

ON BOARD

EN ROUTE WITH GEORGIA'S AUTOMATIC VEHICLE LOCATION SYSTEM

No. 4 January 2012

IN THIS ISSUE

On Board is published quarterly to serve you, the Georgia EMS community, with information that will help you maximize the value of your Automated Vehicle Location System.

In this issue, the *AVLS Program Update* highlights completion of Phase Three orientation and equipment deployment in November. GEMA/HS also announced in December 2011 that it will provide funding for a fourth phase focused on metro Atlanta and the UASI area.

Our *Feature Article* focuses on the issue of sustaining the program in the face of diminishing Federal funding support. The point is made that participating agencies would benefit from more time to become familiar with the equipment so they can better demonstrate the value of the AVLS to their local governing authorities and prevail upon them for financial support.

Other articles include a description of an ongoing effort to adopt vehicle identification naming conventions for the AVLS Command Center display, a reminder to users to report any mapping mistakes they discover in the Garmin GPS Personal Navigation Device to both Garmin and NAVTEQ, and a *Hints & Tips* article on how to use the In Motion oMM software to track vehicle speeds.

As always, we welcome your feedback, questions, and ideas.

AVLS Program Update

Phase Three orientation and equipment deployment for the Georgia EMS AVLS program took place in November 2011 with the distribution of 150 AVLS units to twenty-seven EMS providers. Two additional AVLS units will be delivered to another agency this month, bringing the total to 547 units among seventy-five EMS agencies across Georgia. Georgia's program is the largest of its type in the country and is the only program in the U.S. to tie so many individual EMS agencies together into a single, integrated system.



Phase Three AVLS equipment deployment and orientation, November 14, 2011

Table 1, on the following page, lists the service providers and the number of vehicles equipped per provider under the Phase Three AVLS deployment.

There were two Phase Three orientations and equipment deployment meetings. The first took place on November 14, 2011 at the GTRI Conference Center in Atlanta with twenty-two participants representing ten EMS providers. The second meeting took place on November 16, 2011 in Cordele with twenty-four participants representing seventeen providers. By the beginning of this month, over sixty percent of the Phase Three units were already installed and online.

Also, Advanced User Trainings for the Phase Two participants were held November 17 in Cordele and November 18 in Atlanta. Ten users across six EMS agencies attended these trainings and received one-on-one instruction in generating reports, system troubleshooting, optional component additions, customization of the oMM Dashboard display, geofencing setup, and other topics of their choice.

Phase Three participants (as well as any other users who would like to attend) will have an opportunity to attend Advanced User Training two to three

(continued on page 2)

("Program Update" continued from page 1)

months after the majority of the Phase Three systems are online, estimated to be held in March or April 2012. We strongly encourage all AVLS participants to attend these Advanced User Trainings.

#	Name of Service	# Vehicles
1	Alma-Bacon County Ambulance Service	4
2	Appling County Ambulance Service	4
3	Barrow County Emergency Services	9
4	Berrien County Ambulance Service	4
5	Bryan County Emergency Services	6
6	Bulloch County EMS / Rescue	8
7	Candler County EMS	4
8	Charlton County EMS	3
9	Clay County EMS	2
10	Clinch County EMS	3
11	Colquitt County EMS	5
12	Dade County EMS	2
13	Dougherty County EMS	13
14	Elbert County EMS	5
15	Floyd Medical Center EMS	12
16	Georgetown-Quitman EMS	2
17	Habersham Co. EMS	8
18	Heard County Emergency Services	5
19	Lanier County EMS	3
20	Oglethorpe County EMS	4
21	Peachtree City Fire and Rescue	4
22	Pickens County EMS	8
23	Randolph County EMS	3
24	SGMC – South Georgia Medical Center Mobile Health Care Services	13
25	Stewart County EMS	2
26	Towns County EMS	5
27	Turner County Emergency Services	4
28	Upson Ambulance Company LLC	7
Total Phase 3 AVLS Units		152

Table 1. Phase Three AVLS Providers and Units Distributed

Phase Four AVLS Deployment Plans

In December 2011, GEMA/HS announced funding for approximately 150-200 additional AVLS units to be primarily distributed to metro Atlanta/UASI EMS providers who were not eligible under the previous AVLS deployments.

GTRI plans to email invitations to Phase Four EMS

candidate agencies in January 2012 and will place equipment orders in February 2012. If all events occur on schedule, AVLS Phase Four orientation and equipment deployment should take place by end of May 2012.

Phase Four Advanced User Trainings will take place two to three months after Phase Four deployment is completed. The Phase Four units will bring the Georgia EMS AVLS Program totals to between 700-750 equipped vehicles across approximately eighty-five EMS agencies. ■

Feature Article: Sustaining the GA AVLS EMS Program

Since 2010, the Georgia Trauma Care Network (GTCNC) and GEMA/HS have co-sponsored development of the largest integrated AVLS EMS program in the country. The GTCNC purchased equipment for Phase One and has paid the annual In Motion service agreement and monthly air time for each Phase One vehicle. GEMA/HS has done the same for Phases Two and Three and, in December 2011, announced that there will be a Phase Four deployment for the metro Atlanta/UASI area.

Of concern now is how to sustain the program in the face of diminishing Federal financial support. Under current agreements for Phases Two and Three, GEMA/HS pays annual In Motion service agreements and air time costs for one year once a vehicle's AVLS comes online. The GTCNC has budgeted funds to support service agreements and air time for Phase One agencies through the end of fiscal year 2012 (June).

The monthly cost per vehicle is approximately \$55, or \$660 per year. While this is not an unreasonable or insurmountable amount given the enhanced capability the AVLS provides, most participating agencies have not been online long and so have not yet had enough experience with their new systems to fully judge the value versus cost and to make the case for funding support to their local governing authorities. The general feeling is that agencies will find support from their local governing authorities when they can demonstrate and substantiate the added efficiency and improvements to public safety provided by the AVLS.

Funding has been an ongoing topic of discussion among the AVLS Working Group members, and the GTCNC is keenly aware of it as well. The commission is scheduled to meet January 27-28, and a discussion of funding is on the agenda. ■

Common Vehicle Naming Convention for AVLS Command Center Display

With a significant percentage of Georgia's EMS ambulances now visible under a Common Operating Picture (COP) within selected Command Centers, it is valuable to adopt a standardized vehicle naming convention for display within the COP. A variety of vehicle names are currently in use by GA EMS AVLS participants, and duplicates such as "Medic5" or "Rescue3" often occur when looking across multiple agencies statewide in a Command Center view. Many agencies have adopted the convention of prefixing the Georgia County Code Number to their vehicle names, but it is difficult to relate a county number to the owning agency at a glance.

A discussion paper titled "AVLS Naming Recommendations" was distributed to the AVLS Working Group via email in September 2011. This document suggested the use of a combination of a unique three to five character EMS agency abbreviation with a vehicle alphanumeric ID for each Georgia ambulance in the AVLS program. Some examples would include "Jacks-Med 4", "Elber-M-8", "Hall-M31", and "Natio-302ACO."

Each agency may choose any unique three to five character alphabetic abbreviation they wish. GTRI will notify each EMS agency director of this intended change and solicit their input in the selection of their own agency abbreviation. In Motion and/or GTRI will then make the ID changes to each agency's vehicles within the oMM (onBoard™ Mobility Manager) and GTVC software. No change to the individual agency's vehicle signage is required, and the agency's existing CAD system display will be unaffected. The vehicle ID changes will only be visible within the oMM and GTVC software.

These naming conventions are planned as a one-time changeover after the majority of the new Phase 3 participants are online in early 2012. ■

Remember to Report GPS Map Errors

Laurens County EMS recently reported that they have experienced at least three incidents in which the maps on the Garmin GPS PND (Personal Navigation Device) gave incorrect address and routing information for an ambulance call. Other agencies may have found some errors in their areas as well. These errors occur in almost any map-based PND, but they can be potentially dangerous when an EMS vehicle is relying on those

directions to respond to an accident. Garmin and NAVTEQ (the map providers) rely on user reporting to identify and correct errors. Please report any mapping errors you discover to both the Garmin and NAVTEQ error reporting sites:

Garmin site:

<https://my.garmin.com/mapErrors/report.faces>

NAVTEQ site:

<http://mapreporter.navteq.com/>

You should also alert your ambulance crews to any errors you discover so they can double-check addresses and directions in known trouble areas. ■

Hints & Tips: Tracking EMS Vehicle Speeds using the In Motion oMM Software

The Web-based onBoard™ Mobility Manager (oMM) software included with the In Motion Technology AVLS units provides many capabilities, including the ability to show the real-time speeds of AVLS-equipped vehicles. There are a number of ways to see the vehicle speed using the oMM.

The best way to track vehicle speed is with the **Telemetry** application. Using an OBD-II interface to the vehicle, you can get accurate data on speed as well as other vehicle parameters such as coolant temperature, RPM, MIL (Message Indicator Light) and many more. Using Telemetry requires the purchase of additional hardware for each of your vehicles.

Even without the Telemetry application, you can get information on vehicle speed in a number of ways on the oMM. All of the below are available to you now, and are based on GPS-provided data. Please note that GPS-based speed may not be accurate in some cases due to interference and blocking of the GPS signal, and is therefore not suitable for evidentiary purposes:

- **Tracker:** The Tracker view of your fleet is available on both the Dispatch and IT oMM accounts. This view shows a nearly real-time view of your vehicles. To find a vehicle's speed, click on the vehicle in the map to see a pop-up window showing the Current Speed. See the example shown in Figure 1, on the following page:

(continued on page 4)

("Hints & Tips" continued from page 3)

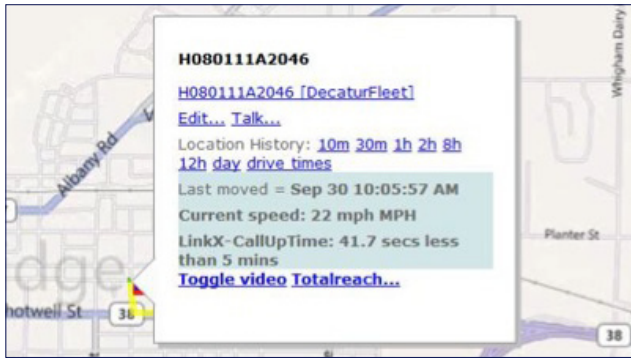


Figure 1. Vehicle Speed "Pop-Up" Display

- **Stats:** For historical speed data, click on the "Stats" tab and scroll down to the "GPS" section. To obtain data for one or more vehicles within a desired time frame (latest speed, previous days, range of time, etc) select "GPS Location-speedmph". You can export the speed data to an Excel file, or click the Graph icon and get the results in graph form as shown in Figure 2:

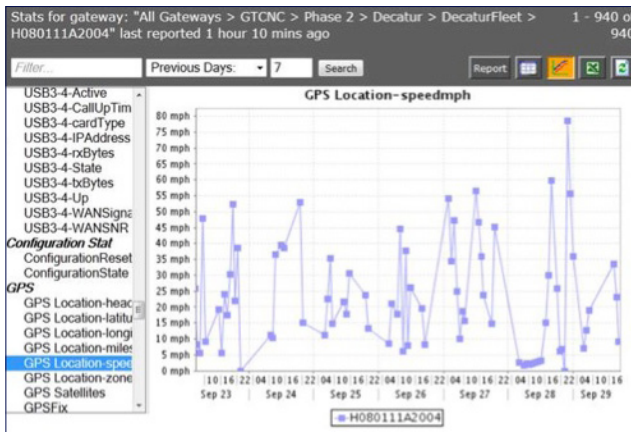


Figure 2. Stats Speeds Output Graph

- **Gateway Trips Report:** Selecting the Reports> Geographic>Gateway Trips menu option will provide historical speed data for one or more gateways. The upper portion of the report displays a map showing where the vehicle(s) were, and the lower portion displays a table listing where the vehicle(s) stopped and for how long. The bottom section of the report shows when a vehicle exceeded the default upper range of speed, currently set to 80 mph. Figure 3 shows an

example from Sept 22-24, 2011. At the very bottom of the report, you can see that this vehicle drove 93 mph on Sept 23:

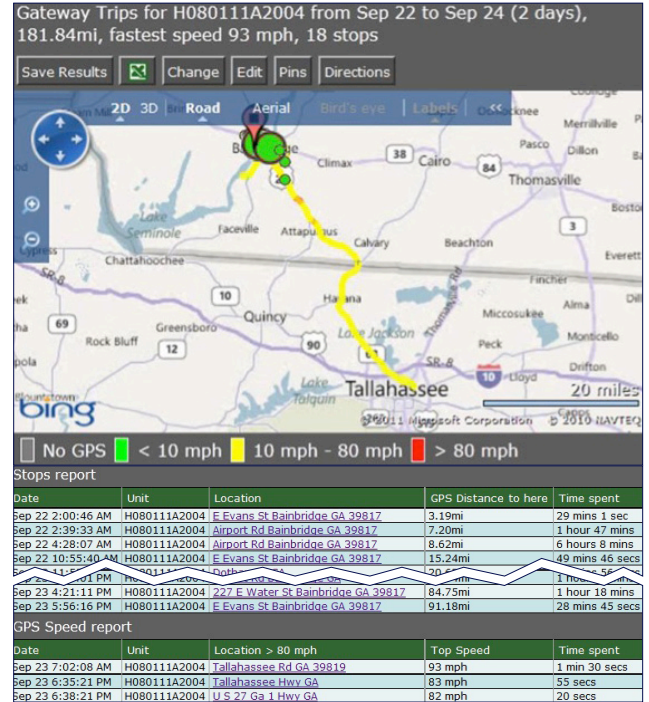


Figure 3. Historical Speed Data Display

- **Email alerts:** In Motion can set up an email alert to be sent directly to your email inbox whenever a vehicle exceeds a particular speed. They can also configure your oMM Dashboard to continuously display the color-coded speeds of all your vehicles. Please contact Technical Support at In Motion (866-468-2968 x460) if you would like more information on these options.

WEBLINKS

Georgia Emergency Management Agency/ Homeland Security - www.gema.state.ga.us

Georgia Association of Emergency Medical Services - www.ga-ems.com

Georgia Trauma Commission - www.georgiatraumacommission.org

Emergency Medical Services - www.ems.ga.gov

Georgia Hospital Association - www.gha.org

Georgia Tech Research Institute - www.gtri.gatech.edu

