C. heavily uses encryption
    - Had to use a city-wide channel – numerous agencies operating on one talk-group
      - System was busy (users), but didn't get a lot of busies (resource exhaustion)
  - Discussion
    - Change from 2017 to 2018 from lessons learned in Charlottesville was great
    - Can capture some of these lessons learned from the D.C., Nashville events, etc.
    - Mr. Werner noted planning goes beyond just a "205," but requires a

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coming together of all the planning resources in advance of events

- **SCIP Update/Plan to Finalize (Terry Hall, Chair)**

- Had a good draft under previous SWIC, Mr. Crabbs
- Now moving forward to put the finishing touches on it
  - Subject-matter expert (SME) subcommittee was formed – will be reaching out soon to the committee members and have a meeting to get a “draft” finished to present to the SIEC
  - Those interested in participating in the communications grants SME subcommittee, send email to Terry Hall, Shawn Talmadge, or Gabe Elias
  - What can we solve on the pre-arranged agreements for communications?
- Mr. Elias: Current SCIP – set that up as our work plan, updated it yearly and measure the success

- **Public Comment (Terry Hall, Chair)**

- **Closing Remarks**

- Terry Hall
  - Hampton Roads area looking into replacing/forklifting [ORION](#) network in some type of capacity
    - CTA is the consultant
    - Originally funded with UASI money
- Charles Werner
  - Thanks to Mr. Hall for his leadership
  - Great SWICs in the past and Mr. Elias will be great with his knowledge
  - Discussion on the positive future COMLINC and FirstNet in the Commonwealth
- Earl Sharp (VDOT)
  - RFI ([link](#)) on VDOT’s land mobile radio (LMR) system
  - Excited about bringing on COMLINC
  - PTT vs. LMR
    - LMR shouldn’t go away, but how to integrate it to have effective interoperability on the ground
  - Hurricane season coming up – response and recovery aspects
- Shawn Talmadge
  - Excited to get the SIEC back together and hope to see everyone at Fall APCO/NENA/Interoperability Conference

**Adjourned at 11:57 AM April 21, 2021**

**Membership and attendance follows:**

**Membership; Appointment (BOLD – PRESENT)**

1. **Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security, or his or her designee**
  - a. **Shawn Talmadge**
2. **Superintendent, Virginia State Police, or his or her designee**
  - a. **Captain Bradshaw**
3. Director, Virginia Department of Fire Programs or his or her designee;
4. **State Coordinator, Virginia Department of Emergency Management, or his or her designee**
  - a. **Mike Keefe**
5. **Director, Virginia Department of Health - Office of EMS, or his or her designee**
  - a. **Karen Owens**
6. **Director, Virginia Department of Health - Office of Emergency Preparedness, or his or her designee**
  - a. **Brad Bradley**
7. **Adjutant General of the Department of Military Affairs, or his or her designee**
  - a. **Michael Pittman**
8. Chief Information Officer, Virginia Information Technology Agency, or his or her designee;
9. **Commissioner, Virginia Department of Transportation, or his or her designee**
  - a. **Earl Sharp**
10. State Forester, Department of Forestry, or his or her designee;
11. SWIC (ex officio) – Vacant until 4/26/21
12. **a representative of Region 1 Regional Preparedness Advisory Committee – Interoperability (RPAC-I), appointed by Region 1 RPAC-I**
  - a. **Charles Smith**
13. **a representative of Region 2 RPAC-I, appointed by Region 2 RPAC-I**
  - a. **William Martin**
14. **a representative of Region 3 RPAC-I, appointed by Region 3 RPAC-I**
  - a. **Gabe Elias**
15. a representative of Region 4 RPAC-I, appointed by Region 4 RPAC-I
16. **a representative of Region 5 RPAC-I, appointed by Region 5 RPAC-I**
  - a. **Terry Hall**
17. **a representative of Region 6 RPAC-I, appointed by Region 6 RPAC-I**
  - a. **Rodney Thompson**
18. a representative of Region 7 RPAC-I, appointed by Region 7 RPAC-I;
19. a representative of Virginia Association of Counties
20. **a representative of Virginia Association of Chiefs of Police**
  - a. **Dana Schrad**
21. **a representative of Virginia Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators**
  - a. **Chief Craig Branch**
22. **a representative of Virginia Fire Chiefs Association**
  - a. **John Prillaman**
23. **a representative of Virginia Association of Government EMS Administrators;**
  - a. **Richard Troshak**
24. **a representative of Virginia NENA**
  - a. **Stephen Willoughby**
25. **a representative of Virginia APCO**
  - a. **Jeff Flournoy**



**26. a representative of Virginia Municipal League**

**a. Michelle Gowdy**

27. a representative of Virginia Local Government IT Executives;

**28. a representative of Virginia Sheriff's Association**

**a. Terry Hall**

29. a representative of Virginia State Firefighters Association;

**30. a representative of Virginia Amateur Radio Emergency Services/RACES**

**a. Dr. Joe Palsa, K3WRY**

31. a representative of Virginia Professional Firefighters;

32. a representative of the Virginia State Police Association;

33. a representative of Tribal governing councils, or his or her designee;

34. a representative of the State Council of Higher Education;

35. a representative of the Virginia Military Advisory Council.

**Additional Attendees and Alternates Present**

- Virginia State Police
  - Richard Schoonover
- Virginia Fire Chiefs Association
  - Charles Werner
- DHS CISA ECD
  - Tom Gagnon
- First Responder Network Authority
  - Lori Stone
- FirstNet / AT&T
  - Alex Rafii
  - Paul Hunt
  - Bill Tegethoff
  - Celia Carmo-Bryfogle
  - Joe Shahoud
- CTA Consultants
  - Cheryl Giggetts