

Enforcement & Training Committee

Enforcement Techniques & Technology Subcommittee

State Members:

Joel Wilkinson, ME, Subcommittee Chair
Michael Pratt, DC
Burke Waldron, AK
Stephanie Weatherington, AR

Associate Members:

Andy Cox, FLIR
Roger Haige, Kawasaki
Alexander Cascione, USCG AUX
Gary Owen, National Water Safety Congress
Tina Cardone, C-Port

The Enforcement Techniques and Technology Subcommittee will research training and technology resources and create a reference library for NASBLA stakeholders and will pursue improvements in enforcement standards and practices.

2011 Charges

1. Survey the states and create a list of technologies and training resources. (NASBLA 2.3, 2.4, 3.4, 3.5, 4.2,) (RBS 6.5, 8.3, 9.2))

Identify new and emerging technology, and continue to build upon previous subcommittee resource information and post as resources and information to marine law enforcement. Get training information and link to users.

2. Develop a branded message from law enforcement to utilize in promotion of life jacket wear and various technologies available to the RBS boating public. (RBS – 2012 4.3)

Create NASBLA branded material for utilization by marine law enforcement to the RBS boating public on the various activity specific and new technologies of life jackets available to promote and increase life jacket wear.

3. Develop a branded message for law enforcement agencies on mandatory wear. (RBS – 2012 4.3)

Create a NASBLA branded material for distribution to law enforcement and first responders working on the water to encourage and promote mandatory wear of life jackets by those professionals

4. Research and evaluate e-ticket technologies and explore areas of data collection, tracking and reporting. (RBS – 2012 10.9)

Survey NASBLA members on the use of e-tickets and research other agencies currently utilizing this technology and determine if promotion of this technology will enhance data collection, prosecution tracking and reporting of boating law violations

5. Evaluate and make recommendations on the Model RFP created by ABYC utilizing ABYC standards in the acquisition process of purchasing vessels for marine law enforcement.

A small task Group has been working with ABYC over the last year and has created a matrix based on the ABYC standards, in plain English. This sub-committee will evaluate the comprehensive listing of vessel elements and make recommendations to fill any gaps overlooked by the Task Group. The finished ABYC matrix and Model RFP will be reviewed and approved by this subcommittee, as a resource in the acquisition of law enforcement vessels.

OVERVIEW:

The NASBLA Law Enforcement Subcommittee on Techniques and Technology met in Lexington Kentucky on March 4 and 5, 2011. During this meeting Col. Joel Wilkinson assigned charge leaders and mapped out the specific goals for each of the charge leaders, against an aggressive schedule. Follow-up conference calls were scheduled and held on April 5th and April 26th to track and confirm committee progress and assure alignment with the individual charge goals and deadline for delivery, which was scheduled for the second week in May.

1. **Survey the states and create a list of technologies and training resources.** The subcommittee has selected FLIR – Andy Cox volunteered to manage this charge.

Since FLIRs use detection of heat to create the "picture" assembled for the video output, they can be used to help aircraft pilots and vessel operators steer their vehicles at night, and in fog or detect warm objects against a cold background when it is completely dark (such as a cloudy, moonless night). The wavelength of infrared that FLIRs detects differs significantly from that of night vision equipment which operates in the visible or existing light.

A survey was designed and distributed by this LE committee to NASBLA's 56 members. Thirty three (33) responses were received and revealed there is significant interest by the membership to understand the full scope and application of this technology. Some interesting numbers:

Based on the findings of the survey, the subcommittee on Techniques and Technology has decided to:

1. Clarify and provide information on understanding of the technology.
 2. Create a whitepaper on the applications and benefits to marine law enforcement
 3. Create a training outline to help fully utilize this technology in the marine environment.
- **The final on the charge #1 deliverable is attached within (APPENDIX 1) at the end of this report.**

2. **Develop a branded message from law enforcement to utilize in promotion of life jacket wear and various technologies available to the RBS boating public** The subcommittee selected Stephanie Weatherington (AR), to lead this charge.

The subcommittee had a prolonged discussion on this charge and elected to expand the message that would be delivered to recreational boaters, from law enforcement. Looking at USCG analysis of accident and causality data from 2009 it remains obvious that there are three main contributing factors to recreational boating fatalities in addition to the high rate of drowning related fatalities, where the person drowned was NOT wearing a life jacket. Pulling from the 2009 USCG Boating Statistics:

In 2009 there were 4730 accidents that involved 736 deaths, 3358 injuries and approximately \$ 36 million dollars in property damage. Almost three-fourths of all fatal boating accident victims drowned, and of those eighty-four (84) percent were not reported as wearing a life jacket.

Alcohol was the leading contributing factor in fatal boating accidents and was listed as the leading factor in 16% of the deaths. AND;

Operation and Navigation rule violations were identified as the primary contributing factor in 13.4% of the deaths.

Given the dramatic impact of this data, the subcommittee developed several marketing slogans and decided to focus a campaign for marine law enforcement on “The Big Three”. The pull-up banner which we now present as a product of this committee – will be displayed for the duration of the conference and the electronic PDF files and graphics will be made available under the committee products section of the NASBLA website. We will further encourage our membership to utilize this messaging material by distribution through the NASBLA Law Enforcement Newsletter.

See: graphic design and template in **(APPENDIX 2)** of this report.

3. **Develop a branded message for law enforcement agencies on mandatory wear. (RBS – 2012 4.3)** The subcommittee selected Stephanie Weatherington (AR), to lead this charge as a complimentary work project to charge # 2.

First a survey was distributed to the NASBLA membership and it was determined that 45 states/territories have a mandatory life jacket wear policy within their department and in some cases with partner agencies who provide law enforcement services and receive financial

assistance from the BLA. The attached map in **(APPENDIX 3)** shows the states that currently have a mandatory wear policy.

This subcommittee feels that a realistic goal would be; to gain 100% participation of all member states and territories by the end of 2012. In support of that concept a Resolution has been drafted for consideration and vote by the NASBLA membership, meeting here in Milwaukee Wisconsin. The resolution is attached in **(APPENDIX 3)** of this report and is being made available to the membership, prior to a vote during the Business Meeting to follow.

4. Research and evaluate e-ticket technologies and explore areas of data collection, tracking and reporting. (RBS – 2012 10.9) Michael Pratt (DC) was selected to lead this charge.

The subcommittee designed and distributed a “Zoomerang” survey to determine the extent to which member states/territories were interested in developing E-Ticket capabilities. It is interesting to note that of the 38 states that responded to the survey E-Ticket technology is being utilized in 16 of those states. However, only a fraction of those states reported that E-Ticket capabilities had come to their agency.

An overwhelming desire was expressed by those members who responded; over 72% wanted to develop E-Ticket capabilities and asked for information and guidance. The two most common obstacles were identified as cost and acceptance by the court system.

As part of the research into E-Ticket technology a number of vendors were identified and invited to attend this conference. Mike Pratt will be leading a “break out session” on Wednesday September 14th at 10:00AM and we encourage anyone interested in this technology to attend.

Attached in (APPENDIX 4) we have assembled the most common and widely utilized E-Ticket software and hardware as reference documents. In addition we have provided information on the states and contact information where this equipment is being utilized as working references.

5. Evaluate and make recommendations on the Model RFP created by ABYC utilizing ABYC standards in the acquisition process of purchasing vessels for marine law enforcement Burke Waldron (AK), was selected to lead this technical charge.

The model document and ABYC matrix was not unveiled until the 2011 Spring Workshop. That the Workshop held in Lexington on March 3rd, John Adey, Vice President at ABYC presented the matrix and gave a brief presentation on what lead up to its development. John explained how the matrix may be utilized by a purchasing agent, in developing an RFP for vessel acquisition – specifically for law enforcement.

This committee has determined that the document through appearing comprehensive needs to be further vetted within the marine law enforcement community to fully identify any categories and or standards for further development, before recommending adoption for use my NASBLA member agencies. It is the recommendation of this subcommittee that this charge be carried over for further development and consultation with ABYC during the 2012 committee year.



Law Enforcement Subcommittee on
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APPENDIX 1

- FLIR Survey results – PDF file
- FLIR White Paper – PDF file



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APPENDIX 2

- USCG 2009 Boating Accident Excerpts
- Pull-up banner – PDF file
- Tri-fold graphic design and messaging – PDF file



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APPENDIX 3

- National mandatory life jacket wear map - PDF file
- Mandatory wearing of life jacket Resolution 2011-1 – PDF file



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APPENDIX 4

- E-Ticket survey overview – PDF-file
- E-Ticket Software – PDF – file
- E-Ticket Hardware – PDF - file