North Carolina’s Application of P25 Standards

Greg Hauser – North Carolina Emergency Management
Statewide Interoperability Coordinator

Accurate as of 10/5/2019
Communications Branch Manager

- Statewide Interoperability Coordinator
- Emergency Support Function #2
- Alerts and Warnings State POC
- 24 Hour Operations Center (State EOC)
- Other duties as assigned
Statewide Interoperability Coordinator (SWIC)

- Executive Director of the Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee (SIEC)
- Oversee the development and implementation of the State Communications Interoperability Plan (SCIP)
- Coordinate training and readiness of local agencies and tactical communicators
- Serves as an SME for operability matters

Accurate as of 10/5/2019
Statewide Interoperability Coordinator (SWIC)

- Work with border states to ensure situational awareness/coordination
  - NCSWIC

- Work with regional states to ensure situational awareness/coordination
  - RECCWG

- Work with federal partners to ensure situational awareness/coordination
Project 25 in North Carolina

- **Statewide P25 Radio Network (VIPER)**
  - 122,000 users
  - 240 sites
  - Managed and maintained by the North Carolina State Highway Patrol

- **Multiple Regional P25 networks**
  - Charlotte UASI
  - Durham/Fayetteville
  - Guilford Metro (Greensboro)
  - Asheville
  - Raleigh/Wake
  - Cleveland County (Shelby)

Accurate as of 10/5/2019
Project 25 “Wins” in North Carolina

- Common platforms for disaster response
  - “Grab a cache of radios and send them down range!”
Project 25 “Wins” in North Carolina

- Interoperability
  Interoperability = Relationships
  Relationships = Communications

- Shared talkgroups
- System administrator trust level
- Agreed upon ID scheme

Pender County, NC – Deputy COML
Hurricane Florence
Project 25 “Wins” in North Carolina

• Advances in Technology
  – Systems continue to gain resiliency and redundancy
  – Features become more user driven
    • Responder safety
  – Increased user capacity
Project 25 “Gaps” in North Carolina

• Increased equipment costs
  – Areas with the greatest needs cannot afford their operational needs (FF turnout gear, flack vests, etc)
  – What is next with technology?
  – How much will it cost?

Accurate as of 10/5/2019
Project 25 “Gaps” in North Carolina

• Vendor “built in obsolescence”
  – If I buy it now, how long until I “have to” upgrade or replace it?
  – You’re telling me that I bought a $3000 radio and I won’t be ready for future P25 system requirements?
  – Do I purchase something for $1000 and replace it 5 times, or do I pay $5000 now?
Project 25 “Gaps” in North Carolina

- Education and equipment gaps
  - “My system can do that.. We just went digital!”
  - “Why can’t you just flash my radio with their channels?”

- Uncommon programming software
- Uncommon battery charging
- No proof of programmer capability

Accurate as of 10/5/2019
Project 25 “Gaps” in North Carolina

• Advances in Technology
  – PTT applications and smart devices
  – Gateway interactions
  – Encryption protocols

• Technology doesn’t just help those intending to do good.

Accurate as of 10/5/2019
Questions?

THANK YOU!

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ESF2 – North Carolina EOC
Hurricane Florence