



North Carolina Department of Public Safety

State Highway Patrol

Roy Cooper, Governor
Erik A. Hooks, Secretary

Glenn M. McNeill, Jr.
Commander

MEMORANDUM

To: Chairs of Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Justice and Public Safety

From: Erik A. Hooks, Secretary, Department of Public Safety *EAH*
Glenn M. McNeill, Jr., Commander, State Highway Patrol *GM*

Subject: VIPER Quarterly Report

Date: March 1, 2019

Pursuant to Session Law 2016-94, Section 17B.1, The Department of Public Safety shall report annually no later than March 1 and quarterly thereafter to the chairs of the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Justice and Public Safety on the progress of the State's VIPER system.

Network Status - 241 total sites planned for statewide coverage of which 226 sites are constructed and on-the-air representing 94% completion. One site is currently nearing completion with a projected release date of 31 March 2019, for all to be on-the-air. Additionally, at the end of this state fiscal year, five (5) sites are slated for completion. Nine (9) sites will still require funding after this fiscal year. 117,324 users are currently on the VIPER Network consisting of more than 176 Federal, State and County emergency responding agencies. This quarter gain represented over 3,108 additional user radios.

SUA Status – We are pleased to announce that VIPER has just completed the upgrade to Release 7.17 utilizing the one-time funding of \$5M provided by the Legislature for use in fiscal year 2018/2019 to bring the network up to the current release. Additionally, the Legislature has provided \$1.5M non-recurring for the SUA long-term contract. VIPER has also entered into a nine (9) year agreement with Motorola to provide the long-term SUA contract with subsequent system upgrades scheduled every three (3) years. We hope the Legislature will continue to allocate the \$1.5M recurring appropriation in subsequent fiscal years.

New Tower Construction Progress – Five (5) new sites have been identified for new construction. One site that was originally forecast for completion by the end of this fiscal year has been pushed into the next fiscal year due to issues with the land use. No additional site construction from Federal grant dollars is expected due to changes in the performance period for use of federal funding.

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Other Significant Projects:

- **GTR upgrade-** The end of life (EOL) has been reached for the current Quantar Base Stations and additional funds are needed to purchase replacement GTR Base Stations prior to the cancellation of product support scheduled for 31 December 2018. The anticipated cost for replacement of the Quantar Base Stations at the 187 affected sites is \$28,500,530. This, like the SUA upgrade represents the most critical of VIPER's current needs. Through S.L. 2018-5, we were provided \$8.7M for the GTR base station upgrade this fiscal year. All GTR replacement equipment funded from our FY18/19 appropriation has been ordered and the first round of equipment change out has begun and will be completed no later than 15 June, 2019. VIPER will still require an additional \$19,800,530 to complete the upgrade of the remaining Quantar stations statewide. It is important to note that the End of Life (EOL) for the Quantar base stations was 31 December, 2018 so it remains a critical need for VIPER to receive funding to complete the equipment conversion to the GTR Platform.
- **MOSCAD-** VIPER is nearing the completion of the upgrade to the MOSCAD site monitoring equipment which allows our Network Operation Center (NOC) to view the status of components that make up the VIPER system. Some of the components that form the system are generators, tower lighting, and HVAC systems. This equipment is essential because it helps ensure that the VIPER system is operating properly for our Emergency Responder end-users.
- **Microwave Upgrade-** Finally, VIPER operates a statewide microwave network in conjunction with the University of North Carolina. This network utilizes T1 technology (circuit based) which has been the national standard for connectivity for over 50 years. With the transition over the Ethernet and the ability to manage bandwidth needs more efficiently, the Manufacturer (Alcatel) will no longer support our current MDR-8000 microwave radios past the end of CY2021. This will require the state to seek funding to replace the current microwave radios beginning in FY2021 and extending through FY2024. The anticipated funding requirement for the replacement of the microwave radios is \$18,000,000 and would be split equally across the four fiscal years at \$4,500,000 per year.