



Interoperable Communications in Virginia

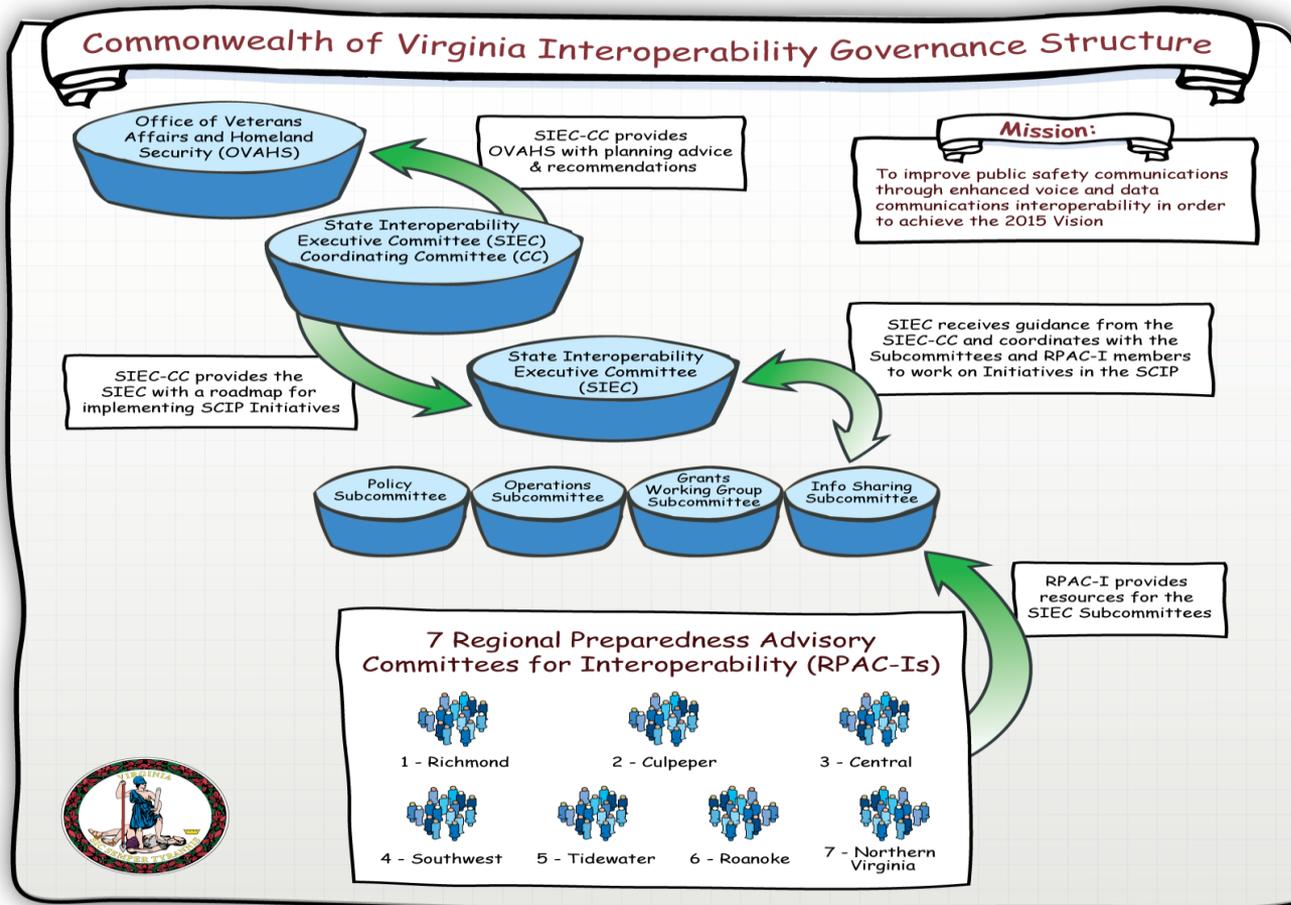
November 2011

Overview of Virginia

- Virginia is 430 miles long and 200 miles wide. Incorporating a total of 39,594.07 square miles
- Jurisdictions: 142
- RPAC-I Jurisdictions: 134
- Population: 8,001,024



Governance Structure



Building Stronger Governance

First Responder Community of Practice (FRCoP)

Seven regional RPAC-I communities and a community for the SIEC & SIEC-CC have been established to:

- Build stronger working relationships
- Increase communication between the regions and the state
- Provide a repository for information that all members can access

Community Listing



Connecting the First Responder Community

What is First Responder Communities of Practice

First Responder Communities of Practice is an online network of vetted, active and retired First Responders, emergency and Federal, State, local, or Tribal Homeland Security officials sponsored by the U. S. Department of Homeland Security Technology (S&T) Directorate's First Responder Technologies (R-Tech) program. Registered members of this program share information, ideas, and best practices, enabling them to more efficiently and effectively prepare for all hazards.

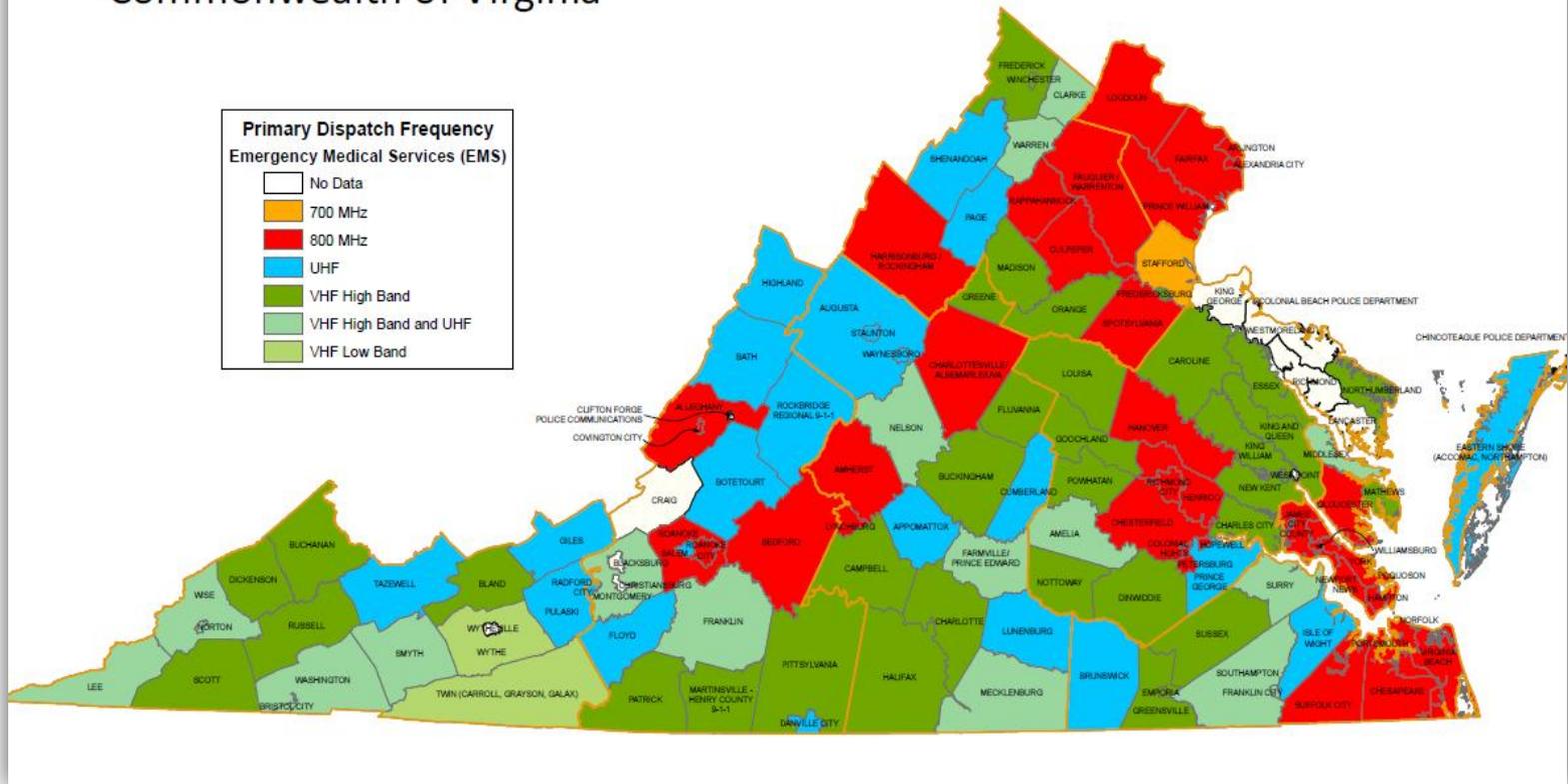
What Can I do Here?



Virginia Frequencies

Emergency Medical Services (EMS)

Commonwealth of Virginia

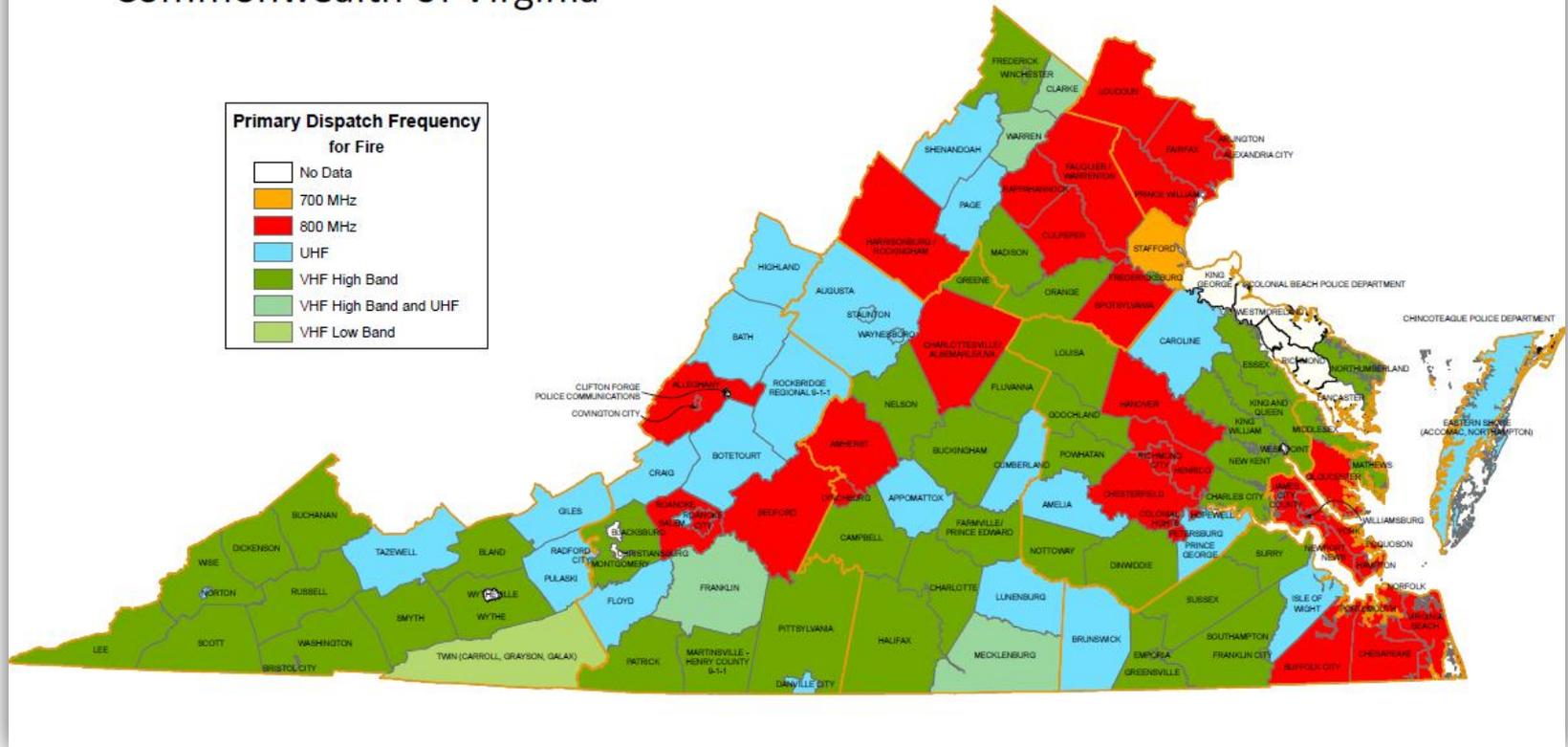


Interoperability in Virginia



Virginia Frequencies Fire

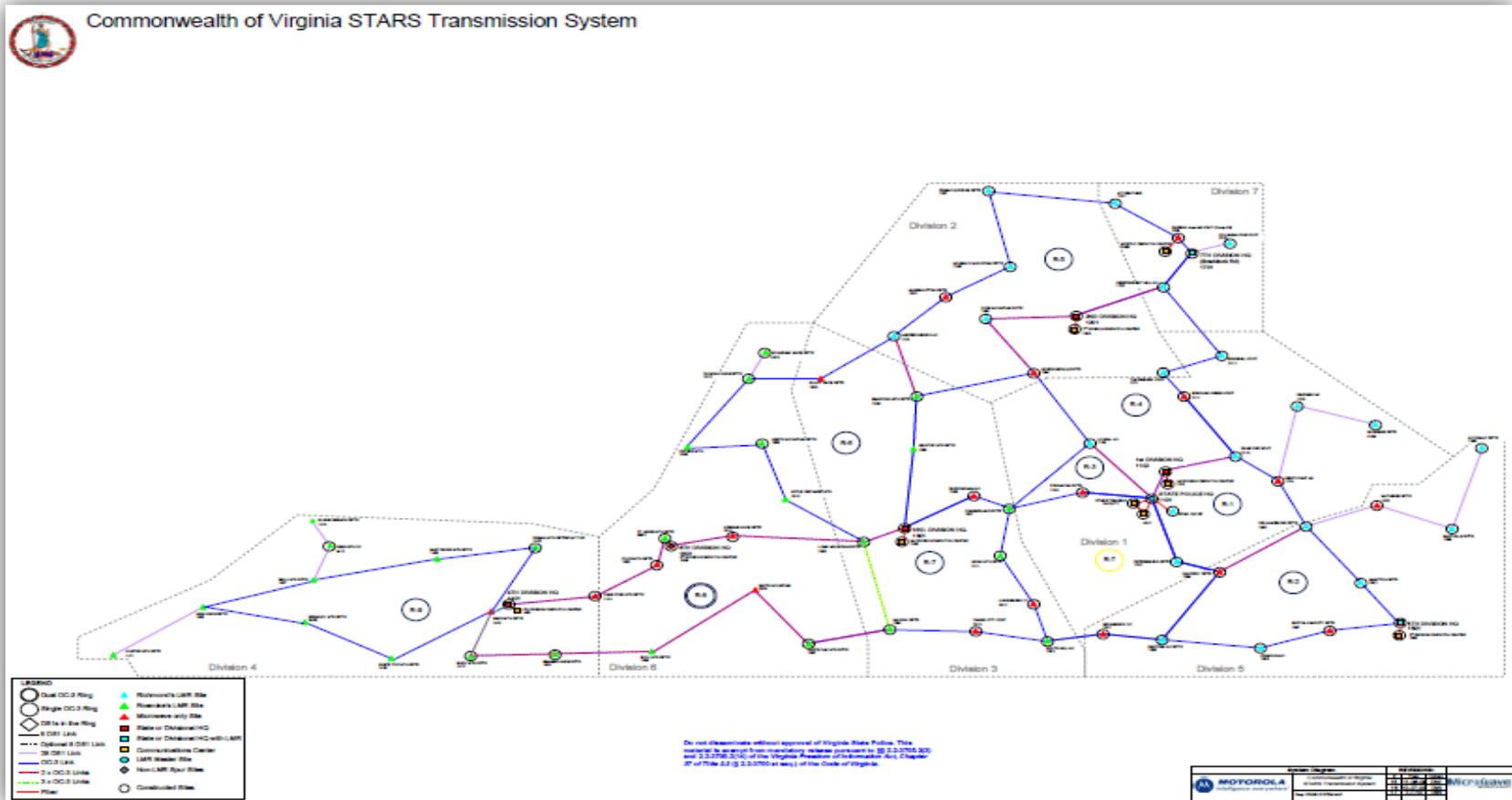
Commonwealth of Virginia



Interoperability in Virginia



Statewide Agencies Radio System (STARS)



Interoperability in Virginia



Commonwealth's Link to Interoperability

An Overview

- Virginia's COMLinc is a "System of Systems" approach to interoperability. The COMLinc system creates a cost effective bridge between existing communication infrastructures.
- There are currently 108 COMLinc sites across the Commonwealth, in 93 jurisdictions.
- To date, the Commonwealth has invested nearly \$9 million on COMLinc.
- RPAC-I Region 2 is piloting a COMLinc program.



COMLinc Compatibility

The COMLinc system enables localities, utilizing diverse spectrums and communication equipment to communicate seamlessly.

RIOS Physical Ports - Radios, Telephones and More



Interoperability in Virginia



Defining Interoperability in Virginia

- The Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee - Coordinating Committee (SIEC-CC) is working to define interoperability in the Commonwealth
- The 2015 Goal for Interoperability
 - *“By 2015, agencies and their representatives at the local, regional, state, and federal levels will be able to communicate using compatible systems, in real time, across disciplines and jurisdictions, to respond more effectively during day-to-day operations and major emergency situations.”*



Current Fiscal Challenges

- 50% Reduction in SHSGP
- Potential Loss of 1.5 UASI's
- Loss of IECGP
- Sustainment
- Mandates



Grants: The New Perspective

- Planning, Training, Exercises, and Sustainment are the necessary direction for grant applications.
- The reorganized communications grant process is structured in a manner to foster peer input in order to effectively identify projects that will increase interoperable communications across the commonwealth.
- Grant Application Process
 - All communications grant applications are reviewed and scored by the SIEC-CC.
 - Once the applications have been reviewed, they are sent to the SWIC.
 - The SWIC then sends his recommendations to senior leadership based on SCIP compliance.



Communication Unit Leaders (COML) Statewide Program

- The Virginia COML program officially began during the month of October at the APCO/NENA/Interoperability Conference
- The COML program encompasses all elements for COML qualification.
 - Prerequisites
 - The COML training course
 - All-Hazards COML Task Book
 - Credentialing
 - Qualification
 - Requalification



Broadband and Re-allocation of the “D” Block

- It is the Commonwealth’s position that the FCC allocate the “D” block to public safety and impose interoperability standards for its use.
- It is the Commonwealth’s position that the “D” block spectrum should be allocated to the State, maintaining primacy in any governance structure. The state would manage the use, implementation, and solutions based on the varied requirements, threat assessments, and needs of jurisdictions across the state.

