

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Preparing for the 'Big One' – An Essential Step Toward Data Interoperability

San Diego, CA, March 24, 2008 – A robustly designed software tool dubbed BARB (Box-area Automated Run-card Builder), designed by Deccan International has proven phenomenal in establishing multi-jurisdictional communication synchronization in Loudoun County, VA. Dramatically impacted by the 9/11 catastrophe in 2001, Pentagon and the responding agencies encountered a surge in demand for resources to respond to this large-scale incident. To fulfill this demand, agencies far-and-wide with mutual-aid agreements responded to this incident. With no established communication protocols, public safety departments witnessed disorder in coordinating resources among regional agencies. Loudoun County, VA, among the several agencies that responded to this incident, experienced first-hand the mayhem of communication and inter-jurisdictional protocols during this unexpected attack. The lack of pre-planned processes or standard communication procedures affected not only the department's timely response to this critical incident, but also resulted in frustration and wastage of obtainable resources. This incident underscored a dire need for interoperability in data and communication, in order to achieve seamless and timely response to such large-scale incidents.

Since then, Loudoun County, under the direction of Northern Virginia (NOVA) Fire Departments, has established standards that are now heavily reliant on mutual aid and automatic aid. "If we ever get another incident on the scale of 9/11, or a major natural disaster, or a lot of smaller incidents, we will still know who to send as the closest unit to the calls" stated Mike Carter, Loudoun County's CAD Analyst, referring to a past experience when multiple major incidents occurred simultaneously at different locations. On January 13, 1982, a passenger jet crashed into the Potomac River during a snowstorm, and about an hour later, a subway derailed, stretching resources to the limits. "Jurisdictions realized that we need each other in times of crisis, and whoever is closest responds, regardless of jurisdiction. Over the years, this working relationship has better prepared us for everyday events as well as large incidents such as the Pentagon on 9/11".

Liz Mancuso, CAD Specialist, and Mike Carter initiated this process manually. A few months after the onset of this project, they viewed a demo of Deccan International's BARB software. "It changed everything!" exclaimed Mike. "We could have manually done something to increase run-card depth but it would not be nearly as accurate or deep as BARB built for us, nor as easy to maintain. It would have been a larger run-card file with even more errors," explained Mike enunciating the benefits of using Deccan's BARB, an automated software application, to replace the original manual process.

BARB automates the building of massive run-cards of over a 1000 stations/units deep, with minimal errors and speedy processing. Its automated processes allow for inclusion of unlimited



mutual-aid and region-wide stations, specialty vehicles, etc – a complete pick list of resource types that are imperative in planning for large-scale disasters. The only available software of its kind, BARB was the ideal solution for the project-plan designed by Liz and Mike, capable of auto-processing massive amounts of data from nearly 40 neighboring jurisdictions.

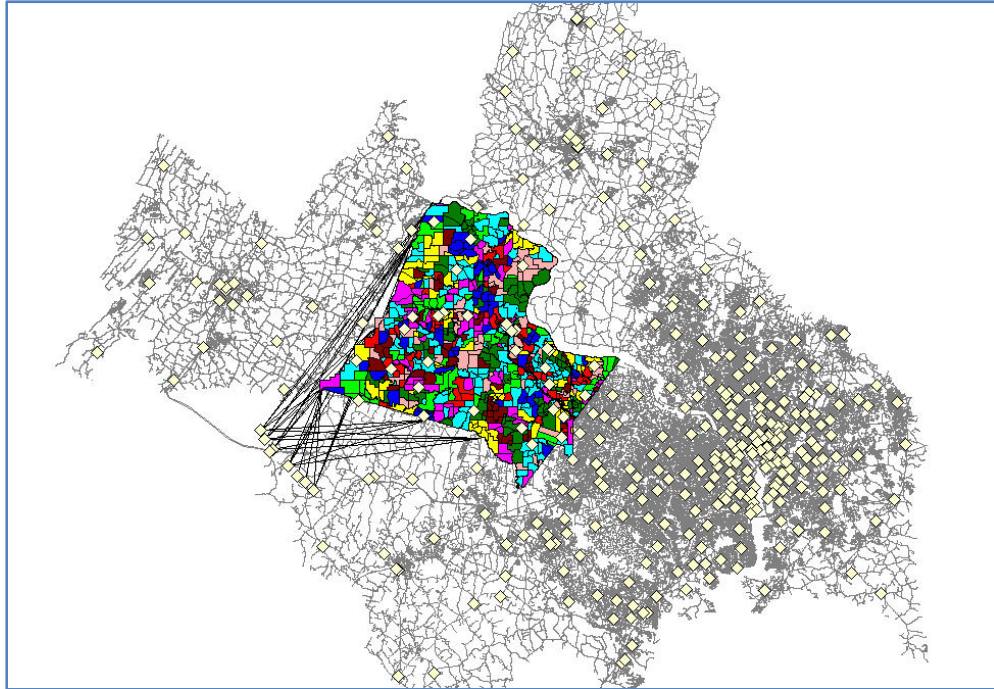


Figure 1: Demonstrating BARB capability of auto-processing massive amounts of data from nearly 40 neighboring jurisdictions.

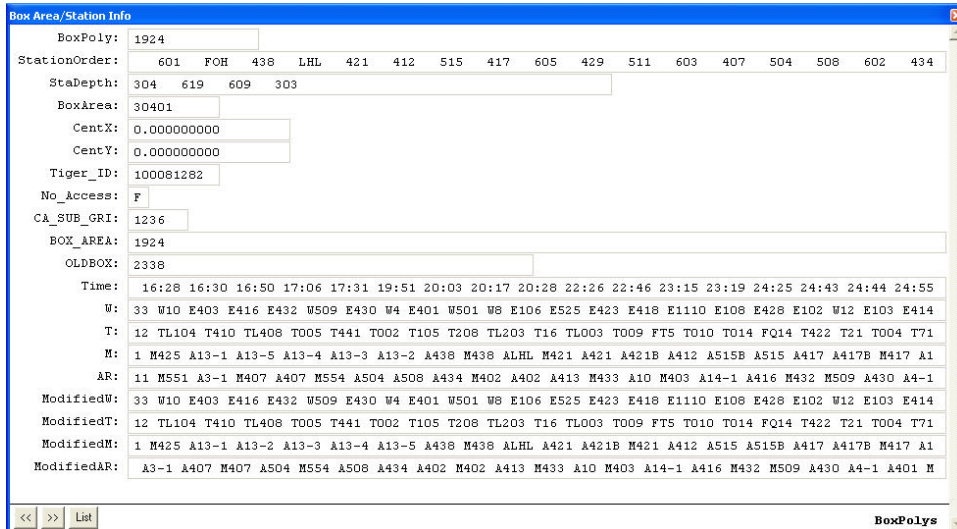


Figure 2: BARB run-card displaying resource line up

BARB was able to exploit the already established mutual-aid and automatic-aid agreements at the local, state, and federal level, as well as plans with other private agencies to ensure the deployment of closet units. “BARB allowed us to build deeper run-cards, easily add, change, or



delete stations or units, and sanity-check our data. If we find an issue, it helped us find the cause of the issue, and allowed us to focus on the problem to get it fixed. We also have the ability to make changes to the data via BARB, so that we can accomplish the task without having to wait for the county GIS data to be repaired and re-shipped to us,” explained Liz Mancuso. With its intrinsic capability, BARB was able to address the largest challenge of getting other jurisdictions’ GIS and station/unit data and making sure it was accurate.

Since the go-live on Dec 19, 2007, Loudoun County has seen significant improvements in its region-wide coordinating procedures. Neighboring jurisdictions, initially hesitant to share data, are now seeing the benefits and pay-off of this system. “BARB not only met the objectives of region-wide information sharing and coordination, it far surpassed our expectations, “explaining the feedback and buy-in received by neighboring jurisdictions of this project.

“We are fortunate in the DC Metro area in that we learned from the past that major incidents can occur in separate locations in the same time” commenting Mike, after successfully coordinating this region-wide project, which will facilitate Loudoun County and neighboring jurisdictions in better preparing and responding to unforeseen and large-scale disasters.

More than 40 agencies across the United States and Canada have implemented Deccan’s BARB software. For your free demonstration of BARB, visit www.deccanintl.com. Deccan International also offers free webinar tutorials of all of its products – every Tuesday at 11:30 a.m. PST.

About Deccan International

Deccan International, founded in 1995, is a leading, San Diego-based developer of public safety software. Deccan’s applications help Fire and EMS to optimize their resources, improve response performance, and enhance operational efficiency. Its product portfolio encompasses two main categories: for Strategic Planning, CAD Analyst and ADAM; and for Real time Operations, LiveMUM, BARB, and DiVa. The company’s client base ranges from major metropolitan Fire and EMS departments to small, community-based agencies throughout the United States and Canada.

For additional information about Deccan International, call Sai Krishnamurthi at 858-764-8333 or visit www.deccanintl.com to view live streaming demos.

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