

## Bill HB 6009

Public Hearing 11:00am 2/2/2013

### Police Training and Alerts Kiosk

#### TAK

Good morning to all the distinguished members of the Public Safety and Security Committee. I appreciate the opportunity to speak to you today on bill HB 6009 concerning an interactive electronic computer training platform that can be used by local police officers in their municipalities to complete training requirements mandated by the Police Officer Standards and Training Council known also as POST.

I come to you today representing my company r3 omni which is located and operated out of Norwalk, CT

### Statement of Purpose

A better trained police officer makes for a more effective police officer.

r3 omni's interactive police training and alerts system called (TAK) can provide an on demand training delivery system at each of the Police Departments in Connecticut. The TAK solution offers an interactive touch screen kiosk which may be located at any approved facility and contains up to date training material and courseware, as well as alerts on a 24/7 basis. Content is comprised of text diagrams, photographs, Powerpoint, PDF files and video.

r3 omni's TAK solution can save municipal resources by allowing municipal police officers to complete training in their jurisdiction rather than at a Police Officer Standards and Training Council facility.

## Current State of Connecticut Police Training

Connecticut has 92 municipal police departments. As of April 2012, they employed a total of 6,556 police officers. Nineteen of the departments have 100 or more police officers, with the largest five being Hartford (445), New Haven (443), Bridgeport (406), Waterbury (292), and Stamford (282). Fifty-four departments employ 50 or fewer officers including 13 that employ fewer than 20.

All of the police departments, no matter the size, are responsible for enforcing the training mandates defined by the State and POST. It has been determined that the current state of Police Training for Connecticut has some problems that limit the availability of the training content and it has become a cost burden on the municipalities as well as the State.

### **Core mandates and electives**

Each police officer is responsible for completing a minimum of 60 hours of classroom based training in a given 3 year cycle to maintain the State policy requirements to be an officer. Each police officer, regardless of rank, is given three years to complete the mandated training after which the next three year cycle starts. In discussion with the police departments, we have seen that in many cases officers try to engage in more like 80 – 90 hours of classroom based training in any one of these three year cycles.

The classroom based training is made up of roughly 75% mandatory core course work and 25% elective style curriculum. All of the curriculum, core or elective, has mandated and is approved by Police Officer Standards and Training Council.

The courses are mostly broken down into 2 hour blocks consisting of a POST approved course outline and is available only at POST approved facilities.

Training curriculum is limited by the number of courses being offered and the times that the courses are available. At most, courses are offered two – three days a week and do not seem to be offered on weekends. We have also been informed that Training curriculum is not offered at all during the summer months.

Police departments are open 24 hours a day and police officers shifts seem to vary on a week to week basis. This severely limits the opportunity that the police officers have to engage in the mandatory Core training. It is also difficult to organize training seminars in such a way that all the officers in a specific Police Department are able to attend class in a timely fashion. Classes and seminars have to be offered over a period of a week or more to provide ample time for the entire force to be able to attend and still perform their official duties.

Many municipalities have to send their police officers to POST approved training facilities to complete this training. The departments do not always have the resources to provide the classes at their facilities and send their officers all over the State of Connecticut. This is at a direct cost to the municipality for the courseware fee or creation of the course, instructor fee, travel, accommodations, and the Police Officer's pay. From what we have been informed, the officer's pay is often at an overtime rate because it typically falls above and beyond the normal work schedule.

### **Tracking**

Currently there is no testing on training content that is delivered to police officers. The only requirement that is in place is a certificate of attendance for the training course that must be manually managed and updated by the training officers to POST

# Solution

R3 Omni has met directly with some of the police departments in Connecticut to get perspective on the needs of those who are charged with carrying out and delivering the training content that is mandated for the officers.

We are developing a solution that is targeted at addressing the needs of the training officers and can provide a delivery method that is:

**Fast and Easy** - through touch based video iPad and kiosk interface for training and tests.

**Cost and Life Saving** - Saves on transportation, training time, and posting latest policies

**Provides for Alerts** - Quickly updates protocols across all State and Local Agencies

**Compatible** - Compatible with Connecticut Police Officer Standards and Training (POST) as well as DOD / Vision 2020 recommendations

R3 Omni is working on a system for training content delivery called TAK (Training and Alerts Kiosk).

We are developing this solution for the State of Connecticut's municipal police departments based on direct needs we have discovered from the training officers as well as the experience we have drawn from our deployment of training kiosks provided for the US Army.

R3 Omni has custom built and installed interactive training kiosks for the US Army in Fort Benning Georgia. R3 Omni's Omnipoint kiosks deployed in Fort Benning fully support the system architecture and menu structure goals that have been stated and defined by both ALC 2015 and JV2020 and have been accepted by being fast easy and simple to use especially by trainees with no computer training. The ALC 2015 mandate calls for a shift to blended learning in the training of US Army soldiers while the JV 2020 mandate lays out the approach to scale out to all military branches.

This architecture accommodates the forward advantages of price and technology advancements, which significantly benefits the adoption of the blended learning solution from R3 Omni from a domestic and international point of view. Considerations such as enhanced video delivery have been integral to the fulfillment of the goals of interactive learning.

Video is the most effective form of interactive engagement of content. R3 Omni's software under Omnipoint has allowed for the deployed kiosks to take full advantage of High Definition Video input, broadcasting the most visually stimulating content. With the enhanced features of high definition video the software has positioned the kiosks to be the most effective tool between soldier and training content.

- \*Bulletins and timely alerts and announcements are a full capability of the kiosk
- \*The system architecture is modular in design
- \*Uses New and improved hardware and software components
- \*Integrated easily without the need for specialized technician and the retraining of content providers
- \*System architecture allows for content to be handled and added to by army personnel.

The purpose of the kiosk systems with the STACS implementation of Omnipoint software has been to provide preview and review of basic training information and video as approved and provided by TRADOC or other authorized agents.

Army personnel can simply touch the various content sections on the video screen to view training material and media.

We feel that there are some parallels to what we have produced and continue to develop for the US Army and the needs of the Municipal police departments in Connecticut.

A point to note is that our entire kiosk solution has been developed, produced, and manufactured right here in the State of Connecticut.

The TAK solution can provide an on demand training delivery system at each of the Police Departments in Connecticut. POST certified and compatible content comprised of text diagrams , photographs, Powerpoint, PDF files and video can be produced both centrally as well as regionally and can be broadcasted to the entire kiosk network instantaneously. This would provide the police officers in every city with a 24 hour a day seven day a week training device. Officers would not be limited to the availability of training courses and would have access to training content during their current work schedules.

r3 omni's TAK solution can save municipal resources by allowing municipal police officers to complete training in their jurisdiction rather than at a Police Officer Standards and Training Council facility.

I would like to note a few of the features that our interactive training kiosk would provide for the police departments.

**1. Policy Updates**

- 1.) Local – Tracking and Testing for updates
- 2.) State- Tracking and Testing for updates

**2. Mobility**

- 1.) Connection with mobile devices for In station training through  
l pads to be signed out by training officer

**3. Cross Training Opportunity of other Departments**

- 1.) Fire Department ( Collaborative Initiatives)
- 2.) Crossing Guards
- 3.) EMT's

#### **4. Updates and Alerts**

- 1.) Local
- 2.) State
- 3.) Current Events of Note

#### **5. Personal Profile**

- 1.) Officers Name
- 2.) Post #
- 3.) Beginning Certification Date
- 4.) Period working in (3 year Cycle)
- 5.) Pass / Fail
- 6.) Core courses available
- 7.) Elective courses available
- 8.) Auto - send to POST after certifications

Thank you very much for the opportunity to speak with you on such an important matter concerning the continued training and education of our law enforcement. We are proud to be working towards the goal of better equipped police officers and are equally proud to be doing this in the State of Connecticut.