Commonwealth of Virginia Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee (SIEC)
April 9, 2024 (CY24 2nd Quarter)
10:00 AM – 1:00 PM at VDEM
9711 Farrar Ct, North Chesterfield, VA 1st Floor Training Room

1. Roll Call / Introductions
    1.1. Terry Hall, Chair
    1.2. Meeting called to order at 10:01 AM
2. Introductory Remarks
    2.1. Terry Hall, Chair
    2.2. Gabe Elias, SWIC
3. Approval of previous SIEC meeting minutes (10/24/2023)
    3.1. Terry Hall, Chair
    3.2. **Motion to approve by Steve Parrott (Region 1 RPAC-I); Seconded by Chief Craig Branch (VACLEA)**
        3.2.1. **Vote: APROVED (unanimous)**
4. Discussion of SIEC Vice Chair vacancy
    4.1. Tery Hall, Chair
    4.2. **Nomination of William Martin (Region 2 RPAC-I Chair) by Michelle Gowdy (VML); Seconded by Chief Craig Branch (VACLEA)**
        4.2.1. **Vote: APPROVED (unanimous)**
5. FOIA and Public Bodies
    5.1. Ms. Cathie Hutchins (Virginia Office of the Attorney General) delivered a presentation on the Virginia Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and public bodies such as the SIEC
        5.1.1. Discussion of subcommittees or sub-bodies of the SIEC (Committee)
            5.1.1.1. Must follow same rules as Committee (SIEC)
        5.1.2. Discussion of electronic meeting procedures
            5.1.2.1. Current versus upcoming (7/1/24) new law changes
6. SIEC Policy Discussion – Virtual Meetings and Remote Participation
    6.1. All Virtual Public Meetings Policy (draft provided to SIEC and public prior to meeting)
        6.1.1. **Motion to approve by Jeremy Bennett (VACO); Seconded by Jack Smith (ARRL)**
            6.1.1.1. **Amendment** by Michelle Gowdy (VML) – Page 3, section III C – change to no more than 50% effective July 1, 2024
            6.1.1.2. **Vote: Approved as amended (unanimous)**
    6.2. Remote Participation (draft provided to SIEC and public prior to meeting)
        6.2.1. **Motion to approve by Earl Sharp (VDOT); Seconded by Chief Craig Branch (VACLEA)**
            6.2.1.1. **Amendment** by Michelle Gowdy (VML) – Page 3, section IV C – change to no more than 50% effective July 1, 2024
            6.2.1.2. **Vote: Approved as amended (unanimous)**
7. Break
8. Introduction of VDEM's Chief Deputy State Coordinator, Sean Polster, by Chair Terry Hall
    8.1. Moment of silence for recent line of duty deaths (LODD) in Virginia fire service
    8.2. Brief updates on VDEM recent work, including critical infrastructure working group
9. Interoperability Summit Discussion
    9.1. Terry Hall, Dana Schrad, Michelle Gowdy
    9.2. Tentative dates – 17-18 July 2024

9.3. "Emerging Technology Conference"

9.4. Chair Hall provided a brief history of the summit idea and past direction and votes from the SIEC

9.4.1. Not in competition with existing Virginia NENA or APCO conferences; not intended to take or reduce contributions from existing vendors/sponsors for those and other Virginia public safety conferences/events

9.4.2. Educational summit event – goal is education, not money-making event for supporting partner (VACP)

9.5. Tentative location: Short Pump Conference Center in Henrico County – VACP will be contracting party

9.6. Content discussion

9.6.1. Logos reviewed

9.6.2. Various high-level technology speakers were discussed

9.6.3. Tentatively roughly 100 attendees

9.6.4. Tentatively $100 registration fee to keep affordable

9.6.5. Target audience: technical personnel, including information security officers

9.6.6. Plenary vs. breakout sessions (consensus for plenary)

9.6.7. Focus quality vs. quantity

9.6.8. Group brainstormed topics, including

Cybersecurity
Convergence
VOIP
AI for public safety
Risk assessments
Planned integrations of public safety systems (interoperable)
Funding
Strategic partnerships
Resiliency (position, navigation, and timing; NITRO)
Integrating fire and law enforcement into the communications center
Internet of Things
UAS and uncrewed systems
SOC (security operations center)
Emergency Communications Ecosystem
Geomagnetic and electromagnetic pulse resiliency
Satellite and other alternative connectivity

9.7. **Motion to approve proceeding with VACP executing contracts and Subcommittee proceeding with content, based on tentative dates, fee structure, content ideas, and other discussion held by Chief Craig Branch (VACLEA); Seconded by Pete Kirby (VSFA)**

9.7.1. **Vote: APPROVED (unanimous)**

10. State Updates – (*Note: State, regional, and association updates were delivered in random order but are listed here grouped together for clarity*)

    10.1.   VDEM – Virginia Department of Emergency Management

        10.1.1.   Sean Polster

            10.1.1.1.   State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program (SLCGP) partnership with VITA; applications due April 12

        10.1.2.   Dorothy Spears-Dean

            10.1.2.1.   82 emergency communications centers (ECCs, also known as PSAPs) deployed on ESINet in NG9-1-1 project; 11 scheduled; Full statewide deployment deadline 10/31/2024

        10.1.3.   Mike Keefe

            10.1.3.1.   SHSP grant cycle coming up

                10.1.3.1.1.   Holistic approach to Cache programs within special teams allotment

            10.1.3.2.   4 out of 5 VA Communications Cache teams now have DTS (deployable trunking system) based on emerging standards – both L3Harris and Motorola systems – interoperable

            10.1.3.3.   Regional staff continue to engage in exercises and drills

            10.1.3.4.   Integration of COMLINC and SOPs with localities (how state agencies can talk with each other and localities)

            10.1.3.5.   Agency transitioning to FirstNet; will be adding deployable equipment

    10.2.   VDH OEP – Virginia Department of Health, Office of Emergency Preparedness

        10.2.1.   Brad Bradley

            10.2.1.1.   Upgrading A/V and video-conferencing systems statewide – 90% complete and 270 sites

            10.2.1.2.   US Department of State provides diplomatic security training in Virginia and requested use of Monroe Building (VDH HQ) in downtown Richmond for radio repeater; Worked well; Seeking permanent installation

    10.3.   VDH OEMS – Virginia Department of Health, Office of Emergency Medical Services

        10.3.1.   Sam Burnette - NSTR

    10.4.   VDOT – Virginia Department of Transportation

        10.4.1.   Earl Sharp

            10.4.1.1.   Focused on bottom-up approach to personnel interoperability efforts

                10.4.1.1.1.   STARS – share capabilities/procedures with end-users

                10.4.1.1.2.   COMLINC

                10.4.1.1.3.   Stress to incident management coordinators (IMCs) how to utilize; includes just-in-time and long-term training and outreach

                10.4.1.1.4.   Maintenance Division – responsible for legacy low-band VHF radio system; upgrading; strong interoperability options

                10.4.1.1.5.   Lot of systems are considered "industrial controls"

                10.4.1.1.6.   Do have a SOC and NOC

10.4.1.1.7.   Reviewing Baltimore FSK Bridge after-actions and reports – VDOT uses telephonic communication for crews

10.4.1.1.8.   1700 structures in VA classified as bridges

10.5.   DMA - Department of Military Affairs

10.5.1.   Mike Pitman

10.5.1.1.   Cyber-assessment teams at National Guard and VA Defense Force

10.5.1.2.   New communications trailer housed in Richmond

10.5.1.3.   9 transportable communication kits in EMP-resistant bags

10.6.   VITA – Virginia Information Technologies Agency

10.6.1.   Todd Kissam

10.6.1.1.   Published standard for AI on public website

10.6.1.2.   Working on access management standard

10.7.   VSP – Virginia State Police

10.7.1.   Rich Schoonover

10.7.1.1.   COMLINC 2.0 project/upgrade completed 9/30/2023

10.7.1.2.   Updating security configurations and remote support

10.7.1.3.   Centralized security patching, updates, firmware updates

11. Regional and Association Updates

11.1.   Region 1 RPAC-I

11.1.1.   Steve Parrott

11.1.1.1.   Monitoring for interoperability requests reference Presidential debate at VSU

11.1.1.2.   COMLINC and hospital-to-hospital communication

11.1.1.3.   VDOT TOC in Central Region

11.1.1.4.   Working with 9-1-1 centers to communicate

11.1.1.5.   Traffic-related exercises

11.2.   Region 2 RPAC-I

11.2.1.   William Martin

11.2.1.1.   Working with L3Harris (radio vendor) – many systems in region – on multifactor authentication based on recent reports of (non-Virginia) incidents of cyber breaches by threat actors of LMR systems

11.2.1.2.   Increased in-building communication issues since system went to L3Harris – working on building antennas for dispatch center

11.3.   Region 3 RPAC-I

11.3.1.   Jamie Shumaker

11.3.1.1.   Met in February and discussed radio projects

11.4.   Region 4 RPAC-I

11.4.1.   Paul Hoyle

11.4.1.1.   Systems in region not unified or regionally designed

11.4.1.2.   Twin County recent $3M federal allocation – 3 new towers

11.4.1.3.   Public-private partnership to increase cellular coverage

11.5. Region 5 RPAC-I
- 11.5.1. Terry Hall
  - 11.5.1.1. ORION – spent a lot of money on project; CAOs voted to return to the old system (mobile only); another group was developed to look at governance structure;
  - 11.5.1.2. Disparate radio systems being installed now throughout region; discussion on this
  - 11.5.1.3. Will see more regional systems in the future

11.6. Region 6 RPAC-I
- 11.6.1. Andy Seabolt
  - 11.6.1.1. Meeting May 3 – need a new Chair and Vice Chair
  - 11.6.1.2. Botetourt County putting in new system
  - 11.6.1.3. Localities looking at VHF new systems due to National Radio Quiet Zone
  - 11.6.1.4. Much of interoperability in region is still simplex radio-to-radio; COMLINC there to use if/when needed

11.7. Region 7 RPAC-I
- 11.7.1. Stuart Sanz
  - 11.7.1.1. Working on regional ISSI project
  - 11.7.1.2. 3 localities using SmartConnect

12. Association Updates

12.1. VFCA – Virginia Fire Chiefs Association
- 12.1.1. Chief John Prillaman – NSTR (nothing significant to report)

12.2. VACP – Virginia Association of Chiefs of Police
- 12.2.1. Dana Schrad
  - 12.2.1.1. Reiterated support and work on behalf of SIEC for upcoming Summit
- 12.2.2. Doug Campbell
  - 12.2.2.1. VA NENA/APCO Spring Conference 13-15 May in Williamsburg

12.3. VSFA – Virginia State Firefighters Association
- 12.3.1. Pete Kirby – NSTR

12.4. VACLEA – VA Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators
- 12.4.1. Chief Craig Branch – NSTR

12.5. VML – Virginia Municipal League
- 12.5.1. Michelle Gowdy – NSTR

12.6. ARRL – Amateur Radio Relay League
- 12.6.1. Jack Smith
  - 12.6.1.1. 1500 hours of training last year, and discussed in-kind contribution value based on FEMA reimbursement rate
  - 12.6.1.2. MOU in-process (update) with VDEM
  - 12.6.1.3. Field Day 22-23 June – public exhibition of capabilities, personnel
  - 12.6.1.4. SET – Simulated Emergency Test – 5-6 October – based on events like derecho and Hurricane Camille

12.7.   VAGEMSA – Virginia Association of Governmental EMS Administrators
    12.7.1. Dan Norville – NSTR

12.8.   VALGITE – Virginia Association of Local Government IT Executives
    12.8.1. Vanessa Bohr
        12.8.1.1.   SLCGP cyber security grant is open – first phase is assessment
        12.8.1.2.   Working with VDEM on tabletop exercises
        12.8.1.3.   Association re-instituting regional meetings

12.9.   VA NENA – Virginia Chapter of the National Emergency Number Association
    12.9.1. Steve Willoughby
        12.9.1.1.   Reiterated upcoming Spring Conference

12.10.   VSA – Virginia Sheriffs Association
    12.10.1.   Terry Hall – NSTR

12.11.   VFCA – Virginia Fire Chiefs Association
    12.11.1.   Chief John Prillaman – NSTR

12.12.   VACO – Virginia Association of Counties
    12.12.1.   Jeremy Bennett – NSTR

13. Old Business – none

14. New Business
    14.1.   Gabe Elias (SWIC)
        14.1.1. April is Emergency Communications month and next week is NPSTW, National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week – expect outreach – Resiliency is theme and we have discussed that here
        14.1.2. Reiterated recent CDS (Congressionally Directed Spending) in US DOJ budget, much of which went to Region 4 – alternate source of funding
        14.1.3. Working with USDA and US Forest Service on interoperability with localities and state agencies via NIFOG channels
    14.2.   Sean Polster (VDEM)
        14.2.1. Operation FREE Virginia – fentanyl reduction program – broad effort across state government to reduce deaths and increase awareness
        14.2.2. VDEM to be equipped with NARCAN opioid overdose reversal treatments

15. Items from the Public – none

Meeting adjourned – 12:34 PM

Membership and Attendance – BOLD items indicate attendance

1. Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security, or his or her designee
2. **Superintendent, Virginia State Police, or his or her designee**
   a. **Richard Schoonover (on behalf of Captain Thomas Bradshaw)**
3. **Director, Virginia Department of Fire Programs or his or her designee**
   a. **Chief Michael Parris**
4. **State Coordinator, Virginia Department of Emergency Management, or his or her designee**
   a. **Sean Polster**
   b. **Mike Keefe (Alternate)**
5. **Director, Virginia Department of Health - Office of EMS, or his or her designee**
   a. **Sam Burnette**
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. **Mike Pittman**
   b. **Jason Burrow (Alternate)**
8. **Chief Information Officer, Virginia Information Technology Agency, or his or her designee**
   a. **Todd Kissam**
9. **Commissioner, Virginia Department of Transportation, or his or her designee**
   a. **Earl Sharp**
   b. **Robert Rabe (also attending)**
10. State Forester, Department of Forestry, or his or her designee
11. **SWIC (ex officio)**
    a. **Gabe Elias**
12. **a representative of Region 1 Regional Preparedness Advisory Committee – Interoperability (RPAC-I), appointed by Region 1 RPAC-I**
    a. **Steve Parrott**
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. **Jamie Shumaker**
15. **a representative of Region 4 RPAC-I, appointed by Region 4 RPAC-I**
    a. **Paul Hoyle (Alternate)**
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. **Andy Seabolt (Interim Chair)**
18. **a representative of Region 7 RPAC-I, appointed by Region 7 RPAC-I**

      a. **Stuart Sanz**

      b. **Jeffrey Holmes (Alternate)**

19. **a representative of Virginia Association of Counties**

      a. **Jeremy Bennett**

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. **Dan Norville**

24. **a representative of Virginia NENA**

      a. **Stephen Willoughby**

25. **a representative of Virginia APCO**

      a. **Doug Campbell**

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

      a. **Michelle Gowdy**

27. **a representative of Virginia Local Government IT Executives**

      a. **Vanessa Bohr**

28. **a representative of Virginia Sheriffs Association**

      a. **Terry Hall**

29. **a representative of Virginia State Firefighters Association**

      a. **Pete Kirby**

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

      a. **Jack Smith**

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;

36. **Counsel (Office of the Attorney General)**

      a. **Cathie Hutchins**

Other Officials in Attendance:

- Dorothy Spears-Dean, VDEM
- Wes Rogers, CISA
- Tom Gagnon, CISA
- Steve Singer, CISA

- Rae Flemming, York-Poquoson-Williamsburg
- Nathaniel Pierantoni, York-Poquoson-Williamsburg