BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE GEORGIA EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS AUTHORITY

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 24, 2021 10:30 AM TO 1:00 PM HYBRID MEETING

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Board Members Present:

Billy Hancock, Chairperson William Wright, Secretary Cheryl Greathouse Amy Oneacre Greg Whitaker Ted Wynn Steve Nichols Kevin Curtin

Billy Grogan Steve Horton

Board Members Absent:

Major Robert Balkcom Ted Wynn Alex Lee, Vice Chairperson Peter Olson Michael Wall

The Georgia Emergency Communications Authority held a hybrid board meeting on March 24, 2021 at the Georgia Public Safety Training Center, with an option to call-in to the conference line. A List of Attendees, an Agenda, and the Meeting Presentation are attached hereto and made official parts of these minutes as Attachments #1, #2 and #3. Billy Hancock called the meeting to order at 10:32 AM.

All board members are present except Maj. Robert Balkcom, Ted Wynn, Alex Lee, Peter Olson and Michael Wall.

Chairperson Hancock welcomed everyone to the meeting and the conference call.

Roll Call

Approval of the Minutes:

Michael Nix presented the minutes of the February 17, 2021 meeting for discussion and approval. Chairperson Billy Hancock asked for a motion for the approval of the minutes; Cheryl Greathouse made a motion to approve the minutes. William Wright seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Executive Director's Update

Michael Nix provided updates on GECA's support for the COVID-19 Mass Vaccination Sites. GECA continues to deliver to COVID-19-positive information to 911 centers; they have done so for over 350 days. In the last 30-days, GECA staff activated and distributed over 500 iPads and 200 radios to the State Operated Mass Vaccination Sites. GECA Field Staff is also working as support at the vaccination sites. Director Nix provided updates on FY20/FY21 911 fee amounts and GECA funds. Budget Planning begins in late spring; GECA will begin working on a more

regular reporting system to deliver to the Finance and Budget Committee and will work to prioritize any projects that need to be funded in the next fiscal year. Director Nix provided an update on the Field Staff program which has been implemented for a year. Nix also provided a federal update in regard to communications and 911. Natalie Lee with the Geospatial Information Office (GIO) provided a progress report for the GIS component of NG911.

See Attachment #3 for full presentation.

Board Presentations

Chairperson Billy Hancock opened the floor for board presentations. Cheryl Greathouse presented on 911 Training and the 911 Directors Academy update. A 40-hour, pilot class will be offered in May 2021. The curriculum was carefully created by Occupational Analysis. Greathouse also discussed vendor sponsored grant training. GPSTC and GECA have been working together to decipher the needs throughout the state via surveys.

Old Business

Chairperson Billy Hancock opened the floor for old business. Michael Nix began with a legislative discussion. HB 631, HB 787, SB 308, HB 84 and SB 76 were all discussed. The NG911 Readiness Assessment was conducted by Mission Critical Partners and Nicola Tidey presented their findings of what we have completed thus far, and what we have yet to complete.

New Business

Chairperson Billy Hancock opened the floor for new business. There was no new business to discuss.

Public Comment:

Chairperson Billy Hancock opened the floor for public comment. There were no public comments made.

Adjournment:

There being no further business to be brought before the Board, Michael Nix called for a motion to adjourn. Chairperson Billy Hancock made a motion and William Wright seconded the motion. Cheryl Greathouse approved the motion and the meeting adjourned at 12:39 PM.

These minutes are hereby approved and adopted this 8 th of June 2021.				
Billy Hancock	 William Wright			
Chairperson	Secretary			

Official Attachments:

- 1. List of Attendees
- 2. Agenda
- 3. Meeting Presentation

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BOARD MEETING ATTENDEES

Board Members:

Billy Hancock, Chairperson William Wright, Secretary Amy Oneacre Cheryl Greathouse Steve Horton Greg Whitaker Kevin Curtin Billy Grogan Steve Nichols

GECA Staff Members:

Michael Nix Aleisha Rucker-Wright Bess Larson Skylar Whitaker

9-1-1 Advisory Panel:

Daniel Dunlap, Augusta-Richmond County Jason Lawson, Troup County Lynn Smith, APCO Russ Palmer Barry Woodward

Others Attending:

Natalie Lee Nicola Tidey BRIAN P. KEMP GOVERNOR



MICHAEL NIX EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Board of Directors of the Georgia Emergency Communications Authority

Wednesday, March 24, 2021
10:30 a.m. –1:00 p.m.
Hybrid Meeting
Georgia Public Safety Training Center, Bay A
1000 Indian Springs Drive
Forsyth, GA 31029

Call Information:

gema.webex.com
Meeting Number (Access Code): 185 930 1461
Meeting Password: GECA2021!
-or1-855-282-6330
Meeting Number (Access Code) 185 930 1461

Meeting Agenda*

- I. Call to Order/Opening Remarks—Chairperson Billy Hancock
- II. Roll Call—Secretary William Wright
- III. Executive Director's Update—Michael Nix
- IV. Board Presentations—NG911 Training Update—Cheryl Greathouse
- V. Old Business
 - A. Legislation Discussion
 - B. RFP Update
- VI. New Business
- VII. Public Comment

VIII. Adjourn

*Meeting Agenda is subject to change



Georgia Emergency Communications Authority

March 24, 2021 Board Meeting



GECA support for COVID-19

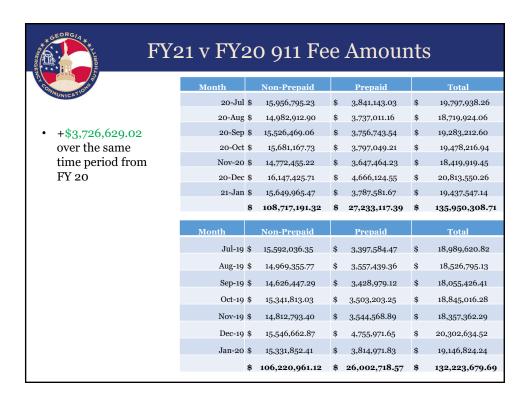
- GECA staff continues to distribute COVIDpositive address information to PSAPs.
 - 350+ days
- Over the last month, GECA staff has activated and distributed over 500 iPads and 200 radios to support the 9 stateoperated mass vaccination sites

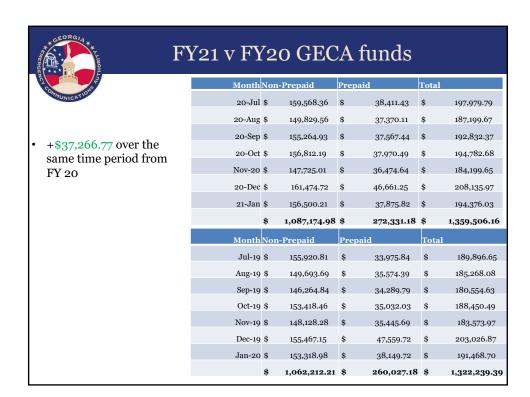


COVID-19

GECA support at state-operated mass vaccination sites:

- Amy Ramsey: Deputy Site Lead in Cartersville
- Jonathan Jones: Deputy Site Lead in Clarkesville
- Tammy Smith:
 Alternate Site Lead
 in Macon
- Pamela Waters: Communications Support at 3 sites
- Edwin Whitworth: Deputy Site Lead in Columbus
- Greg Smith: Communications Support at 3 sites





Category	FY 2021 Budget	YTD Expenditures (as of Feb. 28)	% Spent YTD (as of Feb. 28)
Personnel	\$813,701.18	\$359,191	44%
IT and Equipment	\$50,000.00	\$22,737	45%
Motor Vehicles	\$27,765.00	\$5,804	21%
Regular Operating	\$133,400.00	\$36,338	27%
Telecomms	\$81,500.00	\$16,909	21%
Contracts	\$134,000.00	\$49,290	37%
Grant Match Requirements	\$126,412.85	\$109,917	87%*
Total	\$1,366,779.03	\$400,594.01	44%



Budget Planning

- The Finance/Budget Committee will begin meeting later this Spring to discuss the FY 2022 Budget.
- Develop regular budget updates to the committee
- Work to identify priorities/projects to be funded in the FY 2022 Budget



Georgia Emergency Communications Authority

Federal Updates



9-8-8 Planning

- In October 2020, the National Suicide Hotline Designation Act of 2020 was signed and became law.
- It designates 9-8-8 as the new national suicide and mental health crisis hotline number.
- In Georgia, we have the Georgia Crisis and Access Line (GCAL) which serves as our crisis hotline.
- The Georgia 9-8-8 Coalition is looking for 2-3 911 directors interested in serving on their planning committee.
 - Monthly meetings April through September



FCC – outage reporting

- FCC to Share Communications Outage Information with Federal and State Agencies
- NORS: Network Outage Reporting System
- DIRS: Disaster Information Reporting System
- FCC currently only shares this information with U.S. DHS (FEMA) and then FEMA shares aggregated data with states.
- Once the states receive the outage information, it is usually 24+ hours old.
- This will give GECA greater situational awareness regarding wireline/wireless outages in the state.



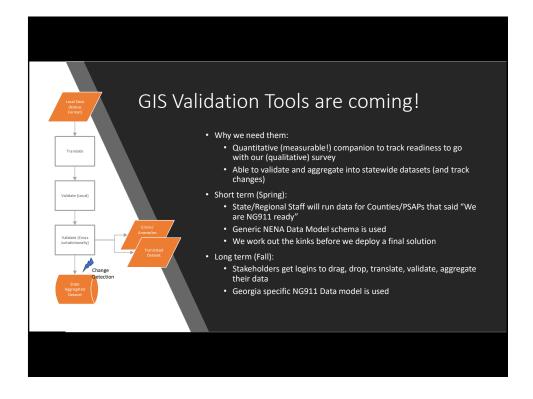
FCC – 911 fee diversion

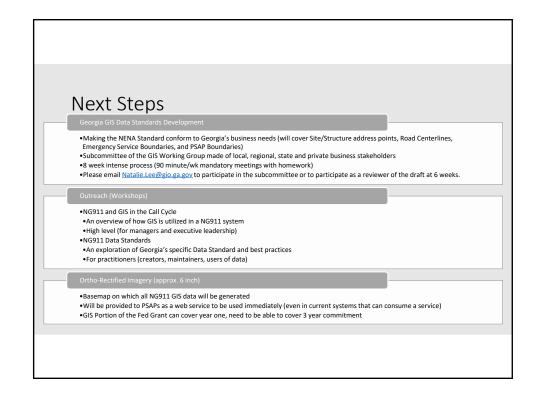
- The Consolidated Appropriations Act (COVID-19 stimulus + omnibus spending bill) passed at the end of 2020 contained a provision aimed at reducing 911 fee diversion in states.
- The law directed the FCC to create a new federal advisory committee, the Ending 911 Fee Diversion Now Strike Force (911 Strike Force)
- The Strike Force is to study how the federal government can "most expeditiously" end diversion of 911 fees and charges by states.
- Additionally, the FCC provided a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) which would "designate the uses of 911 fees by states, establish a ruling process for providing fee diversion guidance to the states, and codify restrictions imposed on states engaged in fee diversion."



Federal NG911 Legislation

- U.S. House of Representatives Democrats have proposed a large infrastructure bill (Leading Infrastructure for Tomorrow's America Act, LIFT America Act) that would provide \$15 billion in federal funds to pay for NG911 upgrades.
- This is a \$3 billion increase in proposed funding compared to previous NG911 funding bills introduced in Congress recently.
- Major supporters of this bills include: APCO, Major Sheriffs Ass'n, Major Chiefs Ass'n, National Sheriffs Ass'n, IACP, IAFC, Metro Fire Chiefs Ass'n, Nat'l Ass'n of State EMS Officials



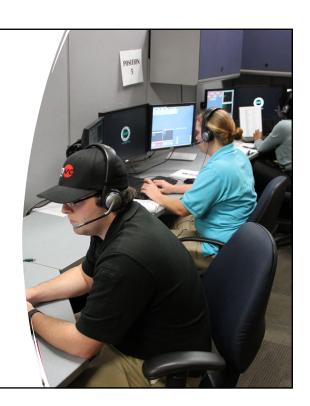


Georgia Emergency Communications Authority 10 minute break



Basic Communications Officer Training Course

- Due to COVID, POST waived the 6-month requirement through December 31, 2020.
- GPSTC has unannounced classes scheduled to address backlog caused by COVID.





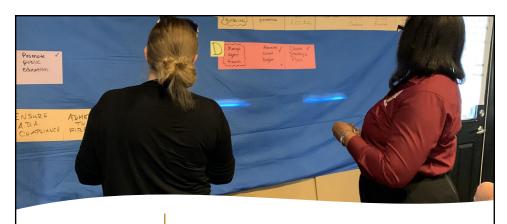
911 Directors Academy





911 Directors Academy

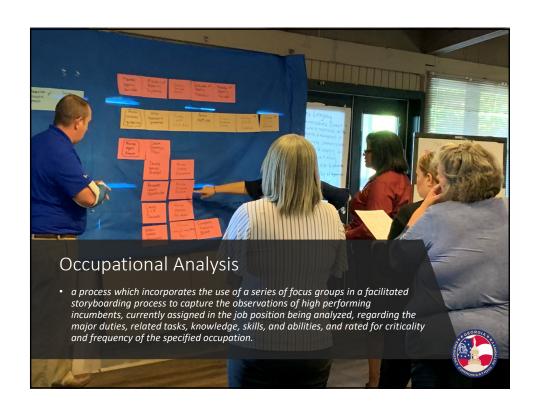
- Anticipated to be a minimum of 40 hours.
- Pilot offering possibly scheduled for April 26-30 or May 24-28
- Anticipate 2nd offering in July.

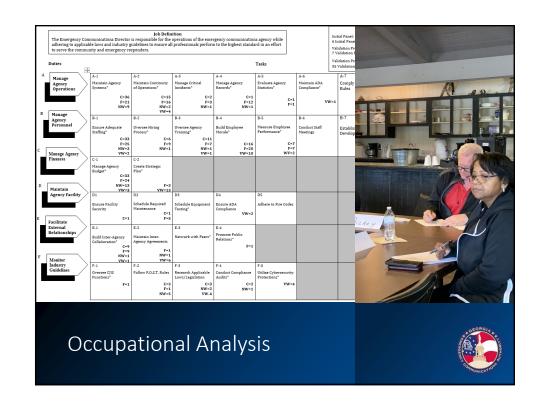


911 Directors Academy

- GPSTC completed a series of occupational analysis workshops to analyze training needs.
- 3 workshops between October 2019 and March 2020.
- Total participants = 48 current Georgia 911 Directors.
- Total years of experience = 633 years.









- Course outline and objectives were developed, and research and course development began in April 2020.
- Three curriculum developers have completed 1,343 hours of work through the end of February 2021.
- 40 hours of classroom training supplemented by an online classroom with student engagement activities and reference documents.

911 Directors Academy Outline



- odule 1: Georgia Emergency Communications Authority
 - Discuss the mission of the Georgia Emergency Communications Authority (GECA)
 - Identify the areas of responsibility and organizational structure of

Module 2:

- Discuss the National Incident Management System (NIMS) and the use o Telecommunicator Emergency Response Taskforces (TERT teams) to respond to critical incidents.
- Differentiate tactical dispatch from TERT.
- Identify Communication Unit Leaders (COML), Communications Unit Technicians (COMT), and other emergency communications aspects of ESF-2.

Discuss the ECC's interaction with ESP-2 of

- Identify Federal Communications Commission (FCC) requirements that impact 911
- operations.

 Identify the requirements of O.C.G.A. 35-8-23 and 36-60-19 and the Peace Officer
 Standards and Training Council (POST) rules regarding certification and training of
- Discuss mandatory compliance audits conducted by CIIS/GCIC/NCIC, POST, and oth

Module 4: 911 Fee Collection & Other Revenue Sources (C-1)

- Review the statutory requirements for 911 fee collection and disbursement in OCGA
- Discuss the process for fee disbursement from the state to local ECCs and the relate reporting documentation.
- Discuss grant funding opportunities for ECCs.
- Identify other revenue sources available to ECCs.
- Review statutory requirements for expenditures of 911 funds under OCGA 46-5-13

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Page |

Course Overview

- Registration & Orientation (0.5 hour)
- Unit 1: Emergency Communications in Georgia (5.5 hours)
- Unit 2: Leadership Development and Professional Competence (2 hours)
- Unit 3: Agency Operations Management (12 hours)
- Unit 4: Technology (12 hours)
- Unit 5: Personnel Management (6 hours)
- Unit 6: Finance and Budget (1 hour)
- Testing and Course Completion (1 hour)



Unit 1: Emergency Communications in Georgia

- Module 1: Georgia Emergency Communications Authority
- Module 2: 911 Fee Collection & Other Revenue Sources
- Module 3: Emergency Support Function ESF-2
- Module 4: Critical Incident Management
- Module 5: Continuity of Operations Planning
- Module 6: Regulatory Requirements





Unit 2: Leadership Development and Professional Competence

- Module 1: Leadership vs. Management
- Module 2: Behavioral Styles
- Module 3: Professional & Personal Growth







Unit 5: Personnel Management





Module 1: Employment Laws

Module 2: Staffing & Scheduling

Module 3: Recruitment & Hiring

Module 4: Training Program Management

Module 5: Performance Management

Systems

Module 6: Promotional Systems, Career Development Plans, &

Succession Planning

Module 7: Employee Health, Wellness, &

Morale

Module 8: Disciplinary Systems

Unit 6: Finance & Budget

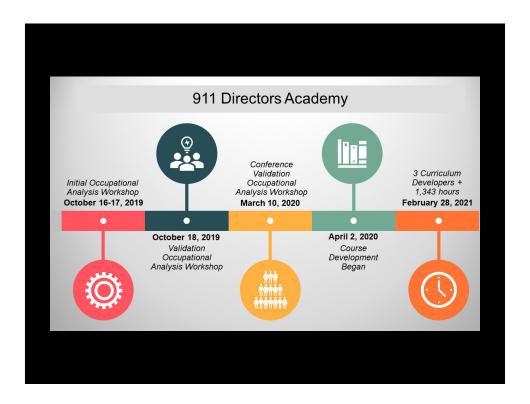
Module 1: Local Government Operations Budgeting

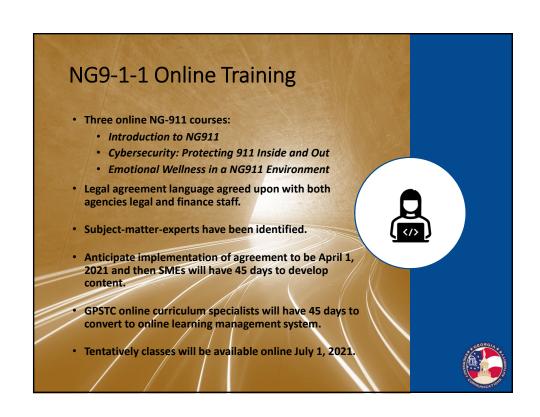
Module 2: Effective RFP/RFQ Proposals

Module 3: Capital Assets & Capital Improvement Plans

Module 4: Employee Compensation







Vendor-Sponsored Grant Training

- GPSTC and GECA conducted a training needs survey to complement the recommendations from the GECA Training Sub-committee/Working Group.
- Two surveys:
 - Communications officers and line-level supervisors (255 responses).
 - Communications managers and directors (72 responses).

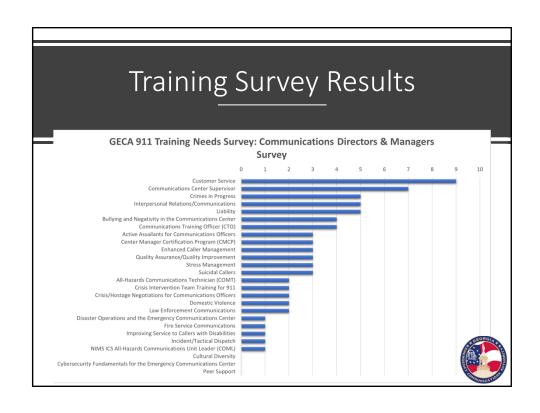


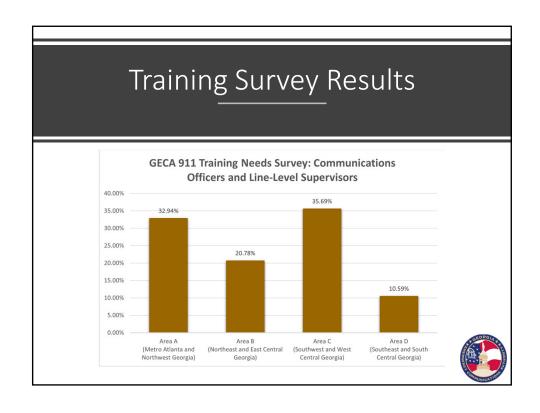
Vendor-Sponsored Grant Training

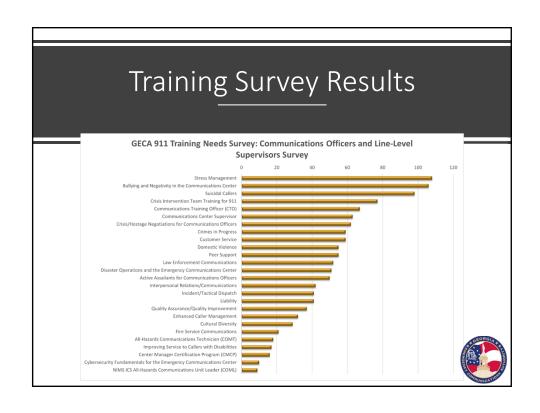
- Training locations identified.
- Training vendor engagement completed to determine logistics and costs.
- GECA grant team establishing the logistics with 911 centers for tuition payment procedures.













- Complete pilot of the 911 Directors Academy.
- Complete the development of the 3 online NG911 training courses.
- Contract and deliver vendor-sponsored training in the regions.



Current Training Options

- Basic Communications Officer Training
- Dispatcher's Role in Fire Communications
- At-Risk Adults
- · Autism and De-escalation
- · Cultural Awareness
- Effective Workplace Communication
- Ethics and Professionalism
- Family Violence
- Georgia Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Training for 9-1-1 Telecommunicators



Current Training Options

- Handling TTY Calls
- Human Trafficking
- Intellectual and Neurodevelopmental Disabilities
- Language Disorders
- Mental and Emotional Wellness
- · Sex Trafficking
- Sovereign Citizen Encounters
- Speech Disorders
- Start the Conversation





Georgia Emergency Communications Authority

Legislation Discussion



HB 631 – Flagging addresses bill

- Directs GECA to assist PSAPs, if requested, with their processes of flagging addresses where an individual has a "physical, mental, or neurological condition which impedes his or her ability to communicate with any law enforcement officer or emergency responder."
- The information provided would be *voluntary* and is not mandatory for citizens to report these conditions to 911.
- Passed Senate Public Safety Committee on 3/17 and awaits floor vote in Senate and final passage back in the House.



HB 787/SB 308 - Translation bill

- Introduced 3/23 and assigned to public safety committees
- Directs GECA to "establish a system of language translation services for use by 911 systems statewide."
- Introduced in response to the Gold Spa shooting as one of the victim's husband arrived on scene and was unable to communicate with APD as he was speaking in Korean.
- Most commonly utilized translation services are LanguageLine, Telelanguage, and Voiance



SB 84 - POAB bill

- Has received hearing in Senate Retirement committee and no committee action will be taken this year.
- House and Senate Retirement committees will meet in the interim to determine which retirement bills will move forward for actuarial study.
- By November 1st, the State Auditor will provide the Retirement committee chairpersons with studies showing the cost of each bill.
- Next session, the committees will meet to consider the bill with knowledge of costs.



SB 76 - NG911 bill

- Senator Albers has committed to holding hearings in the interim on SB 76 to allow for broader discussion on NG911 and the considerations or changes needed to implement NG911 in the state.
- Intend to hold in-person, regional meetings this Summer and Fall to serve two purposes:
 - NG911 education
 - Opportunity to present the bill and gather feedback on its provisions.
- Legislative Review Committee will also be meeting to combine internal/external feedback and make any additional recommendations to the Board regarding SB 76.



NG911 Readiness and Procurement: Project Updates

Objectives

- Educate stakeholders regarding NG911 what it is and why it benefits the PSAPs and, ultimately, the citizens and emergency responders they serve.
- Conduct a NG911 Readiness assessment to identify technological and operational gaps in GECA's readiness to support NG911 capabilities.
- Plan, procure and implement both ESInet and NGCS solutions that provide the greatest value to the agencies and citizens



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