



# COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

## Executive Department

### Executive Directive Three (2019)

#### Continuing the Statewide Agencies Radio System (STARS)

##### Importance of the Initiative

Virginia has recognized the necessity of establishing a statewide system of integrated land mobile radio and wireless data communication to be used and maintained for state agencies. As a result, the Statewide Agencies Radio System (STARS) was developed. This system seeks to meet the mutual communication needs of state and local entities that are engaged in public protection and safety. Interoperable communications among state agencies and localities is just as important now as it was then. The Northam Administration reaffirms its commitment to enhancing communications systems with this Directive.

The management of a statewide radio system shared between numerous agencies and localities poses considerable challenges. Due to the complex, multi-user nature of STARS, a centralized structure is necessary to meet the needs of users and to provide direction, troubleshooting support, and communication that ensures efficient system operation.

In order to be effective, a statewide radio system must meet the demands of a diverse group of agencies. Therefore, Cabinet Secretaries for each of the participating agencies, must be empowered to oversee the system. Additionally, a Virginia State Police (VSP) maintenance and operation unit will manage, maintain, and operate the reliable integrated radio communications system.

##### Continuation of the Statewide Agencies Radio System (STARS)

By virtue of the authority vested in me as Governor under Article V of the Constitution of Virginia and under the laws of the Commonwealth, including but not limited to § 2.2-103 of the *Code of Virginia*, and subject to my continuing and ultimate authority and responsibility to act in such matters. I hereby continue the STARS Initiative.

Pursuant to Chapter 3, Title 52, of the *Code of Virginia*, I hereby continue the initiatives associated with STARS to meet the need for an integrated land mobile radio and wireless data communications system for certain state and local entities for interconnection via the Commonwealth Link to Interoperable Communications (COMLINC), between state and local communication systems. As part of this initiative, I hereby continue the STARS Steering Group

(Steering Group), the STARS Management Team (Management Team), and the User Agency Requirements Committee (UARC).

### **STARS Initiative Membership**

The STARS Initiative Membership shall consist of the following entities, and any other state and local entities that the Steering Group approves:

- Chesapeake Bay Bridge and Tunnel Police;
- Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services;
- Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control;
- Division of Capitol Police;
- Department of Conservation and Recreation;
- Department of Corrections;
- Department of Emergency Management;
- Department of Environmental Quality;
- Department of Fire Programs;
- Department of Forestry;
- Department of Game and Inland Fisheries;
- Department of Health;
- Department of Juvenile Justice;
- Department of Military Affairs;
- Department of Mines, Minerals, and Energy;
- Department of Motor Vehicles;
- Department of State Police;
- Department of Transportation;
- Virginia Information Technologies Agency;
- Virginia Marine Resources Commission;
- Virginia Port Authority; and
- Buchanan County.

Withdrawal by state agencies from the STARS system shall only be done upon written approval of the Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security.

All STARS-allotted equipment used by a departing state agency, locality or authority shall be returned to the VSP. If an agency purchases additional radios and later decides to leave the STARS system, the radios will be wiped and returned to that agency. All equipment purchased by a state agency, locality, or authority for use on STARS will be maintained and asset managed as part of the STARS radio cache of the VSP. Additional radios can be added to the fleet with the concurrence of the STARS Management Team after determining the impact on the overall network's performance.

## **STARS Steering Group**

The Steering Group shall provide overall direction and governance for the development, implementation, and ongoing operation of STARS.

### **A. Composition of the Steering Group**

The Secretaries of Public Safety and Homeland Security, Transportation, Natural Resources, Commerce and Trade, Health and Human Resources, Agriculture and Forestry, and Finance shall serve as members of the Steering Group.

The Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security shall serve as chair (Chair) of the Steering Group. The Chair of the Steering Group shall have the power to set meetings and make assignments to members of the user group established below.

### **B. Duties of the Steering Group**

The Steering Group shall

- Provide direction and overall governance for STARS, including communications, privacy, and security;
- Coordinate and assign radio frequency licenses granted by either the Federal Communication Commission or the National Telecommunications and Information Administration to agencies of the Commonwealth. Although assigned to individual state agencies, it is within the purview of the STARS Steering Group to determine the use of spectrum resources;
- Promote interagency cooperation and coordination in the use of communications resources;
- Hold meetings at least semiannually; and
- Designate and oversee the Management Team.

## **STARS Initiative Management Team**

The Management Team shall be comprised of VSP staff to oversee the technical development, implementation, and ongoing operation of STARS.

### **A. Composition of the Management Team**

The Management Team shall be led by the VSP Communications Officer and consist of persons with project management, electrical engineering, civil engineering, communications technology, procurement, contract administration, and accounting expertise. The Office of Public Safety and Homeland Security Commonwealth Interoperability Coordinator shall be a member of the Management Team.

## **B. Duties of the Management Team**

The Management Team shall be responsible for maintaining a comprehensive management plan and procedures for the use and operation of STARS. It shall be responsible for resolving general operating issues between STARS users. Any issues that cannot be resolved by the Management Team shall be addressed by the Steering Group. It shall also take possession of all equipment used on STARS by user agencies and authorities (independent of how the equipment was obtained) and be responsible for maintenance and asset management.

The Management Team is responsible for determining which equipment is appropriate for use on STARS on the basis of operability, interoperability, and maintainability. The Management Team shall meet as necessary.

## **STARS Initiative User Agency Requirements Committee (UARC)**

The User Agency Requirements Committee (UARC), consisting of representatives from each member agency, authority and institution, shall assist the Management Team. The UARC shall have two co-chairs. The VSP Communications Officer shall serve as co-chair and the second co-chair shall be recommended by the UARC membership and approved by the Steering Group. The Commonwealth Interoperability Coordinator shall attend all meetings.

### **A. Composition of UARC**

The head of each member agency, authority, and institution shall appoint one member of their respective staffs and a designated alternate to serve on UARC.

### **B. Duties of UARC**

The UARC shall assist the Management Team by establishing such procedures, committees, and subcommittees as the UARC deems appropriate to carry out its work. The UARC shall meet as necessary, but no less often than quarterly.

The designated representative or alternate shall attend meetings of the UARC and shall coordinate a yearly agency audit of STARS equipment with the support of the Management Team. The representatives are the sole points of contact for their agencies pertaining to acquiring, installing, and moving STARS equipment. The representative shall consult with the Management Team prior to adding any electrical device to a STARS-equipped vehicle.

## **STARS Initiative Procurement**

As provided in Item 457 of the 2002 Appropriation Act (Chapter 899 of the 2002 Acts of Assembly), the Commonwealth entered into a contract with Motorola on July 13, 2004, for the design, construction, and implementation of STARS with the approval of the Governor and the

General Assembly. The Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security, with the assistance of the Secretary of Finance, the Department of Planning and Budget, and the Treasurer, continues the oversight of the funding for STARS.

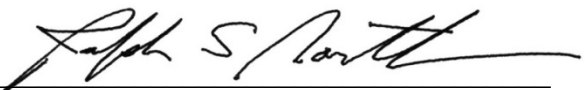
The Steering Group shall report on the status of STARS, including the status of any contract negotiations within the limitations of the Virginia Public Procurement Act (§ 2.2-4300 *et seq.* of the *Code of Virginia*) to the Governor and General Assembly by January 1 of each year.

**Effective Date of this Executive Directive**

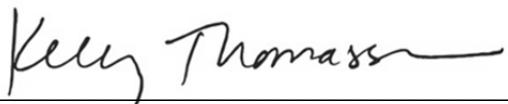
This Executive Directive shall be effective upon its signing and shall remain in force and effect unless amended or rescinded by future executive order or directive.

Given under in my hand and under the Seal of the Commonwealth of Virginia, 14<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2019.



  
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Ralph S. Northam, Governor

Attest:

  
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Kelly Thomasson, Secretary of the Commonwealth